

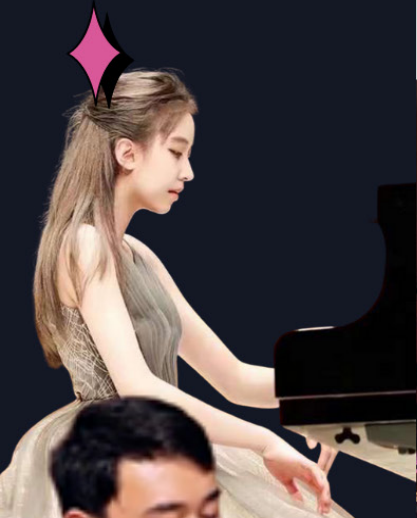
# co/ORCHESTRA AUDITIONS WINNERS



VIRTUAL  
CONCERT  
HALLS



Western New York  
Chamber Orchestra



**FEB 17TH@7:30PM**

**FEB 19TH@4:00PM**

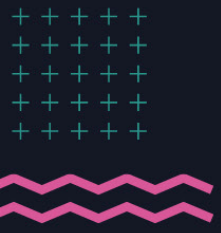
**Westminster Presbyterian  
724 Delaware Ave  
BUFFALO, NY**

**SUNY @ Fredonia  
King Concert Hall  
Fredonia, NY**

## Featured Soloists

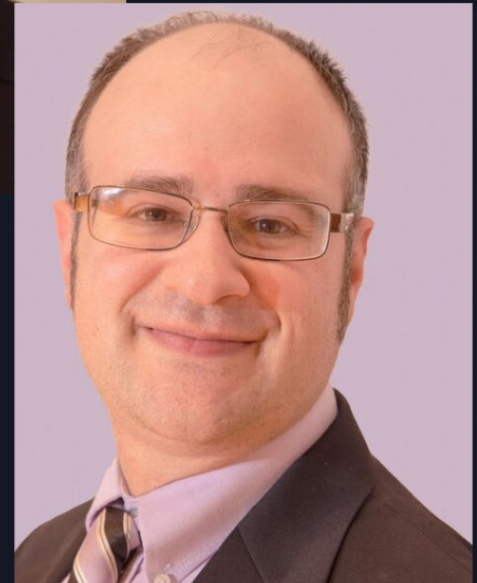
Nahar Eliaz, cellist - Israel; Timothy Shi, violinist - USA; & Julio Reyes, guitarist - USA  
Itay Hazan, clarinetist - Israel (February 17th only)  
Ke Tang, pianist - China; & Ben Batalla, pianist - USA (February 19th only)





# coLORCHESTRA Panel of Judges

Lisa Layman, Glen Cortese, Johanna Moffitt  
Gevorg Sargsyan, James Welch



coLORCHESTRA AUDITIONS





# ON-AIR COMMENTARY PROVIDED BY STEVE ROBINSON



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**GO/ORCHESTRA AUDITIONS**

# International Artist Concerto Concert

Friday February 17, 7:30pm

*Westminster Presbyterian Church  
Buffalo, NY*

## Program

Concerto in D Major, RV 93

- I. Allegro giusto
- II. Largo
- III. Allegro

Antonio Vivaldi  
(1678-1741)

**Julio Reyes, guitar**

Concerto in E minor, Op. 64

- I. Allegro molto appassionato

Felix Mendelssohn  
(1809-1847)

**Timothy Shi, violin**

### *INTERMISSION*

Concerto in F minor, Op. 73

- I. Allegro Moderato

Carl Maria von Weber  
(1786-1826)

**Itay Hazan, clarinet**

Concerto in A minor, Op. 33

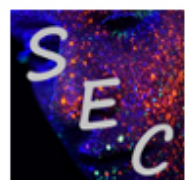
- I. Allegro non troppo
- II. Allegretto con moto
- III. Tempo primo

Camille Saint-Saëns  
(1835-1921)

**Nahar Eliaz, cello**



VIRTUAL  
CONCERT  
HALLS



# International Artist Concerto Concert

Sunday February 19, 4:00pm

Harry A. King Concert Hall

The State University of New York at Fredonia

## Program

Concerto in D Major, RV 93

I. Allegro giusto

II. Largo

III. Allegro

Antonio Vivaldi

(1678-1741)

**Julio Reyes, guitar**

Concerto in E minor, Op. 64

I. Allegro molto appassionato

**Timothy Shi, violin**

Felix Mendelssohn

(1809-1847)

