

Dream to Reality

One of conductor Kent Nagano's long-planned projects got underway this fall, with the official launch of *La musique aux enfants* (Music for Kids), a pre-kindergarten and kindergarten music program at the École St-Rémi Annexe in Montreal. Imagined by Nagano and developed by the Montreal Symphony Orchestra in collaboration with Université de Montréal and the Commission scolaire de la Pointe-de-l'Île, the project aims to use music education to improve the children's overall development. All 161 students in the program will receive at least one lesson in rhythm and choral singing per week and will have the opportunity to participate in activities with music and the musicians of the Montreal Symphony. A subgroup of sixteen children will receive close to three hours of piano, violin, rhythm and choral singing instruction each day, while a different group of sixteen will receive one and a quarter hours of daily music instruction. Researchers from the Université de Montréal will study the program's impact. Above: Nagano holds up a drawing presented to him by students at École St-Rémi in Montreal North.



Antoine Saito

Lift Every Voice



Ken Hevel

For his 20th and final season as music director of the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Jeffrey Kahane (left) conceived "Lift Every Voice," a multi-faceted series of concerts and events addressing social and moral issues—Kahane has called it "the fulfillment of a long-cherished dream." Among the January 14-29 festival's highlights: a joint Martin Luther King Day concert with the Inner City Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles; LACO performances featuring violin soloist Daniel Hope in Kurt Weill's *Song-Suite* for Violin and Orchestra and Bruce Adolphe's "I Will Not Remain Silent" (a concerto dedicated to Dr. King and his civil-rights ally Rabbi Joachim Prinz); Weill's musical morality plays *Lost in the*

Stars (set in apartheid-era South Africa) and *The Seven Deadly Sins*; plus a variety of symposia, chamber-music offerings, and film screenings at multiple sites.



The Toledo Symphony's "Mideast x Midwest" concert with Michigan's National Arab Orchestra was followed by a reception featuring music, dancing, and food.

Midwest Dialogues

Toledo, Ohio was the site for a noteworthy collaboration this fall entitled "Mideast x Midwest: A Dialogue of Music, Food and Fun at America's Crossroads." The Toledo Symphony Orchestra and the Michigan-based National Arab Orchestra

joined forces for the November 12 concert at Toledo's Valentine Theatre, led by Toledo Symphony Resident Conductor Sara Jobin and National Arab Orchestra Music Director Michael Ibrahim. Also performing was opera singer Lubana Al-Quntar, a Syrian refugee. The concert featured a new work called *Dialogue*, with a student chorus from the Toledo public schools, singing in Arabic. A post-concert reception included music, dancing, and food from Toledo-area restaurants. The National Arab Orchestra, comprising musicians from Arab and non-Arab backgrounds, was covered in the Spring 2015 issue of *Symphony*.

White House Honors

In November, the Sphinx Organization was honored at the White House as one of twelve winners of the 2016 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Awards. Sphinx—founded in Detroit in 1997 by violinist Aaron Dworkin and currently under the leadership of Afa S. Dworkin, Sphinx president and artistic director—works to get children from underserved communities into classical music through free afterschool music instruction, an annual conference addressing diversity issues in the performing arts, and a competition for young African American and Latino string players. Pictured below, First Lady Michelle Obama addresses young musicians of the Sphinx Perfect Fourth String Quartet: Aidan Daniels, Maxwell Fairman, Peirce Ellis, and Nicholas Reeves, who performed at the White House ceremony. The annual National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Awards recognize "outstanding after-school and out-of-school programs that are transforming the lives of young people."



MUSICAL CHAIRS

MADELINE ADKINS has been named concertmaster at Utah Symphony | Utah Opera in Salt Lake City.



Adkins

The San Francisco Symphony has announced that **BRENT ASSINK** will step down as executive director on March 31, 2017.

Illinois's Philharmonic Society of Belleville has appointed **ROBERT HART BAKER** artistic director.

ALISON BOLTON has been appointed director of orchestra and hall operations at New York's Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra.

At the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, **CLAIRE BRAZEAU** has been named principal oboe, and **JOACHIM BECERRA THOMSEN** principal flute. Harpsichordist **MAHAN ESFAHANI** has been appointed artistic partner for LACO's Baroque Conversations series.

The Detroit Symphony Orchestra has appointed **MATTHEW CARLSON** director of communications and media relations, **MARC GEELHOED** director of digital initiatives, and **BRIAN FRAZEE** manager of community engagement.

