

Phillips Exeter Academy
Music Department



2026 Instrumental
Concerto Competition

Sunday, February 8, 2026
3:00 PM

“the Bowld”
Forrestal Bowld Music Center
29 Tan Lane
Exeter, NH

Program

Concerto for Violin and Cello in A minor, Op. 102 Johannes Brahms
I. *Allegro* (1833-1897)

Martin Yau, *violin*
Tristan Price, *cello*
Jacob Hiser, *piano*

Piano Concerto in A minor, Op. 54 Robert Schumann
III. Allegro Vivace (1810-1856)

Evan Fan, *piano*
Silvana Sokolov-Grubb, *piano*

Zigeunerweisen, Op. 20 Pablo de Sarasate
(1844-1908)

Sofia Chaudrey, *violin*
Jacob Hiser, *piano*

Concerto No. 3 in C Minor, Op. 27 Ludwig van Beethoven
I. *Allegro con brio* (1770-1827)

Grace Yang, *piano*
Jung Mi Lee, *piano*

Violin Concerto No.1 in G minor, Op. 26 Max Bruch
I. *Vorspiel: Allegro moderato* (1838-1920)

Hugo Shinn, *violin*
Jacob Hiser, *piano*

Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, Op. 43

Sergei Rachmaninoff
(1873-1943)

Benny Wang, *piano*
Silvana Sokolov-Grubb, *piano*

Cello Concerto No. 1 in E-flat Major, Op. 107
I. Allegretto

Dmitri Shostakovich
(1906-1975)

Alvin Zhou, *cello*
Jacob Hiser, *piano*

After the last performance, the judges will take some time to deliberate and determine a winner. We encourage the audience to stay in the Bowld for the announcement. We will also announce the winner to the PEA community as well as the local community email list.

Meet the Judges



Hailed by John Williams as “an outstanding cellist and truly dedicated artist,” **Emmanuel Feldman** is an award-winning cellist performing in the U.S. and internationally as a soloist and chamber musician. Described by *Gramophone* as “an artist who combines communicative urgency with tonal splendor,” his CD *Our American Roots* (Delos) includes Pulitzer Prize winning composer George Walker’s cello sonata and Feldman’s acclaimed arrangements of Gershwin pieces for cello and piano.

Revolutionizing modern cello playing, Feldman performs standing up using his patented TekStand™ pioneering a sensational new experience for listeners visually and sonically that engages fellow musicians and audiences alike. For collaborative concerts when sitting traditionally is needed, he uses his other invention, the TekPin™ vertical endpin that is used by cellists all around the world. He has been featured in articles in *The Strad* and in *Strings Magazine* and has been a presenter at the American String Teachers Conference.

His guest artist appearances include the Celebrity Series of Boston, Phillips Collection, Boston Pops, Nashville Chamber Orchestra, Mozart Society Orchestra and Greensboro Festival Orchestra among others. Feldman concerts throughout Europe including appearances at Salle Gaveau Paris, Altes Raathaus Vienna, Palazzo Scopoli, Tonadico (Italy) and he has toured in Taiwan. An enthusiastic collaborator, he has partnered in a wide range of performances with artists including Gilbert Kalish, Paul Neubauer, Karen Dreyfus Richard Stoltzman, Elmar Oliveira, pop star Bobby McFerrin and groups including the Mark Morris Dance Group and Ballet Rhode Island.

As co-founder of Duo Cello e Basso, along with bassist Pascale Delache-Feldman, they have given numerous residencies at universities across the U.S. The duo’s recently released CD “Let’s Tango!” (2024) has been entered by Parma Records in consideration for a Latin Grammy for Feldman’s arrangement of the Four Seasons of Buenos Aires of Piazzolla. As a core member of the Aurea Ensemble and a guest artist with the Boston Public Quartet, Feldman, tours with these groups performing chamber music paired with poetry and the music of BIPOC composers. He also has performed as a guest with the Verona, Jupiter, Lark and Borromeo String Quartets.

