



# HOCHSTEIN

*Alumni Orchestra*  
Evan Meccarello, director

## Winter Concert

Jackie Hager, cello

Haydn's Cello Concerto in C Major

**In bocca al lupo - world premiere**

written by Hochstein Alumnus, David Kluge

**Highland Cathedral**

Alumni Pipes & Drums with Jake Kwiatkowski - solo bagpiper

**Mendelssohn's The Hebrides Overture**

**Friday, January 5, 2024**

**8:00 pm**

**Hochstein Performance Hall**

# *Director, Hochstein Alumni Orchestra*



## **Evan Meccarello**, Conductor

Evan Meccarello, Artistic Director of Cordancia Chamber Orchestra, is committed to new explorations in classical music and engaging with communities across the Northeast. He is Music Director of the Binghamton Community Orchestra, Founder and Director of the Hochstein Alumni Orchestra, and served as Conductor of the Thames Valley Youth Symphony in New London, CT, for five seasons. He is also an adjunct faculty member at Nazareth University School of Music, directing the Nazareth Chamber Orchestra.

Engagements in the 2023-24 season include appearances as Guest Conductor of the Penfield Symphony Orchestra and Artist in Residence with the theater company Breadcrumbs Productions at Wunderbar in Syracuse, where he created *If*, an experience that bridges classical chamber music and immersive theater.

A trusted clinician and educator, Meccarello taught conducting and led the orchestra for the 2023 edition of Eastman Experience, an intensive summer program for pre-college musicians at Eastman School of Music. He has appeared as a guest conductor and clinician at schools in four states, including NYSSMA Area All-State and All-County orchestras. Previous summer seasons included teaching for Nazareth's Orchestral Conducting and String Performance program and guest conducting at the Keuka Lake Music Festival.

Meccarello's training in conducting has included lessons and masterclasses with some of the world's most sought-after teachers, including Larry Rachleff, Benjamin Zander, Jorma Panula, and David Effron. He holds a Master's degree in Orchestral Conducting from Bowling Green State University and a Violin Performance degree from Nazareth University, where he was a two-time winner of the school's concerto competition. He can sometimes be found at Argentine tango *milongas*, playing violin for dancers.

## *About Hochstein's Alumni Orchestra*

Founded in 2010 by Evan Meccarello, the Hochstein Alumni Orchestra (HAO) is a reunion orchestra composed of musicians who received musical training at The Hochstein School. During its history, the orchestra has performed summer concerts in Canandaigua and Perinton, and since January 2011 has performed an annual winter concert in the Hochstein Performance Hall.

In addition to works of standard repertory, the Hochstein Alumni Orchestra has presented world premiere compositions by alumni and noted composers, and also featured alumni soloists. Over the years, HAO has forged connections between members of the Rochester community and beyond, with many of its founding members graduating from noted colleges and universities to become music educators around the region.

The return of these experienced players year after year fosters connections between them and the younger musicians and presents unique energy and camaraderie in performance. To get involved, contact conductor Evan Meccarello at: **[meccariello@gmail.com](mailto:meccariello@gmail.com)**.

# Guest Artists



**Jackie Hager**, a Rochester born cellist, attends the Juilliard School under the tutelage of Professor Natasha Brofsky. As a soloist, she made her orchestral debut at age 12 with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, and has since returned as a featured soloist with them and several other orchestras. She has performed in masterclasses for Wolfgang Schmidt, David Ying, Jeremy Denk, the Takacs Quartet, Patrick Owens, and others. Summer festivals she has attended include the Heifetz International Music Festival, Castleman Quartet Program, Eastman Cello Institute, Bowdoin International Music Festival, and the fellowship program at Madeline Island Chamber Music.

In addition to performing as a soloist, Jackie collaborates and competes in prize-winning chamber groups. Jackie also enjoys teaching and was happy to return to Hochstein as a part of their 2023 summer faculty. Previously, Jackie was a student of Richard Aaron at the University of Michigan and Kathy Kemp at The Hochstein School. She also received her Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience and Psychology from the University of Michigan.