New Jersey's newly formed Montclair Orchestra has announced the appointment of **DAVID CHAN** as its first music director. He will continue as concertmaster of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra.

RODERICK COX has been promoted to associate conductor at the Minnesota Orchestra.

The Portland (Maine) Symphony Orchestra has appointed **ANDREW CRUST** assistant conductor.

TREY DEVEY has been named president of Michigan's Interlochen Center for the Arts, effective June 12, 2017. He will step down as president of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra in mid-April.



Devey

The Las Vegas Philharmonic has appointed **KEVIN R. EBERLE** education director, and **DAWN NEWBURG** major gifts officer.

WILLIAM EDDINS will step down as music director of the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra (Alberta, Canada) at the end of the 2016-17 season.

The Alexandria (Va.) Symphony Orchestra has appointed **PAUL A. FRANK** executive director.

At the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, **FRANCISCO FULLANA** has been named principal violin, a title he shares with **KYU-YOUNG KIM**.

MICHAEL GELLER has stepped down as president and CEO of New York City's American Composers Orchestra following a twenty-year tenure.

Arts Consulting Group has named **VICTOR GOTESMAN** vice president for facilities and program planning in its Portland (Ore.) office.

Ohio's Akron Symphony has appointed **PETER GROSSETTI** to the newly created post of director of advancement.

JOHANNA GRUSKIN has been named principal flute in the Knoxville (Tenn.) Symphony Orchestra.

The Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra has announced that **RAYMOND HARVEY** will step down as music director at the end of this season, becoming music director emeritus. **DANIEL BRIER** has been promoted from assistant conductor to resident

Arts Policy in the New Congress and Administration

Advocates in the arts community and across the nonprofit sector are preparing to engage with the new Trump Administration and Congress on the economic, international, and domestic public policies that impact the arts and culture. The arts and creativity have historically advanced with support from elected officials across the political spectrum in the House, Senate, and the White House. With current federal funding levels expiring at the end of April, near-term decisions about support for the National Endowment for the Arts and arts education will be on Congress's to-do list. The new Administration has put tax reform on its agenda for the first 100 days, which will accelerate discussions in Congress on changes to charitable-giving incentives.

Prior to the elections, the League and diverse stakeholders in the national arts and culture community developed transition recommendations for a new Administration in [*Advancing the Arts to Support National Policy Priorities*](#). The League is asking the next Administration to leverage the arts to their full potential through policies that cut across federal agencies. Find the latest news and how orchestra advocates can most effectively engage in the policymaking process at www.americanorchestras.org.



In the Game

This fall orchestras from the hometowns of the Chicago Cubs and the Cleveland Indians cheered on their teams during the World Series. A week before the series began, Riccardo Muti and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra recorded a spirited “Take Me Out to the Ballgame” (above) and uploaded it to the CSO’s YouTube page. The Cleveland Orchestra also made a “good luck” video (John Williams’s “Superman March” from *Superman*), and eight Cleveland Orchestra musicians played the National Anthem at the start of the seventh and final game of the series in Cleveland (top). Elsewhere in orchestras-and-pro-sports news: the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra played the National Anthem and during the halftime show before a crowd of 80,000 at the Green Bay Packers’ October 20 game against the Chicago Bears, at Green Bay’s Lambeau Field, the orchestra’s first time playing there.

Financial Front

This fall, the Philadelphia Orchestra, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, and Fort Worth Symphony each announced new contracts for musicians, following work stoppages and concert cancellations. At the **Philadelphia Orchestra**, the musicians’ previous contract expired midway through September, and negotiations came to a halt. A musicians strike that began at the orchestra’s opening-night gala ended two days later with a new three-year contract that includes a 2 percent wage increase in the first year and 2.5 percent increases in the second and third years. The orchestra will increase from 96 to 97 musicians, and musicians will have more direct involvement in fundraising. At the **Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra**, “play-and-talk” negotiations past the September 4 expiration of the previous contract were followed by a strike that began on September 30 and ended just before Thanksgiving with a five-year contract. Under the new agreement, wages will be cut 7.5 percent in the first year, frozen in the second year, increased 3.3 percent in the

third year, increased 2 percent in the fourth year, and restored to 2016 levels by the fifth year. In Texas, musicians of the **Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra** went on strike on September 8, following more than a year of negotiations after the expiration of the previous contract in July 2015. The strike ended on December 7 with a four-year contract that includes a pay freeze in the first and second years, followed by a 2 percent increase in the third year and a 2.5 percent increase in the fourth. In Pittsburgh and Fort Worth, contract negotiations coincided with efforts to reduce or eliminate annual budget deficits.

