



HOCHSTEIN
ALUMNI ORCHESTRA

Evan Meccarello, Director

Friday, January 3, 2025 at 8:00 pm
Hochstein Performance Hall

50 N. Plymouth Ave. • 585.454.4596 • hochstein.org

2025 Hochstein Alumni Orchestra

Violin I

Dylan Kennedy,
Concertmaster
Epongue Ekiller
Colleen Hunter
Melody Kruchten
Kaia Megiel
Kiran Rajamani

Violin II

Hannah Garfield, *Principal*
Madison Austin
Stephanie Marsh
Rusquel Ramirez
David Suh
Aaron Vit
Gillian Vit

Viola

Sophia Klin, *Principal*
Nathaniel Deutscher
Hayley Gill Smith
Anneliese Leinenbach
Lily Odhiambo

Cello

Allen Maracle, *Principal*
Joanna Frank
Sandra Halleran

Samantha Huang
Nicholas Kinney
Rachel Mills
Gabriel Vit

Bass

Ellery McClenathan
Benjamin Saunders

Flute

Alexandra Hine, *Principal*
Marin Penner

Piccolo

Jen Trimble Ford

Oboe

Reid Canham, *Principal*

English Horn

Tiffany DiPiazza

Clarinet

Ryan Reiss, *Principal*
Peggy Quackenbush

Bassoon

Jacob Auchman, *Principal*
Cate Palanski

Horn

Molly Sacheli-Weissman
Aurora Wolf
Megan Soja
Savanna McGraw

Trumpet

Tamsin Spiller
Elijah Malach

Trombone

Matthew O'Heron
David Lynch
Sam Regan

Tuba

Addilae Canning

Percussion

Cole Cassano
Daniel Kinney
Andrew LaFavor
Timothy Powers

Harp

Zuriel Patterson



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Program

Melody

Myroslav Skoryk

Symphony No. 2 in B Minor

Alexander Borodin

I. Allegro

II. Scherzo. Prestissimo - Allegretto - Prestissimo

III. Andante

IV. Finale. Allegro

Please join us after the concert for a reception in the Chapel.

Hochstein gratefully acknowledges the faculty, staff, and volunteers who made this performance possible. Hochstein would also like to thank its donors and patrons for their support of our mission to provide people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities with access to excellent music and dance education in a community that nurtures and encourages personal achievement.

For more information about how you can support Hochstein, please contact Director of Development Gwen Green at (585) 454-4403 x223 or development@hochstein.org.



This concert has been livestreamed on the Hochstein YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/@hochsteinschool and is available to view at any time.

Hochstein programs are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

Hochstein programs are also made possible by the Monroe County Legislature; Adam Bello, Monroe County Executive.

Director, Hochstein Alumni Orchestra



Evan Meccarello is committed to new explorations in classical music and engaging with communities across the Northeast. He is Artistic Director of Cordancia Chamber Orchestra, Music Director of 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 has led ensembles and taught conducting courses at Nazareth University and Eastman School of Music's Summer Classical Studies.

In 2023, Meccarello was Artist in Residence at Breadcrumbs Productions in Syracuse, NY, where he conceived and built the team that produced *String Quartet Theatre*, an experience bridging the worlds of professional chamber music and immersive theatre, with four members of a quartet as speaking and moving actors. The production toured upstate New York in September 2024, culminating in performances at Rochester Fringe Festival. The '23-'24 season also brought an appearance as guest conductor with the Penfield Symphony Orchestra.

A trusted clinician and educator, Meccarello 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.

Along with the Binghamton Community Orchestra, Meccarello was named a National Finalist for The American Prize in virtual performance for the innovative program Music Outside the Box. This all-online festival for high school musicians featured live virtual ensemble rehearsals and performances of contemporary music during the pandemic lockdown. The project received international attention, leading to an invitation to present on the experience in a summer program of Sistema Europe Youth Orchestra.

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 Kenneth Kiesler. 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 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 repertoire, 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 evan.meccarello@hochstein.org.

Hochstein Alumni Orchestra Bios

Jacob Auchman is a Rochester-based bassoonist and contrabassoonist. He received his BM from Nazareth University in music education and bassoon performance and recently received his MM from Jacobs School of Music at IU Bloomington in bassoon performance.

Madison Austin is a 2023 homeschool graduate currently working as the administrative assistant for her church's school. In her spare time, she loves to write, read, spend time with her sister, and of course – play violin!

