



Greater North Texas Youth Orchestra

Concerto Competition Winners Concert

March 1, 2026

The Luthier Shop

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PROGRAMS OF THE ARTS AND MUSIC GUILD



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MEMBERS OF THE GNTYO YOUNG ARTIST ORCHESTRA

VIOLIN 1

Jerry Song,
principal
Abhay Nampoothiri
Marcus Han
Brian Reid Duran
Leonardo Ocampo
Ramos
Thalia Hsu
Vaani Chellamuthu
Whitney Wetzel

VIOLIN 2

Preston Dobbs,
principal
Aditya Rao Udupi
Isabelle Yiu
Maddie de Leon
Brandon Fu
Abhiti Yeluripati
Aurelius Andreyev
Janie Youngbeen Lee

VIOLA

Nico Harris,
principal
Zalana Aguillard
Chloe Bimpong
Lily Sanders

CELLO

James Williams,
principal
Brooke Aguillard
Alejandro Pagle
Sofia Summers
Shakti Subramaniam
Audrey Le

D. BASS

Gabriela Servigna,
principal
Koen Wang

HARP

Meghna Mahendran

FLUTE

Jade Golzales,
principal

CLARINET

Aeden Dellos, principal
Silas Urban
Gavrie Ramos

BASSOON

Shreyas Konyala
Nikhil Kalakada

FRENCH HORN

Lucas Rodriguez,
principal
Max Tessnow
Vihaan Obla

TRUMPET

Emilly Sticher
Sahil Shah

TROMBONE

John James

MEMBERS OF THE GNTYO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

VIOLIN 1

Rebecca Noble,
concertmaster
Bhavesh Bhuma
Karthika Pilla
Christian Yumul
Geethika Bhuma
Isabella Lekkas
Castor Yang
Xueer Chen
Violetta Zhukovskiy

VIOLIN 2

Lucas Ponce,
principal
Samvrit Bhavsar
Jocelyn Du
Eugene Jang
Elaine Lu
Trisha Joshi
Suhaana
Balakrishnan
Gabriela Andrews
Prakash Naidu
Lakshita
Vishwamitrula

VIOLA

Amara Jain,
principal
Adam Clara
Jiah Kim
Emma Rose

Brayden Wilyono
Yorika Ohashi
Lucas Hlavaty
Violet Gwartney

CELLO

Tymofii Bazhukov
SiMilo Taylor
Maggie Gormley
Nelson Lu
Yoav Sharivker
Triston Fu
Seraphina McGrew

D. BASS

Aedan Wheat

FLUTE

Ananya Chopra
Dahae Kim

OBOE

Avni Gupta
Ryleigh Ortal
Lily Salzman

CLARINET

Tikum Bradley
Raman Chakravarty
Leonardo Navarro

BASSOON

Medha Devdhar
Iniya Vimalan

FRENCH HORN

Dane Girard
Violet Nirchi
Ameya Thirtha

TRUMPET

Miles Chen-Randall
Bharath
Dharmalingam
Sean Dorff
Austin Rodriguez

TROMBONE

Noah Rodriguez
Carter Brennan

BASS TROMBONE

Matthew Glenn

TUBA

Noah Marashi



Phoenix McGrew is a senior at Plano Senior High School and has been playing the Tuba for about 6 years. He currently serves as the principal tubist in the orchestra, joining for the 25-26 season. He leads the tuba/euphonium choir at his school as well as being the brass captain during marching season. His passion for music exploded these past couple years under the study of Dr. Mitchell and directors Jason Lewis and Jason Lim. He hopes to continue his passion for performing and teaching as he enters college for Music Education and Tuba performance. He loves being able to break stereotypes about tuba playing by pushing the perceived limits and labels commonly associated with the instrument through solos.



Vaghul Srivallaban (viola), 16, is a junior at Independence High School and studies with Danny Jordan. He has been selected to the TMEA All-Region Symphony Orchestra for four consecutive years and has earned placement in both the TMEA All-State Symphony Orchestra and the TMEA All-State Philharmonic Orchestra. A three-time Texas State Solo and Ensemble Competition qualifier, Vaghul is passionate about both orchestral and solo performance and is grateful for the opportunity to perform today.



John Paul Reid Duran is a senior at Walnut Grove High School and serves as concertmaster of both the Walnut Grove Orchestra and the Greater North Texas Youth Orchestra. He is a four-year All-Region (Top Symphony Orchestra) honoree and a two-year All-Area qualifier. He won the Prosper ISD Concerto Competition his sophomore and junior years and placed second as a freshman, and also won last year's GNTYO Concerto Competition. Beyond music, John Paul is a competitive swimmer, water polo goalie, and surfer, and enjoys teaching and performing with his brothers at community events.



ABOUT THE GREATER NORTH TEXAS YOUTH ORCHESTRA

The Greater North Texas Youth Orchestra (GNTYO) was founded in 2017 as a direct result of Artistic Director Jason Lim's desire to build and serve the North Texas community with an exceptional orchestral experience for both students and audience members. The GNTYO believes that fine arts – especially as a youth orchestra – is an essential element of a strong, vibrant community and the organization is excited to play an integral part in cultivating this element of cultural awareness and growth in North Texas.

Each season, students from the North Texas area come together to rehearse and perform musical works from multiple genres and eras of music literature. It is the GNTYO's goal to supplement students' musical education as well as grow their skills and character through the GNTYO experience. All GNTYO musicians are exposed to comprehensive and challenging music literature, intensive orchestral instruction with respected and accomplished coaches, master classes, music theory, and rewarding performances.