Concerto No. 20 in D minor, K. 466

I. Allegro

**Ke Tang, piano**

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

(1756-1791)

### ***INTERMISSION***

Concerto in E minor, Op. 11

II. Romanze – Larghetto

**Ben Batalla, piano**

Frédéric Chopin

(1810-1849)

Concerto in A minor, Op. 33

I. Allegro non troppo

II. Allegretto con moto

III. Tempo primo

**Nahar Eliaz, cello**

Camille Saint-Saëns

(1835-1921)



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HALLS





# The Artists



Maestro  
Glen Cortese

USA 

**GLEN CORTESE** begins his fourth season as Artistic Director of the Schenectady Symphony Orchestra and his eighteenth season as artistic director of the Western New York Chamber. He completed twelve successful seasons as music director of the Greeley Philharmonic and was also named music director emeritus of the Oregon Mozart Players after serving as artistic director for nine seasons. His recent guest engagements have included Symphoria, the Eugene Opera, Madison Lyric Stage, The Three Tenors Concert in Tirana Albania to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the independence of Kosovo, RTSH Radio Orchestra (Albania) Emerald City Opera, Opera Fort Collins, Wolf Trap Opera, The Charleston Symphony, the Sapporo Festival Orchestra, the Slovak Radio Orchestra the Sofia Philharmonic, the Hong Kong Sinfonietta, the Mexico City Philharmonic, Colorado Springs Philharmonic, the Paducah Symphony Orchestra, the Lafayette Symphony, the Billings Symphony, the Lyric Opera of Cleveland, and the Annapolis Symphony. He was resident conductor and artistic administrator of the Florida Philharmonic for the 2001–2002 season and completed twelve seasons at the Manhattan School of Music where he was principal conductor from 1988 to 2000. He has appeared as guest conductor both in the United States and abroad with the Symphonies of New Jersey, Florida Philharmonic, Austin, Mexico City Philharmonic, North Carolina, Colorado Springs, Bangor, Meridian, Queens, New Amsterdam, The New Orleans Philharmonic, the International Chamber Orchestra, the Belarus State Philharmonic, Sofia Philharmonic National Romanian Radio Orchestra, Noordhollands

Philharmonisch, Orquesta Sinfónica Carlos Chávez, San Francisco Conservatory, Cleveland Institute, and the Altenburg Landeskappelle Orchestra. Mr. Cortese covered as assistant conductor to the New York Philharmonic in 1990–1992 for Zubin Mehta, Leonard Slatkin, Charles Dutoit, Yuri Temirkanov, Erich Leinsdorf, Zdenek Macal and Christof Perick. In July of 1993, he was invited by Kurt Masur to guest conduct a reading with the New York Philharmonic at Carnegie Hall.

In August of 1994, Mr. Cortese began his tenure as music director of the East-West International Symphony Orchestra in Altenburg, Germany, a position that he held for seven years. He conducted over fifty concerts and two operas in seven seasons with the orchestra, made up of advanced conservatory students from ten different nations. His work at the Manhattan School of Music included the school's debut performances at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center and City Center as well as the MSM Orchestra's first performance on "Live from Lincoln Center". He received the honor of "Recording of the Month" in STEREO-PHILE magazine for his release of Mahler's Sixth Symphony with the Manhattan School on Titanic Records. His recording of Mahler's Third Symphony with the Manhattan School was called "a remarkable achievement" in the American Record Guide.

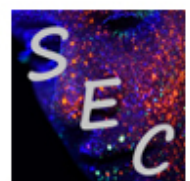
In the opera and music theater world he has conducted Turn of the Screw, Beatrice and Benedict, Candide, Little Women, Othello, West Side Story, Phantom, Les Misérables and My Fair Lady in the last several seasons. In 2011 he conducted the world premiere of John Musto's new opera, "The Inspector" at the Wolf Trap Opera, and his other opera credits include guest conductor with the Eugene Opera, Florida Grand Opera, New York City Opera, the Cleveland Lyric Opera, the Maryland Opera Studio, the Bowdoin Summer Music Festival Opera Theater, the Manhattan School Opera Theater, and the East West International Opera Theater.