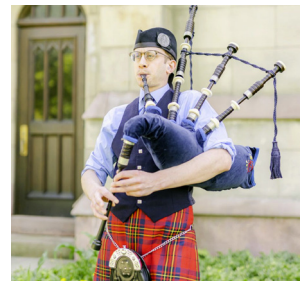


**Dave Kluge** is a multifaceted bassist, composer, and educator from Rochester, New York. He has received commissions from The Penfield Music Commission Project for music featuring Micheal Dease, Christian Howes, and Gabe Condon as well as "PRISM: American History through New Music," which received National Endowment for the Arts funding. His compositions have been premiered by The Eastman CMS Educators Jazz Ensemble at The Xerox Rochester International Jazz Festival, The ECMS Educators String Orchestra at Kilbourn Hall, Hochstein Alumni Orchestra, and All-County Honors orchestras, jazz ensembles, and choirs.

As an active freelance bassist, he performs with a wide variety of ensembles and can be heard on The Russell Scarbrough Big Band album *Fun Times* (2023). His string quartet *Windmills* (2022) is available on Spotify, Apple Music, YouTube, and other streaming platforms, as well as in print at JW Pepper. In 2018, he performed on and engineered the album *Doug Stone Jam Session 1* and produced several live video performances with his own band, The Dave Kluge Quintet, which can be found on his YouTube channel.

Kluge earned a Bachelor's degree in Music Education with a concentration in Jazz Studies from SUNY Fredonia and a Master's in Music Education from Nazareth College. From 2007-2013 he taught instrumental music in the West Irondequoit Central School District. Since 2013, he has taught in the Rush-Henrietta Central School District where he serves as Senior High School Orchestra Director.

**Jake Kwiatkowski** is a member of the Hochstein bagpipe faculty and has been playing bagpipes since he was 5 years old. He has traveled the United States, Canada, and Scotland to compete, perform, and educate. He was a founding member of the Feadan Or Pipe Band in Rochester before competing with the world championship-winning 78th Fraser Highlanders in Toronto, Ontario, Canada



# 2024 Hochstein Alumni Orchestra

## **Violin 1**

Kiran Rajamani,  
*Concertmaster*  
Epongue Ekiller  
Melody Kruchten  
Stephanie Marsh  
Heather Misula

## **Violin 2**

Hannah Garfield,  
*Principal*  
Eliana Alweis  
Madison Austin  
Kaia Megiel  
Rusquel Ramirez  
David Suh

## **Viola**

Kristi Lin, *Principal*  
Nathan Deutscher  
Giovanni Magagnoli  
Sarah Mills  
Hayley Gill Smith

## **Cello**

Allen Maracle, *Principal*  
Samantha Huang  
Nicholas Kinney  
Rachel Mills

## **Bass**

Annaliese White,  
*Principal*  
David Kluge

## **Flute**

Katrina King Nicholson  
Alexandra Hine

## **Oboe**

Blair Germain  
Riesa Cassano-Coleman

## **Clarinet**

Ryan Reiss  
Peggy Quackenbush

## **Bassoon**

Jacob Auchman  
Cate Palanski

## **Horn**

Lizzy Bernold  
Molly Sacheli-Weissman  
Megan Soja  
Jamie Zirkle

## **Trumpet**

Tierney McLean  
Leslie MacDonald

## **Trombone**

Colin Stubbs  
Matthew O'Heron

## **Tuba**

Sam Regan

## **Timpani**

Cole Cassano

## **Percussion**

Torrey Cobb

## **Hochstein Alumni Pipes & Drums**

### **Pipers**

Vince Cassano  
Shelly Dash  
Hannah Gieseke  
Meg Southcott

### **Snare Drummers**

Mike Brandenburg  
Derek Carstairs



This concert has been livestreamed  
on the Hochstein YouTube channel:  
[youtube.com/user/hochsteinschool](https://youtube.com/user/hochsteinschool)  
and available to view at any time.