An active advocate of new music, Feldman’s critically acclaimed recordings (Naxos, Delos, Albany and others) and world premiere performances have featured music by American composers John Harbison, Ned Rorem, Gunther Schuller, Steve Mackey and Richard Danielpour. Praised by the *N.Y. Times* as “exhilarating in this bracing and confident performance” Feldman’s “Rider on The Plains” CD earned a 2008 Grammy nomination for producer Blanton Alspaugh and features Virgil Thomson’s Cello Concerto along with the

complete cello works of Thomson with pianist Joy Cline Phinney. Feldman's own cello concerto "Standing Tall" that won a silver medal at the 2022 Global Music Awards was written together with the debut of his TekStand™.

A graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music and Tufts University, he has taught at New England Conservatory and Brown University, is on the performance faculty of Tufts University and Project STEP and has given masterclasses at the National Taiwan Normal University (Taipei), Manhattan School of Music, Bienen School and Peabody Institute. He has been on the cello faculty of the International Cello Institute, Yellow Barn and Heifetz International Music Institutes and is a faculty member of the Sarasota Music Festival, Trentino Music Festival (Italy), Duxbury and Easton Chamber Music Festivals.



Peggy Friedland is a distinguished American flutist celebrated for her versatility, expressive tone, and wide-ranging musical career. She has performed with major ensembles including the Boston Symphony Pops, Boston Ballet, Boston Lyric Opera, Emmanuel Music, and the New England Ragtime Ensemble, showcasing her adaptability across many styles and settings.

In addition to her concert and orchestral work, Friedland has enjoyed an active and enduring career as a theater musician, performing in Broadway and touring productions throughout New England. Friedland's career has taken her around the world - from touring Asia as principal flute with the Mantovani Orchestra to serving as piccoloist with the Vermont Symphony Orchestra for 40 years. An active recording artist, she is featured on notable works including Michael Gandolfi's flute concerto *Caution to the Wind* on CRI, and the Grammy-nominated *Consortini* by Milton Babbitt.

A committed educator, Friedland has shared her expertise with students at Phillips Academy (Andover and Exeter), Salem State University, College of the Holy Cross, and Clark University, helping shape the next generation of musicians. Her eclectic career reflects both deep classical roots and a broad musical curiosity, making her a respected figure in performance, recording, and music education.



George Lopez, pianist and conductor, is the Artist in Residence and Symphony Orchestra Artist Director and Conductor at Bowdoin College in Maine. Renowned for his "kaleidoscopic colors and clarity of conception" (Los Angeles Times), he is celebrated for his sophisticated and artfully curated interpretations. His debut at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam was described as "authentic and memorable" by the *Nederlands Dagblad* for his masterful performances of Bach's Goldberg Variations and Chopin's Preludes. Lopez's extensive repertoire is

both broad and deep, encompassing the complete sonatas of Mozart, piano concertos of Beethoven, all Etude-Tableaux of Rachmaninoff, all Etudes and Ballades of Chopin, and recently the entire four-volume set of Bach's Klavierübungen, performed on organ, harpsichord, and piano.

His performances have captivated audiences around the world, including Europe, Latin America, Asia, Australia, and throughout the United States, with appearances at esteemed venues such as Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Merkin Hall, Benaroya Hall in Seattle, and Ambassador Hall in Los Angeles. Lopez has been a featured artist at numerous international music festivals, including the Girona International Festival of Music in Spain, the Kowmung Festival in Sydney, Australia, the Festivale d'Internazionale Solisti e Musica da Camera in Umbria, Italy, and the Latin American music festival Cubadisco in Havana, Cuba.

As a guest soloist, he has performed with the National Symphony of São Paulo in Brazil, the Prague Chamber Orchestra, and in distinguished halls like Salle Cortot in Paris, Rose Hall in Osaka, and Asahi Hall in Tokyo. In addition to his solo career, Lopez collaborates in recording and outreach projects with members of the New York Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony, Boston Symphony, The Met Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, Seattle Symphony, and The New World Symphony.

He holds the First Prize for the Diplome Superieure from the Ecole Normale de Musique in Paris and the distinguished Uitvoerend Musicus degree from the Sweelinck Conservatorium in Amsterdam. As the artistic director and conductor of the Bowdoin College Symphony Orchestra, Lopez leads one of the most dynamic all-student symphonic programs in the New England region, fostering a vibrant musical community and inspiring the next generation of musicians.