Mr. Cortese's credits in the world of dance include performances with the Connecticut Ballet, Joffrey II Ballet, the Elisa Monte Dance Company and the SUNY Purchase Dance Corps. He appeared regularly for five years as conductor for the Erick Hawkins Dance Company at Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center, the Joyce Theatre and on national tours. He has conducted at numerous summer festivals including Chautauqua, Bowdoin Summer Music Festival, American Dance Festival, The New York Music Institute, Sewanee Music Festival and the Brevard Music Center. He has conducted performances of large collaborative projects including chorus, orchestra and dance at Carnegie Hall, as well as having performed in virtually every major performance venue in New York. His work in education is extensive, conducting community outreach programs, educational concerts and children's videos on classical music. Mr. Cortese has conducted concerti and solo works with many renowned performers, including Ransom Wilson, Sharon Isbin, Ruth Laredo, Nathaniel Rosen, Glenn Dicterow, Silvia McNair, Mignon Dunn and Dawn Upshaw. A strong advocate of new music, he has conducted over 150 premieres and has worked in direct collaboration with composers such as Milton Babbitt, Elliott Carter, John Corigliano, George Crumb, Richard Danielpour, Peter Maxwell Davies, Lukas Foss, Hans Werner Henze, and Ralph Shapey. In June of 1993 through 2000, he was the eight-time recipient of the ASCAP New and Adventuresome Programming Award for his work at the Manhattan School.

Mr. Cortese is also an accomplished composer and winner of numerous awards including the Charles Ives Scholarship from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, a two-time winner of the Joseph E. Bearns Prize, and a CAPS Grant from the New York Council on the Arts. He is also the recipient of the Arthur Judson Foundation Award for a Young American Conductor, and his discography includes recordings on the Bridge, Titanic, Newport Classics, Phoenix, Owl, CMS, and Le Crepuscule du Disc labels.



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Guitarist  
**Julio Reyes**  
USA 🇺🇸

**Julio Reyes** was born in Oakland, CA and started the guitar at the age of 5 with his father, a former musical diplomat in Paraguay, South America who studied with a student of Agustin Barrios. He gave his first recital at 12 and at 17 performed the “Concierto de Aran juez” with Richard Buckley and the Oakland Symphony Orchestra. Julio has performed in Europe, South America, and the Caribbean.

At 9 he started his studies on cello and eventually became a member of the Oakland Symphony Youth Orchestra under the direction of Kent Nagano. After being principal cellist for 2 years, he became Maestro Nagano’s Assistant Conductor. His conducting teachers and mentors were Kent Nagano, Calvin Simmons, Richard Buckley, and Denis de Coteau. His proudest performance is conducting Prince Albert of Monaco’s private orchestra in the opera,

“Fay Yen Fah” at the Monaco Opera House with soloists from the US. He has enjoyed being an educator for many years conducting youth orchestras in the US, Cuba, and Paraguay since the late 80’s, on the life and music of Agustin Barrios at conservatories of music, college music departments, and guitar societies here and abroad, teaching guitar, and teaching music at Holy Names High School in Oakland, CA for 3 years. Currently, he continues teaching guitar privately, gives lectures, recitals, and freelance conducts whenever possible.



Violinist  
**Timothy Shi**  
USA 🇺🇸

**Timothy Shi** is a classical violinist and a sophomore at Millburn High School. He began playing violin at four and has since performed as a guest soloist with the New Jersey Symphony, as a soloist at Lincoln Center, and as the concertmaster of the New Jersey Youth Symphony’s Sinfonia and Philharmonia.

Currently, Timothy is the concertmaster of the New Jersey Symphony’s Academy Orchestra. He received first and second place in the Henry Lewis Concerto Competition in 2022 and 2020, respectively, and received third place at Camerata Artists International Competition.

Shi is currently a member of the NJSO Youth Orchestra, All-State, and All-National orchestras. Outside of violin, he loves to program, talk with friends, and swim, having placed 12th and 20th nationally for the 400 IM and the 1000 Freestyle.



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*Clarinetist*  
**Itay Hazan**

**Israel** 

**Itay Hazan** (14) began his Clarinet studies at age 6 with Sagit Mazuz at Has-sadna Conservatory in Jerusalem, where he currently studies with Prof. Ilya Schwartz. A 9th grader at the high school of the Academy of Music, Itay was accepted to the Israeli National Wind Orchestra and to the Ministry of Education’s program for gifted musicians.