Are you a Hochstein Alum? Let us  
know and keep in touch. Scan the  
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# *Hochstein Alumni Orchestra*

Evan Meccarello, Director

*Prelude to Der Corregidor*

Hugo Wolf

*In bocca al lupo*

David Kluge

*\*World Premiere*

*Cello Concerto in C Major*

Franz Joseph Haydn

I. Moderato

II. Adagio

III. Allegro molto

Jackie Hager, *cello*

*Highland Cathedral*

Traditional  
arr. Sean Calhoun

Jake Kwiatkowski, *bagpipes*  
Hochstein Alumni Pipes and Drums

*The Hebrides Overture*

Felix Mendelssohn

## *Program Note*

The expression “In bocca al lupo” is an Italian idiom used to wish someone good luck similar to “break a leg” in English. Its origin is thought to come from the hunting world and can be translated as “into the wolf’s mouth,” to which the traditional reply is, “crepi” or, “may the wolf die.” Although this may seem like negative imagery, in Italian culture the expression is seen as a positive gesture to wish someone success in making it through whatever they are facing. By contrast, literally wishing someone “good luck” in Italian is seen as bad luck. *Buona fortuna porta la sfortuna* (good luck brings bad luck). It is this contrast of fortune and misfortune, dark and light, that this piece aims to capture through the simultaneous use of minor and major tonalities and the distantly related keys of C, E and Ab.

Written in Sonata form, the piece begins with jolting ensemble gestures that give way to an intriguing first theme presented by the flutes and bassoons. Variations on this theme are passed through the winds and strings before arriving at the second theme. This regal, flowing melody is played by solo horn then echoed in the strings and flutes before being joined by tutti horns. The percussion brings us into the development with a driving rhythmic pattern over which the themes are passed around in stretto. The music then builds to a pair of visceral sonorities. A placid Adagio moment in the strings and winds brings the music back to its home key of C and into the recapitulation. The coda expands on the use of mode mixture with sweeping upper strings and winds against punctuating triplets in the low strings, winds and brass. The piece ends, not giving way to major or minor, with a descending line. ~ David Kluge

# *Hochstein Alumni Orchestra – bios*

**Eliana Alweis** is a sophomore at Brown University studying music and biochemistry. She is excited to play with the Hochstein Alumni Orchestra again this year!

**Jacob Auchman** is currently a second-year Master's student at Indiana University Bloomington's Jacobs School of Music. He participated in the Hochstein Youth Symphony Orchestra from 2014-2016.

**Madison Austin** is a 2023 homeschool graduate currently taking a gap year and immensely enjoying it! Madison was in the Hochstein Philharmonia Orchestra for five years and spent her last year of high school in the Hochstein Youth Symphony Orchestra. Grateful and excited to be back in the Performance Hall!

**Mike Brandenburg** enrolled in the Hochstein Highland Drumming class in 2022, and is currently a member of the Gates Keystone Club Police Pipes and Drums. Mike currently serves as the Chief of the East Rochester Police Department.

**Lizzy Bernold** is a senior at Brown University studying public policy and data science. She hopes to work writing policy for states in the Northeast. Lizzy is excited to be back playing on the Hochstein stage!

**Derek Carstairs** started drumming in 4th grade, but took about 20 years off, until enrolling in the Hochstein Highland Drumming class in 2022. Derek now serves as the Drum Sergeant with the Gates Keystone Club Police Pipes and Drums.

**Cole Cassano** is a Master's student in Library and Information Science at Syracuse University, where he is also a graduate music cataloging assistant. He has been involved at Hochstein since his elementary school years, and he has also been a member of the Honeoye Falls Community Concert Band.

**Riesa Cassano-Coleman** is a PhD student at the University of Rochester in Brain and Cognitive Sciences. She started at Hochstein by studying Suzuki violin with Katie Worley and played in the HYSO. She currently plays with the Brighton Symphony Orchestra and a woodwind quintet called the Infectious Winds.

**Vince Cassano** is an actuary with the Burke Group, and has been involved with Hochstein for many years on both bagpipes and clarinet. He currently plays for the Brighton Symphony Orchestra and in the woodwind quintet Infectious Winds.

**Torrey Cobb** played in Hochstein Youth Symphony Orchestra, including international tours, and has been a longtime member of the Hochstein Alumni Orchestra.

**Shelly Dash** is an avid bagpiper since attending the Highland Bagpipe class in 2019. She discovered her musical calling through The Hochstein School. "It has ignited a passion that resonates through me every time I play the pipes."

