Montclair State University
JOHN J. CALI SCHOOL OF MUSIC
PRESENTS

MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Kyle Ritenauer,
Director of Orchestral Studies

CALI SCHOOL OF MUSIC

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31
3PM
ALEXANDER KASSER THEATER

Daniel Gurskis
Dean, College of the Arts

Shea Scruggs
Director
John J. Cali School of Music

John J. Cali
School of Music
MONTCLAIR
STATE UNIVERSITY

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SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Kyle Ritenauer, *Director of Orchestral Studies*

PROGRAM

Felix Mendelssohn — *The Hebrides Overture,* Op. 26 (1830)

Antonin Dvořák — *Cello Concerto in B minor,* Op. 104 (1895)

John Sample, *cello* (Winner of the MSU Symphony Concerto Competition)

Gaetano Donizetti — *"Ah! Mes ami"* from *La Fille du Régiment* (1839)

SeongBeom Choi, *tenor*

INTERMISSION

Ludwig van Beethoven — *Symphony no. 5 in C minor,* Op. 67 (1808)

I. Allegro con brio
II. Andante con moto
III. Scherzo: Allegro
IV. Allegro – Presto

Text and Translation: Donizetti's *Ah! Mes ami* from *La Fille du Regiment*

Ah! mes amis, quel jour de fête!
Je vais marcher sous vos drapeaux.
L'amour, qui m'a tourné la tête.
Désormais me rend un héros,
Ah! quel bonheur, oui, mes amis,
Je vais marcher sous vos drapeaux!
Qui, celle pour qui je respire,
A mes voeux a daigné sourire
Et ce doux espoir de bonheur
Trouble ma raison et man coeur!

Pour mon âme,
Quel destin!
J'ai sa flamme,
Et j'ai sa main!
Jour prospère!
Me voici
Militaire et mari!

Oh my friends, what a happy day!
I'm going to march under your flag.
Love, which has turned my head,
From now on makes me a hero.
Oh, what joy! Yes, my friends,
I'm going to march under your flag!
She for who I breathe, To my wishes deigned to smile
And this sweet hope of happiness
Scrambles my logic and my heart!

Militaire et mari!
For my soul,
What a destiny!
I have her flame,
And I have her hand!
Happy day!
Here I am
Soldier and husband!

MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The Montclair State University Symphony Orchestra is a core component of the John J. Cali School of Music, where students develop essential professional skills in preparation, etiquette, and collaboration, all while striving for the highest standard of performance. The Symphony provides a safe and inclusive environment, bringing together students from across the university—particularly those studying music performance, music education, and music therapy—at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Together, they perform a diverse repertoire, ranging from classical masterpieces to contemporary symphonic and operatic works.

Under the direction of Kyle Ritenauer since 2022, the Symphony Orchestra maintains a rigorous schedule, presenting four symphonic concerts, a mainstage opera, and a variety of projects, guest artists, and collaborations. Central to our mission is providing meaningful performance opportunities for Montclair's students. To that end, we host an annual Concerto Competition, a Vocal Competition (with winners performing as soloists with the orchestra), and workshops for student composers to develop their latest works through the experience of a live orchestra.

Recent highlights include the first-ever performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony on the MSU campus, in collaboration with the MSU Chorale. The Symphony has also partnered with the Jazz Department, most notably performing Duke Ellington's *Three Black Kings.* In 2025, the orchestra performed Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* with live synesthesia artist Helena Chywski as a central event for the University's donors, hosted by President Koppell's office. The orchestra continues to collaborate with world-class artists including Stefan Jackiw (violinist), Isabel Leonard (mezzo-soprano), Seth Parker Woods (cellist), Vijay Gupta (violinist), Bela Fleck, and Eric Whitacre (composer) among others. High-level opera productions have featured Poulenc's *Dialogues of the Carmelites,* Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi,* Cavalli's *La Calisto,* and Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte.*

This season's highlights included performances of Bernstein's *Symphonic Dances from West Side Story*, Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, Dvořák's Cello Concerto, and a performance by renowned violinist Randall Goosby of the Brahms Violin Concerto. The orchestra will continue its collaboration with the Cali Opera program by presenting a full production of Verdi's opera *Falstaff.*

The Symphony Orchestra deepens its connection to the regional musical and educational community through expanding outreach initiatives and collaborations. Last season, the orchestra hosted its inaugural StringFest, welcoming 250 high school students to campus for concerts and workshops. This season, the newly named OrchestraFest will welcome more than 300 middle school students and launch a new spring event for high school string students. The orchestra will also host its second annual Montclair Violin Prize to support young violinists pursuing careers in music. Partnerships with the New Jersey Symphony Youth Orchestra and The Pathways Project provide side-by-side performance opportunities for high school musicians. Through these initiatives, the MSU Symphony Orchestra serves as a vital hub for musical education and community engagement throughout the region.

MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

First Violin
Sarah Ng
Yuna Lee
Delia Robbennolt
Jade Hattori-Hamilton
Briana Almonte
Carlos Santamaria
Anthony Holc
Kiley Foxhall**
Haydn Ng
Park Choy

Second Violin
Christian Rodriguez
Anthony Reyes
Hyomin Han
Sophie Jiang
Annamaria Alcaro
Giselle Gomez
Haley Vallecillo
Abigail Meighoo
Melissa Martinez
E'nyla Latta

Viola
Sophia Moreira
Armando Atanda
Emma Musial
Joseph Woolcock
Genelly Vallecillo
Rachel O'Connor*
Josie Dambeck
Noah Stevens

Cello
Yubin Choi
Nailah Harris
Justene Valere
Charlie Lopez
Eda Yildiz
Kelvin Guillen
Max Caulkins
Paige Stewart

Bass
Sydni Fields
Illana Zeidman
Joel Onate
Liam Keller
Edwin Vales

Flute
Milo Berntsen
Jasmine Ritter
Julianna Taveras-Garcia
Jules Zea-Joya

Oboe
Joel Roches
Iva Verba

Clairnet
Quinten Brenner
Hayley Guerra
Amanda Haussmann
Xiaofeng Huang

Basoon
Darren Butler
Jonathan Hart
JoAnne Murray

Horn
Ellyn Eivers
Shayla Mcphee
Faith Santana
Jose Zaptata

Trumpet
Gianna Ciaburri
Kevin Jacobsen

Tuba
Van Cole
Noah Stevens

Trombone
David Laird
Ryan Polizzi
Dean Scarlett
Logan Mather
Alex Pothos
Fenglin Zhang

Timpani/Percussion
Rolan Bansil
Hannah D'Elia
Metehan Karaaslan

Assistant Conductors
Gary Blackman
Tristan Hughes
Liam Keller

*Alumni
**Orchestra Graduate Assistant

BIOGRAPHIES



Kyle Ritenauer is an emerging presence in the classical music world, noted for his versatility across the symphonic stage, opera, and ballet. Kyle serves as Director of Orchestral Studies at the John J. Cali School of Music at Montclair State University, Staff Conductor of the New York City Ballet, Music Director of the Capital Philharmonic of New Jersey, and serves on the conducting faculty of the Monteux School and Music Festival. Equally in demand as a performer and educator Kyle has conducted the National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center, the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, and is regularly engaged by the Manhattan School of Music and The Juilliard School.

Kyle is a frequent presence at Lincoln Center having recently led 26 performances with the New York City Ballet across productions including Tchaikovsky's *The Sleeping Beauty*, and *The Nutcracker,* in addition to several other ballets. Kyle is noted for his command of some of George Balanchine's more complex ballets. This was recently noted by his leadership in the recent revival of Balanchine's *Pithoprakta* in close collaboration with Balanchine's muse, legendary dancer Suzanne Ferrell. Kyle has also worked regularly with The Juilliard School's Dance Division to lead 18 performances over the last two seasons.

In the world of opera, Kyle has worked with companies including Opéra de Montréal and Des Moines Metro Opera, the Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Young Artist Singers, and most recently prepared Ravel's *L'enfant et les sortilèges* with The Juilliard School Orchestra and Vocal Department. As principal conductor of the Cali Opera Program, Kyle has led productions of Poulenc's *Dialogues des Carmélites,* Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi,* Cavalli's *La Calisto,* Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte,* and will conduct the upcoming production of Verdi's *Falstaff.*

A teacher at heart, Kyle works to make classical music meaningful and relevant for his students, guiding them to approach their craft with both excellence and imagination. His primary appointment is as Interim Director of Orchestral Studies at Montclair State University, where he leads the John J. Cali School of Music Symphony Orchestra, collaborates with the Cali Opera Program, and teaches a full

studio of graduate orchestral conducting students. Kyle considers the John J. Cali School his musical home.

Kyle has appeared as guest conductor with the National Symphony Orchestra, the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, Elgin Symphony Orchestra, Symphony New Hampshire, Capital Philharmonic of New Jersey, Norwalk Symphony Orchestra, the Hudson Valley Philharmonic, and Carnegie Hall's Ensemble Connect. As a cover conductor Kyle has worked with the New York Philharmonic, National Symphony Orchestra, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, Utah Symphony, New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, and the American Composers Orchestra.

An advocate for the music of today, Ritenauer has premiered more than seventy works and collaborated with leading composers including John Adams, Caroline Shaw, Carlos Simon, Quinn Mason, Nina Young, Andy Akiho, Jon Batiste, and Anna Clyne. He is a student of David Robertson and has received mentorship from conductors Gianandrea Noseda, Gustavo Dudamel, Tito Muñoz, and others.