Itay performed, both as a soloist and in chamber ensembles, in central venues in Israel and abroad, including the Jerusalem Music Center; Shmuel-House Music Hall; Weiss Auditorium; Yellow-Submarine multidisciplinary Music Center; Solitär Hall (Mozarteum, Salzburg); and the Kleine Zaal of the Concertgebouw (Amsterdam), among others.

Itay won prizes and awards in National and International music competitions, in his age group, including the Unique Outstanding Scholarship for Clarinet players of the America-Israel Cultural Foundation National Scholarship Competition; 1st prize at the Israeli National Wind Competition; 2nd prize at the 16th Long Island International Music Competition; 2nd prize at the 19th Padova International Music Competition; 2nd Prize at the 1st Oberton International Soloist Competition; and 2nd prize at the 18th "Saverio Mercadante" International Clarinet Competition.

A 2nd prize winner at the 2022 American Virtuoso International Music Competition, Itay was invited to participate in the Winners’ Concert which will take place in June 2023 at the Carnegie Weill Recital Hall in New York.



*Pianist*  
**Ben Batalla**

**USA** 

**Ben Batalla** offers a distinguished musicianship with a versatile background in jazz, improvisation, classical and sacred music traditions. He is an active performer, composer, recording artist, and teacher in the Austin, TX area. He earned his Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Piano Performance from Tulane University, as well as further graduate education in sacred music and composition from the Catholic University of America.

Ben has won several national and international piano competitions, and he has performed his jazz music in venues throughout New Orleans, Austin, and the DC area. Ben aims to integrate all aspects of his musicianship to create music that will allow listeners to encounter a beauty that is transformative. He believes in the transformative power of beauty and desires to use art as a means of reminding his listeners of their own inherent dignity and worth.



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Pianist  
**Ke Tang**  
China 🇨🇳

**Ke Tang**, a 20-year-old Chinese pianist, was signed by A. C. Orange International when she was 11 years old. At the age of 15, she performed with the Sichuan Symphony Orchestra. She is currently pursuing a dual degree in piano performance and finance at the Eastman School of Music and the School of Art, Science, and Engineering at the University of Rochester, studying piano with Joseph Rackers.

As a soloist, Ke Tang cooperated with the orchestra for the first time at the age of eleven. She has been invited to perform as a soloist with orchestras over a dozen times, including Sichuan Philharmonic Orchestra, Sichuan Symphony Orchestra, Sichuan Conservatory of Music Symphony Orchestra, Xiamen Philharmonic Orchestra, Tianjin Symphony Orchestra, Wuhan Philharmonic Orchestra, Shanghai Opera Symphony Orchestra, and others. The Hong Kong

Wen Wei Po newspaper has frequently reported her performances, and she has been dubbed a rising star of the Chinese classical music scene.

Ke Tang gave her first solo concert at the age of twelve and has been invited to perform or give recitals in numerous concert halls. She has performed in Beijing CCTV, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Hong Kong, Xiamen, Tianjin, Wuhan, Chengdu, Chongqing, Xi'an, Suzhou in China, Boston, Dallas, Rochester, Philadelphia, New York in the United States, Manchester in the United Kingdom and Ettlingen in Germany, traveling throughout Asia, America, and Europe.

Ke Tang has received several national and international competition awards, including 2021 American Music Talent Competition, 2019 Tone x Galaxie Y International Piano Open Professional Competition, The 63rd GROTRIAN International Piano Competition, Shanghai International Youth Piano Competition, The 31st Shanghai Spring International Music Festival, "Chopin MEDALS" Hong Kong international piano competition, The Eighth Chopin International Youth Piano Competition, The 21st United States Open Piano Competition, and others.

In the summer of 2022, Ke Tang was invited to be a piano teacher at Belvoir Terrace and performed with Juilliard Music School teachers. Following that collaboration, she was invited as a coach to the "Arts Ahimsa 2022" music festival, where she taught students chamber music and performed with artists.

During the 2020 epidemic, when the concert hall was closed and all performances were forced to be canceled, Ke Tang proposed and planned the series of community concerts "Let Music Come into Life", sponsored by La Cadriere Real Estate Group Co., Ltd., sharing classical music in the form of direct communication with the audience. Ke Tang held a series of more than a dozen concerts with the themes such as "Piano and Red Wine," "When Music Meets Chocolate," "The Encounter of Music and Food," and others. Through community concerts the music has been disseminated, allowing more people to become acquainted with classical music through various channels, thereby using music to bring happiness to people's lives in that bitter situation.