**Nathan Deutscher** is a freshman at St. Bonaventure University majoring in adolescent education for physics and was a part of the Hochstein Sinfonia Strings and Hochstein Philharmonia Orchestra throughout his middle school and high school career.

**Epongue Ekiller** is a baroque and modern violinist based in New York City. She plays regularly for Broadway's recent revival of Sweeney Todd and has performed with Juilliard415, the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, and at the Carmel Bach Festival. She is also a Project Coordinator for A.D. Hamingson and Associates.

**Hannah Garfield** is the Co-Program Director of Strings for Success at Dr. Charles T. Lunsford School No. 19 in partnership with The Center for Youth. Hannah began her studies at Hochstein, completed her Bachelor's degree in Violin Performance at SUNY Geneseo, and Master's in Music Education at the Eastman School of Music.

**Hannah Geiseke** joined the Hochstein family in 2014 as a summer camp teacher and expanded her musical reach with the Intro to Highland Bagpipes class with Glen Johnson in 2019. She and Glen are thrilled to see the Highland Bagpipe program grow!

**Blair Germain** was a member of HYSO during high school, and currently works as an optometrist at the University of Rochester. She keeps up with playing in local groups and high school musicals.

**Alexandra Hine** is an active performer and teacher in Rochester. She is president of the Rochester Flute Association and is co-director of the Hochstein/RFA Flute Camp.

**Samantha Huang** studied cello under Keiko Ying and is Kathleen Kemp's adopted cello baby. She participated in Hochstein Philharmonia Orchestra during its 2012–13 season. Samantha is a bioacoustician and recently got her Master's from the University of Lethbridge in Alberta, Canada, researching acoustic variation in birdsong.

**David Kluge** is the orchestra director at Rush-Henrietta Senior High School. He is active as a freelance bassist and composer/arranger in the Rochester area.

**Nicholas Kinney** is an actor currently living in Chicago, IL. He was a member of the HYSO cello section from 2016-2019.



## *bios cont'd*

**Melody Kruchten** is a freshman at Ashworth College, currently studying to receive her major in general business. She has been a violinist for 17 years and used to be a part of HYSO. She is very excited to be given the opportunity to perform with Hochstein once again.

**Kristi Lin** is currently a user experience / webpage designer working remotely from the Rochester area. She was a part of Hochstein Youth Symphony Orchestra from 2012-2015.

**Allen Maracle** is a graduate student in the Historical Performance program at the Juilliard School. A baroque cellist and music educator in New York City, he has Bachelor of Music degrees in Music Education and Cello Performance from SUNY Fredonia, and a Master of Music degree in Historical Performance from Boston University.

**Stephanie Marsh** is living and working in the greater Rochester area as a home renovator, remodeler, and designer. Surprisingly, contracting and music have a lot in common!

**Giovanni Magagnoli** is in his eighth year as a music educator, currently at the Holland Patent Central School District in Utica, NY. He teaches Orchestra for grades 3-12, guitar classes, and AP Music Theory. When not teaching in school or privately, Giovanni enjoys cooking and spending time with his wife and two cats.

**Tierney McLean** was a member of Hochstein Youth Symphony Orchestra from 2009-2011. She now works at ESL Federal Credit Union.

**Kaia Megiel** is thrilled to be playing the Hebrides Overture tonight after checking a visit to Fingal's Cave off her bucket list. She was a violinist in HYSO from 2010 to 2013 and now works in agricultural consulting.

**Rachel Mills** received a Bachelor's degree in cello performance from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and continued higher education studies at the Royal Conservatoire of The Hague in the Netherlands. A native of Rochester, Mills grew up through Hochstein's honors certificate program. She is Executive and Artistic Director of ROCmusic.

While at Hochstein, **Sarah Mills** enjoyed playing in Philharmonia and HYSO. She is currently an undergraduate program coordinator at the University of Rochester.

**Heather Misula** began studying violin at Hochstein at age 3. After completing a Master's degree in Violin Performance at NYU Steinhardt, Heather returned to Rochester and taught at Hochstein for seven years. Heather spends most of her time homeschooling her three children, and also enjoys playing in the Penfield Symphony Orchestra.