Since its inception, Maestro Lim's vision for the GNTYO has been to foster an affinity and respect for fine arts in young musicians through understanding and discipline similar to those experienced by professional musicians. His unique programming offers students a broad scope of musical styles and one-of-a-kind opportunities such as playing with Grammy Award-winning Polka band Brave Combo, and the Mentorship Program in which talented students perform side-by-side with professional musicians for a true-to-life learning experience.



JASON LIM

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR and CONDUCTOR
of the MCKINNEY PHILHARMONIC
ORCHESTRA and THE GREATER NORTH
TEXAS YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Jason Lim is an acclaimed conductor whose career is distinguished by artistry, innovation, and international recognition. Born in Penang, Malaysia, his passion for music began early and led him to pursue formal studies in viola performance at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts under Alice Waten, where he was awarded a scholarship for his exceptional talent. He continued his training at the Canberra School of Music in Australia and later graduated with honors from the Australian Institute of Music in Sydney. Lim went on to earn a Master's degree in Orchestral Conducting from the University of North Texas.

Celebrated for his visionary programming and expressive performances, Lim began his conducting career in Australia as an apprentice with the Canberra Youth Orchestra and later as Assistant Conductor with the Ku Ring Gai Philharmonic Orchestra in Sydney. He quickly gained recognition, winning First Prize in the New South Wales Ministry of Arts Conducting Prize. His accolades include First Prize in the 2021 American Prize—Vytautas Marijosius Memorial Award for Orchestral Programming, inclusion in the Texas Touring Roster by the Texas Commission on the Arts (2020), top honors in the American Prize Competition for Professional Conductors, the Ernst Bacon Memorial Award for excellence in performing American music, and most recently, Second Prize in the Professional Opera Conducting Division of the American Prize.

Lim made his European debut in 2013 with the Academic State Concert Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine in Kyiv and has since conducted the Zabrze Philharmonic Orchestra in Poland, the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra, and guest appearances with the Abilene Philharmonic, Johnstown Symphony, and other ensembles. His artistry also extends beyond traditional symphonic work, with collaborations that include choreographer Bill Evans, the Denton Bach Society, the American Baroque Opera Orchestra and appeared with the Opera Arlington in productions, including Dvorak's *Rusalka* and Mozart's *Don Giovanni*.

Jason Lim, Bio - continued

A passionate advocate for contemporary music, Lim has conducted premieres by young composers and commissioned new works, including Brad Robin's *BREATH* (2012). As Music Director of the NOVA Ensemble, he led their first commercial recording on the Equilibrium label and conducted the premiere of Brian Bavelander's *Distant Visions*, blending orchestra and pre-recorded sound. His participation at SEAMUS Y2K, the North American Saxophone Alliance, and other festivals underscores his commitment to new music.

Lim's dedication to mentorship and education is equally significant. He has conducted workshops and festivals across Asia and the United States, including a decade with the Abilene Summer Music Festival, leadership of the Summer Music Intensives in McKinney, Texas, and educational programs with the Pan American Music Festival in Edinburg, Texas, and the Penang State Orchestra Workshop. He was selected to study under Gustav Meier at the Ithaca International Conducting Workshop and at the Pierre Monteux School for Conductors in Maine. Currently, he serves as Artistic Director of the Greater North Texas Youth Orchestra, shaping the next generation of musicians.

In 2012, Lim founded the McKinney Philharmonic Orchestra, where he continues as Artistic Director and conductor. Under his leadership, the orchestra has been nationally recognized by the American Prize Competition and has launched an innovative mentorship program that pairs outstanding high school students with professional musicians, embodying his lifelong dedication to education and community engagement. Lim is also the Artistic Director of the Greater North Youth Orchestra and was recently named the music director of the Greenville Pops Orchestra.

www.jasonlim-conductor.com



KEVIN GARZA

Conductor and Director of the
GNTYO Symphony Orchestra

Kevin Garza is a conductor, composer, and trombonist known for his expressive musicianship, engaging performances, and commitment to music education. With over a decade of experience as a teacher and performer, he has worked with ensembles and students across Indiana, Kentucky, and Texas.

From 2014 to 2017, Garza played an active role in the music community of New Albany, Indiana, and the greater Louisville, Kentucky area. He served on the marching band staff at New Albany High School, teaching brass students and composing two original marching productions, *Destinations* (2015) and *Crest & Crown* (2016), helping to revitalize the program. As a trombonist, he performed as principal trombone with the Brass Band of Louisville and the Louisville Winds.

Relocating to Texas in 2017, Garza taught low brass in several school districts and later served as Director of Orchestras at Williams High School in Plano ISD from 2020 to 2024. Under his leadership, the Chamber Orchestra earned consecutive UIL Sweepstakes awards, and he revitalized the program by reestablishing the Williams Orchestra Booster Club. He also founded “Viva Viola”, an innovative event uniting over 100 viola students to collaborate with a professional musician.

In 2023, Garza joined the Greater North Texas Youth Orchestra (GNTYO) as Symphony Conductor, where he led the world premiere of his original work *and when the snow fell we loved you still* (2024). He has also served as Interim Conductor for the East Texas Youth Orchestra Philharmonic and the GNTYO Philharmonic. In addition, he is a member of the McKinney Philharmonic Orchestra’s administrative team, serving as Ticketing Director.

Garza holds a Bachelor of Music in Composition from Indiana University and a Master of Music in Conducting from Southern Methodist University. Outside music, he is a certified project manager who enjoys cooking, coffee, reading, and time with friends and family.

McKINNEY PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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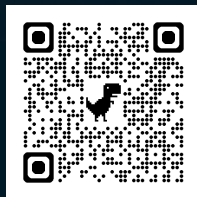
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