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Cellist  
**Nahar Eliaz**

Israel 

Israeli cellist **Nahar Eliaz** (16) has internationally distinguished herself by winning 1st Prize and “Exceptional Artist” at the 2019 “Vienna Grand Prize Virtuoso Competition” at the 2020 “Golden Classical Music Awards New York”, at the 2020 “London Grand Prize Virtuoso Competition”. Nahar has won so far the Absolute 1th Prize in more than 20 International competitions starting at the age of 11 years old such as winning the 1st prize at the 2017 “Morningside Music Bridge” Concerto Competition and other competitions all around the global, such as VI Odin International Music Online Competition, Rudolf Barshai International Strings Competition, Citta Di Massa International Competition, Grand Metropolitan International Music Competition, “Wiener Klassiker” Danubia Talents International Online Music Competition, Swiss International Music Competition, Domenico Savino International Music Competition 2021, 1th absolute prize at the Anton Rubinstein Cello Competition 2022 ,Platinum medal at the

North American Virtuoso International Music Competition 2022, 1st prize at the Beethoven Young Musician Competition 2022 and others, 1th prize in Amadeus international music awards 2022, 1st prize with Greatest Honor at the Tel Aviv Israeli Conservatory Competition three times in a row. Her success led to concerts at venues such as the Lincoln Center NY, Carnegie Hall NYC, Jordan Hall Boston, Beethoven-Haus in Bonn, Germany, Musikverein Vienna, Barcelona Arts Center, and others.

As a soloist she is playing with the Jerusalem Symphony, Ra’anana Symphonette and with orchestras around the world as well as recitals in international Music Festivals in Europe and in the USA. “The Jerusalem Post Newspaper ” quoted in the press after her performances with Lalo Cello Concerto: “She will be the Israel Jacqueline Dupre. She surpasses Dupre in terms of the level of virtuosity at her young age.”

Following a personal invitation by Mr. Itzhak Perlman for the “Perlman Music Program” Nahar was featured at the 2018 Gala event for Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu.

The Jerusalem Music Center selected her for coaching sessions with Mr. Murray Perahia taking place in London.

Nahar is a Winner of the America-Israel Cultural Foundation with a unique highest honor scholarship, a winner of the “Zefunot Culture” Foundation of Music and the “Ronen Foundation ” of Music awards, a solo cellist at the Verbier Festival Academy 2022. She was part of the Morningside Music Bridge’s students in 2017-2019; Part of Heifetz Institute of Music in 2020-21 and a solo cellist at the Verbier Festival Academy 2022, academy member.

Miss Eliaz was born in 2006, started her cello lessons in 2011 and currently studies with Prof. Hillel Zori and lately also with Prof. Laurence Lesser.

Nahar is playing an Italian Gagliano cello of 1760.



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## The Western New York Chamber Orchestra

### **Violin 1**

Gretchen Fisher  
Claire Fisher  
Cody Hiller  
Charles Johnson  
Holly Zimmerman

### **Violin 2**

Alex Crinzi  
David Spring  
Jenna Noreck  
Lucy Anne Gordon

### **Viola**

Brian Walnicki  
Derek Chazen  
Andy Frost

### **Cello**

Bryan Eckenrode  
Karlee Lewis  
Amanda Lyman

### **Bass**

Anders P. Lewis  
Caleb R. Duben

### **Flute**

Barry Crawford  
Nicole Zenns

### **Oboe**

Brian Greene  
Margaret Maxwell

### **Clarinet**

Andrew Seigel  
Elizabeth Hanlon

### **Bassoon**

Joshua Nordland  
Wolfgang Scheitinger

### **French Horn**

Dana Bennett  
Alison Dings

### **Trumpet**

James Francisco  
Landon Grey

### **Timpani**

Kay Stonefelt

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Carl Lam, President  
Emily Greetham, Vice President  
Tom Morrissey, Secretary  
Caitlin Barkley, Treasurer

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Nina Karbacka  
Matt Marco  
James Francisco  
Stanley Jaworski  
Dr. Laura Rutland

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Lisa Layman, Executive Director  
Julie Newell, Development Director  
Brent Weber, Operations Manager  
Bryan Eckenrode, Personnel Manager  
Brian Walnicki, Librarian  
Jessica Staiano & Dylan Murphy, Student Interns  
Julia Williamson, Graphic Design

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