Reid Canham joined HYSO in 2019 and was a part of the ensemble for four years. He is currently in his second year at Ithaca College studying oboe performance and music education.

Addilae Canning is a native of Pittsford, NY, and is an alumna of the Hochstein Philharmonia, Youth Wind Symphony, and Hochstein Youth Symphony Orchestra.

She is currently a junior at the Eastman School of Music and University of Rochester pursuing degrees in tuba performance and international relations.

Cole Cassano is a Master's student in library and information science at Syracuse University, where he is interested in music cataloging and audio preservation. He is also an avid composer and drummer for different projects in the area.

Nathaniel Deutscher is a sophomore at St. Bonaventure University majoring in adolescent education for physics. He was part of the Hochstein Sinfonia Strings and Hochstein Philharmonia Orchestra throughout his middle school and high school career and has been playing viola for 12 years.

Tiffany DiPiazza is a music educator in the Webster Central School District where she teaches middle school instrumental music and is the co-director of the Willink Student-Parent Band. She is an alumni of the

American Wind Symphony Orchestra and an active performer on oboe and English horn with many orchestras and bands in the Rochester area.

Epongue Ekille is a baroque and modern violinist based in New York City. She has played for Broadway's recent revival of *Sweeney Todd*, performed in *Ragtime* at New York City Center, and has performed with Juilliard415, the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, and at the Carmel Bach Festival. She is currently studying at Juilliard.

Jen Trimble Ford (BM in education and performance, MM in performance, MS in creative arts therapy) has held piccolo and flute positions in the Fort Wayne Philharmonic, Baltimore's Largely Ludwig ensemble, Penfield Symphony Orchestra, and Cordancia. A music therapist at Mary Cariola Center, Jen has been a Hochstein student, faculty member, and (now) parent!

Joanna Frank is currently in her first year of undergrad at the University of Cincinnati - College Conservatory of Music. She graduated from ECMS with an honors diploma in 2024 and was a member of HYSO from 2019-2024.

Hannah Garfield is in her 10th year as music educator in the Rochester City School District and is the Co-Director of Strings for Success, a partnership between Dr. Charles T. Lunsford School No. 19 and The Center for Youth. She performs in the Greater Rochester Women's Philharmonic and The Heartthrobs String Band.

Sandra Halleran is a cellist, teaches at the Eastman Community Music School, and is an avid freelancer in the Rochester area. She is the founder and artistic director of the Rochester Cello Society.

Alexandra Hine is a flutist and pianist in Rochester, NY. She performs regularly throughout the Rochester community, is the music director at St. Luke's in Fairport, and maintains a private studio of flute and piano students.

Samantha Huang played cello with Philharmonia from 2012-2013. She studied cello under Keiko Ying and Kathy Kemp and now works at the Pittsford Community Library.

Colleen Hunter is a current resident of Webster, NY with her supportive husband and three beautiful children. She works as a hospice and palliative care nurse, and continues her passion for violin in her spare time by participating in community groups, including Center Stage Pops.

Dylan Kennedy completed his musical training at Hochstein, Eastman, Cleveland Institute of Music, and New England Conservatory, and has performed as a violinist throughout the US, Canada, and Europe. He received his MBA at Stanford's Graduate School of Business and currently serves as Head of Asset Management of Flock Homes.

Nicholas Kinney is an actor and educator living in Chicago, Illinois, where he plays in the cello section of the Evanston Symphony Orchestra. He is the proud co-host of the film podcast *Spineless: The Future Films of Criterion*, for which he composed a theme song and outro music for cello choir.

Daniel Kinney was a percussionist in HYSO for six years, serving as principal for four in addition to winning the Concerto Competition in 2018 and 2021. He is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in percussion performance at Northwestern University's Bienen School of Music studying under She-e Wu.

Sophia Klin plays as a violinist with ensembles including the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, Symphoria, the Orchestra of Northern New York, and more. She enjoyed dance classes offered at Hochstein.

Melody Kruchten has been playing violin for 17 years and was in the Hochstein Youth Symphony Orchestra for four years. She is very honored to be involved with HAO!

Andrew LaFavor graduated from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music with a Bachelor of Music degree in percussion performance. He now works as a production manager, theatrical and live event technician, and is a member of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees.

Anneliese Leinenbach was a member of the Hochstein Youth Symphony Orchestra during the 2022-2023 season. She is currently working towards her Bachelor's degree in music therapy at Nazareth University.