Meet the Piano Faculty Performers



Jacob Hiser is a versatile pianist and violinist who performs and studies a variety of musical traditions. Born and raised in southern Missouri, he grew up playing bluegrass, blues, and classical music, eventually discovering jazz and graduating from Missouri State University with a bachelor's degree in Jazz Studies. In 2014, he moved to Boston to attend New England Conservatory's Contemporary Improvisation program, graduating with his master's degree in 2016. While there, he studied with Ran Blake, Bruce Brubaker, Joe Morris, and Frank Carlberg, and performed in ensembles and concerts coached/directed by John Zorn, Jason Moran, Tanya Kalmonovitch, Anthony Coleman, and Simon Carrington.

With jazz groups, country bands, choirs, Korean folk music ensembles, and classical cellists, Jacob has performed all over the United States, as well as Canada, France, Germany, Hungary, and Australia. In summer 2019, he was

accepted into the International Workshop in Jazz and Creative Music at Banff Centre for the Arts in Alberta, Canada, where he spent 3 weeks creating music with 45 other improvising musicians from around the world and working closely with faculty Vijay Iyer, Steph Richards, Tyshawn Sorey, Okkyung Lee, and many others. Currently, Jacob is adjunct piano faculty at University of Massachusetts Lowell and a pianist for Boston Children's Chorus. During the summers, he is a faculty member of two fine arts programs: Missouri Fine Arts Academy: a two-week summer residential program for high school student artists in visual arts, theatre, dance, creative writing, and music, and Next Generation Performing Arts Camp: a week-long piano/strings camp in Lawton, Oklahoma for middle school and high school students). He has released one album, “Seconds”, comprised mostly of original jazz compositions for quintet and trio.

Concert pianist and transdisciplinary artist **Jung Mi Lee** is active in North America, South America, Europe, and Asia. A sampling of venues and institutions that she has performed and creatively worked at offers a glimpse into the diverse are(n)s that she is engaged with:

Radialsystem V (Berlin), *Färgfabriken Kunsthalle* (Stockholm), the *Exhibition Pavilion of the National Museum of Architecture* (Oslo), *Bagssværd Kirke* (Copenhagen), *Myrämäki Kirkko* (Vantaa), *Gyllensbergssalen - Sandels Cultural Centre* (Helsinki), *Estonian History Museum* (Tallinn); Beijing Central, Shanghai, China National, Wuhan and Xi'an Conservatories; Boston, Harvard, Porto Alegre, Tallinn, Tsinghua, Tufts Universities; Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Wentworth Institute of Technology, Williams College Multicultural Center, 2nd International Conference on Music and the Environment (Tallinn), Talloires International Composer's Symposium (Annecy), Premiere Week Festival of Contemporary Music @ UFRGS (Rio Grande do Sol - Brazil).



Since 2009, Jung Mi has been collaborating with architects in Europe and the United States exploring the interstices between Music and Architecture: conducting research, designing multimedia installations and giving experimental concerts in Europe and the US. Highlights have included multiple concert tours in northern Europe engaging architects, arts institutions, and public in key modernist and contemporary works by Alvar Aalto, Sverre Fehn, Jørn Utzon, Juha Leiviskä, Gerhard Spangenberg, Petra Gipp in music spanning from J.S. Bach, Schumann, Brahms, Ravel, Schoenberg to Donatoni, Holliger, Cage, Cogan, Liang.

Exhibition and installation design collaborators include architect John Stephen Ellis AIA, transdisciplinary artist Nobuho Nagasawa, painter Deborah Barlow, poet Todd Heaton, artist and curator Lauren O'Neal, architect Rolf Backmann, architect and artist Bruce MacNelly, concert musician and transdisciplinary artist Jon Sakata.

Jung Mi has taught on the music faculty at Phillips Exeter Academy since the mid-1990's.



Ms. Silvana Sokolov-Grubb studied piano at the School of Music at University of Belgrade in her native Yugoslavia and continued at Eastman School of Music where she received her Master's of Music in Performance and Cleveland Institute of Music for Professional studies. She won many International and National competitions, played solo recitals and concerts with orchestras in Yugoslavia, Austria,

Italy and US. Ms. Sokolov-Grubb taught piano at the Cleveland Institute of Music, University of New Hampshire and she is currently teaching at the Phillips Exeter Academy. Her students won many competitions, including MTNA, Elite, Sempre Musick and played with orchestras.

Concert Series Information



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