John Sample is a cellist whose performances have taken him across the United States and Europe. As an avid chamber musician, John has been a member of string quartets in residence at both Indiana University and Montclair State University, including two years as the Kuttner Quartet at Indiana, working closely with the Pacifica Quartet. John has been invited to perform at major string quartet competitions and venues throughout the United States and London, earning Second Prize at the Coltman Competition. As a soloist and collaborator, John has performed in a wide range of settings, from chamber and orchestral projects across the Midwest, to jazz performances throughout Manhattan, and musical theater productions including *West Side Story* at Paper Mill Playhouse. He is currently an Artist Diploma candidate at Montclair State University, studying with Christine Lamprea, and will perform Dvořák's Cello Concerto with the Montclair State University Orchestra this fall, as well as Gulda's Cello Concerto with the MSU Wind Symphony in the spring. John received his undergraduate degree from the Peabody Conservatory, where he studied with Amit Peled, and his Master's degree and Performance Diploma from Indiana University, where he studied with Eric Kim.

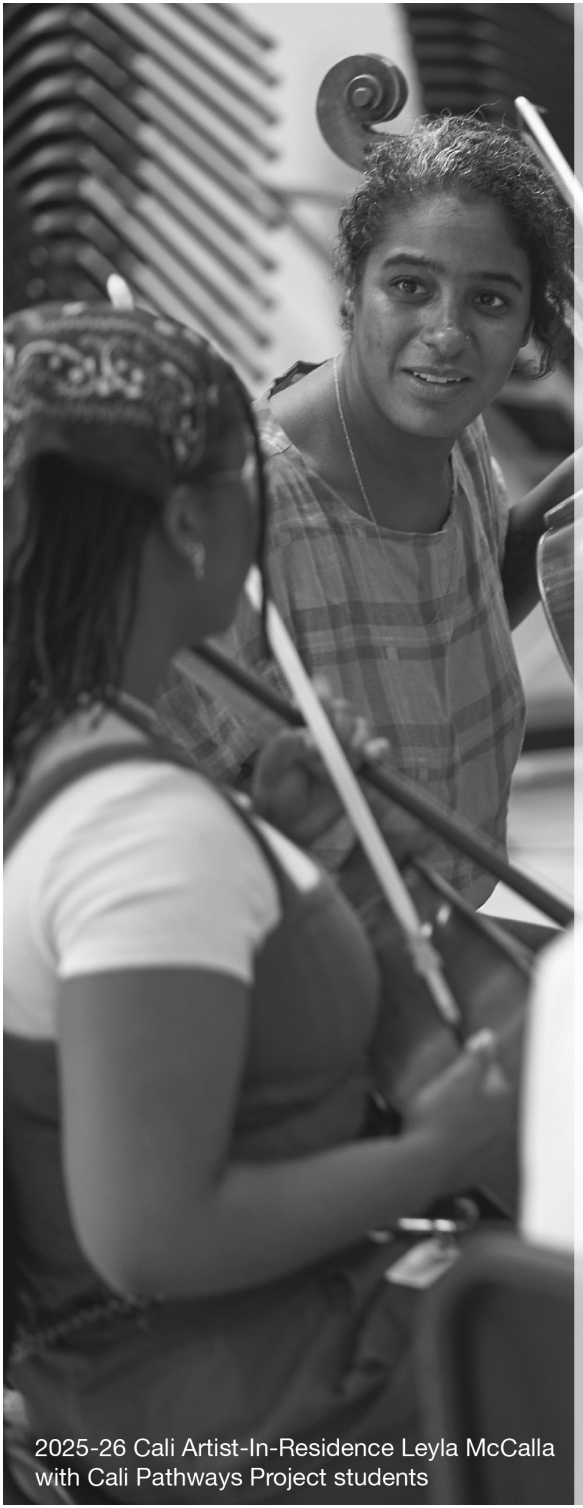
Since moving to New Jersey, he has enjoyed exploring the states many towns and culinary scenes, as well as hiking throughout upstate New York.



Korean tenor **SeongBeom Choi** is currently pursuing an Artist Diploma at Montclair State University's John J. Cali School of Music. He holds a Master of Music degree from the Manhattan School of Music and is an alumnus of the Korea National Opera Studio's Young Artist Program.

His operatic roles include Tamino in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*, Prunier in Puccini's *La Rondine,* Ferrando in Mozart's *Così fan tutte,* Tebaldo in Verdi's *I Vespri Siciliani,* and Tiberge in Massenet's *Le portrait de Manon.* He has performed at renowned venues and institutions including Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center, as well as the Manhattan School of Music and the Korea National Opera. He will make his operatic role debut as Fenton in Verdi's *Falstaff.*

Choi has received First Prize at both the Manhattan International Music Competition and the Korea National Opera Competition. His additional awards include prizes from the Premiere Opera Foundation International Competition, the JTVA Competition, and the Belvedere Competition in Dortmund. He was also selected through audition to receive a career development scholarship from the Bagby Foundation, which supported his artistic development. His repertoire focuses on lyric tenor and bel canto roles.



2025-26 Cali Artist-In-Residence Leyla McCalla with Cali Pathways Project students

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