David Lynch played in the trombone section of the Hochstein Youth Symphony Orchestra from 2019-2023. He has moved on to study with the principal trombone of the BPO, Professor Jonathan Lombardo at the SUNY Fredonia School of Music.

Elijah Malach is a junior at SUNY Binghamton majoring in mechanical engineering with a minor in physics. He is so excited to be back with Hochstein playing in an orchestra!

Allen Maracle is a graduate student in the Historical Performance program at The Juilliard School. A baroque cellist and music educator, 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 a local Rochesterian and enjoys a variety of musical expression including (but not limited to) singing in community choirs; playing violin in duos, quartets, and orchestras; and dancing! In her downtime, you can find her playing with her two kitties and watching her plants grow.

Ellery McClenathan is currently studying neuroscience at Binghamton University. She was a member of the Hochstein Youth Symphony Orchestra for four years and is excited to be playing at Hochstein again!

Savanna McGraw, a current HYSO horn player, has loved her experience playing her instrument and

making music with others. She hopes everyone enjoys the music and she can't wait to perform!

Kaia Megiel was a violinist in HYSO from 2010-2013 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.

Matthew O'Heron is currently a junior at SUNY Fredonia studying music education. He was a part of HYSO in his senior year of high school and is so excited to be back for his second alumni orchestra concert!

Lily Odhiambo is a junior at Howard University majoring in environmental studies with minors in Swahili and data science. She is an alum of the Hochstein Youth Symphony Orchestra and Dr. Palmer's piano studio and is also a current member of the Howard Women's+ Rugby Team.

Cate Palanski is a junior music education and bassoon performance double major at SUNY Fredonia. She is excited to join the HAO for a third time after playing in HYSO for three years.

Zuriel Patterson is a homeschool graduate currently taking a gap year. She plans to major in harp performance in the fall, and plays regularly with the Roberts Symphony Orchestra.

Marin Penner is a first-year student studying chemistry at Binghamton University. She was a member of HPO, HYSO, and is a current member of Binghamton University Symphony Orchestra.

Timothy Powers is a former student of Houghton University who majored in physics. He participated in several music ensembles there and has been playing percussion since age four.

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 concerts, and various domestic pursuits.

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. A native of Penfield, he has performed with numerous groups in the Rochester area.

Rusquel Ramirez is pursuing a career in cybersecurity and aims to strive for new heights at SUNY Brockport in the fall 2025 semester.

Sam Regan was a member of HYSO for four years, graduating in 2018. He got his Bachelor's degree in tuba performance from the Crane School of Music in 2022 and a diploma in band instrument repair from Minnesota State College Southeast in 2024, and he now works as a BIR technician on Long Island.

Ryan Reiss studied clarinet at Hochstein 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 resides in Rochester and performs with the Genesee Symphony Orchestra, Southern Tier Symphony, and Center Stage Pops. Passionate about the positive impact of music on youth, Molly obtained degrees in classical music performance, music education, and clinical mental health counseling. She participated in HYSO, a brass quintet, horn, and voice lessons while at Hochstein.

Ben Saunders is in his first year at the Eastman School of Music, studying double bass in the studios of Professor Jeff Campbell and Professor James

VanDemark. He played in the HYSO bass section for his senior year of high school, including their tour to Italy, and is grateful to be able to return.

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

Megan (Betteridge) Soja played French Horn with HYSO from 2000-2004. She is an author of historical fiction, with her debut novel set during the Boston Tea Party releasing in spring of 2025. She lives with her husband and two daughters in Pittsford, NY, and still loves playing horn whenever she can.

Tamsin Spiller played trumpet in HYSO from 2020-2023 and now studies trumpet performance at the University of Toronto.

David Suh is a junior in college studying computer science and archaeology. He has been playing the violin for over a decade, six of those years in a Hochstein orchestra!

Aaron Vit is a Hygenic Piping design engineer working for Briggs of Burton, an engineering firm specializing in the brewing and distilling industry. In keeping with his musical upbringing, he is a member of the Finger Lakes Symphony Orchestra playing for various venues around the Finger Lakes area. He lives in Greece, NY with his wife, Piper.

Gillian Vit, a junior at Canandaigua Academy, has been a member of HYSO for five years. She has traveled with the orchestra to Germany, the Czech Republic, and Italy. Gillian aspires to become a professional violinist, performing both in orchestras and as a soloist around the world.

Aurora Wolf is a freshman at the Rochester Institute of Technology. She is majoring in Game Design and Development.