**Katrina King Nicholson** is a native of Marion, NY with Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the Cleveland Institute of Music and a doctorate from the Shenandoah Conservatory. She is the winner of numerous competitions and has performed as soloist with many groups, including last year with HAO. She is an active flute teacher and freelancer in the greater D.C. area.

**Matthew O'Heron** is a sophomore music education student at SUNY Fredonia. He performed in Hochstein Philharmonia Orchestra and Hochstein Youth Symphony Orchestra during his freshman and senior years of high school.

**Cate Palanski** is currently in her second year at the Fredonia School of Music double majoring in Music Education and Music Performance on Bassoon. She played in HYSO for three years in high school and is thankful for the opportunity to play at Hochstein again.

**Peggy Quackenbush** retired as Hochstein's President & Executive Director in June 2022, after 30 years in that role and a total of 43 years on the faculty/staff. Since retiring she has continued to perform with Antara Winds and other groups, and enjoys spending time with her family and friends, attending many concerts, and various domestic pursuits. She is delighted to join this wonderful group of alumni tonight!

**Kiran Rajamani** studies violin at the University of Cincinnati – CCM and performs in the Columbus Indiana Philharmonic. At Hochstein, he enjoyed taking lessons, attending summer camps, learning theory and history, and playing orchestral and chamber music. School of Music in 2022, and is currently in Red Wing, MN, training to be a band instrument repair technician. Eastman. He is currently principal clarinetist of the Penfield Symphony and is a baker for Cheesy Eddie's Bakery.

**Sam Regan** graduated in the Class of 2018, received his Bachelor's degree in Tuba Performance from the Crane School of Music in 2022, and is currently in Red Wing, MN, training to be a band instrument repair technician.

**Ryan Reiss** studied clarinet with Dr. Margaret Quackenbush and went on to study with Charles Neidich and Kenneth Grant at Eastman. He is currently principal clarinetist of the Penfield Symphony and is a baker for Cheesy Eddie's Bakery.

**Molly Sacheli-Weissman** obtained degrees in classical music performance, music education, and clinical mental health counseling. In addition to performing with groups such as Genesee Symphony Orchestra, Southern Tier Symphony, and Center Stage Pops, Molly provides psychotherapy to adolescents. She participated in HYSO as well as a brass quintet, horn, and voice lessons.

## bios cont'd

**Hayley Gill Smith** played with the Hochstein Youth Symphony Orchestra in the 2012-13 school year. Her time at Hochstein was brief but impactful and inspiring. She is now an orchestra teacher at Spry Middle School in Webster and a member of the Penfield Symphony Orchestra.

**Megan (Betteridge) Soja** played with HYSO from 2000-2004. She is a stay-at-home mom who lives with her husband and two daughters in Pittsford, NY. She is currently pursuing her dream of becoming a published fiction author and still loves playing horn whenever she can.

**Megan Southcott** is a former classically trained flutist, pianist and bassoon player, and music has always been a very big influence in her life. She says, "The Hochstein bagpipe class gave me an opportunity to connect with my ethnic roots, and even better, use that musicality to honor our law enforcement, fire, EMS, and military heroes."

**Colin Stubbs** is pursuing his undergraduate studies at the Peabody Institute of The Johns Hopkins University and has worked as a Teaching Artist Intern with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra's non-profit education program OrchKids.

**David Suh** is currently a sophomore in college and has been with Hochstein for about a decade. He took a year-long break from orchestra music, but it feels great to be back!

**Annaliese White** has been playing the bass for nine years, and was a member of the Hochstein Youth Symphony Orchestra and Hochstein Philharmonia through junior high school and high school. Currently, she studies at the Eastman School of Music under Professor James VanDemark. She is thrilled to be a member of the Hochstein Alumni Orchestra.

**Jamie (Betteridge) Zirkle** was a member of the HYSO from 2001-2006 and had some of her fondest musical memories then. While music is mostly a hobby for her now, she is delighted to play in various local groups and events throughout the year. She resides in Victor with her husband and three young kids.

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