Budgets in brief: Several orchestras announced balanced budgets, some with surpluses, at the end of the 2016 fiscal year, among them the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Jacksonville Symphony, Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Minnesota Orchestra, Oregon Symphony, St. Louis Symphony, Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, Santa Rosa Symphony, and Toronto Symphony Orchestra.

League Launches \$4.5 Million American Orchestras' Futures Fund

Across the country, orchestras are vigorously engaged in groundbreaking work. To support this commitment to innovation, this fall the League of American Orchestras announced the *American Orchestras' Futures Fund*, made possible through the generous support of the Ann & Gordon Getty Foundation. The \$4.5 million grants program supports a select number of orchestras that are making significant investments in organizational learning and innovation. Two-year organizational grants as well as short-term technical assistance grants are available for new or ongoing work that demonstrates an impact on the organization and on its audiences and communities. League-member orchestras are eligible to apply. Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis by independent panels. Grantees will document and share their approaches, practices, and results to foster the learning capacity of the orchestra field. The League will help document and synthesize grant-supported activities in order to identify promising practices and themes, and will disseminate these findings. For complete details, including deadlines and application information, visit americanorchestras.org/futures.

Manuscript to Symphony

A living composer and a mysterious manuscript are at the center of a commission by the New Haven Symphony Orchestra. For the two-season Lash/Voynich project, NHSO Composer-In-Residence Hannah Lash is writing a symphony inspired by the Voynich Manuscript—a document in an unknown script that is thought to be from fifteenth-century Italy—housed at Yale University's Beineke Rare Book and Manuscript Library. The orchestra has premiered the first three of the work's four movements individually beginning in 2015-16, with the world premiere of the complete work scheduled for May 4. The orchestra's opening-night program this September featured the premiere of the third movement, "Biological," which is inspired by the manuscript's diagrams of plants and people. The city of New Haven proclaimed September 29 "Women Making Music Day" in honor of Lash and composer Helen Hagan, the first African-American woman to graduate from the Yale School of Music; the NHSO premiered Hagan's Concerto for Piano and Orchestra circa 1912. Lash is Yale University's first woman composition faculty member.



Courtesy NHSO



A page of the Voynich Manuscript at Yale University's Beineke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, the theme of the New Haven Symphony Orchestra's new commissioned work by Hannah Lash (above)

MUSICAL CHAIRS

conductor.

Violinist **DANIEL HOPE** has been named to a three-year term as artistic partner at San Francisco's New Century Chamber Orchestra beginning with the 2017-18 season.

The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra has appointed **CONRAD JONES** principal trumpet, and **RILEY J. GIAMPAOLO** bass trombone.

NICOLE JORDAN has been appointed principal librarian at the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra.



Jordan

The Venice (Fla.) Symphony has named **CHRISTINE KASTEN** executive director.

New York City's Orpheus Chamber Orchestra has appointed **ALAN KAY**, a clarinetist in the orchestra, as programming coordinator.

ANTHONY KIEKOW has been named public relations manager at the St. Louis Symphony.

Arizona's Flagstaff Symphony Orchestra has appointed **RICHARD LANE** executive director. **STAN SUTHERLAND** has been elected president of the board.

JESSICA LEE has been appointed assistant concertmaster of the Cleveland Orchestra.

The Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music (Calif.) has named **CRISTIAN MACELARU** music director.



Macelaru

California's Santa Barbara Symphony has appointed **KEVIN A. MARVIN** executive director.

PATRICK B. McDERMOTT has been elected board chair of the Virginia Symphony Orchestra, based in Hampton Roads.

The Cincinnati May Festival has named **JUANJO MENA** principal conductor.

At the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, **MICHELLE MERRILL** has been promoted from assistant conductor to associate conductor.

JETH MILL has been appointed senior director of programs and production at Philadelphia's Philly Pops.

The Colorado Symphony has named **BRETT MITCHELL** music director, effective next season.

The Memphis Symphony Orchestra has appointed **GEORGE MONGER** chief operations officer.

STEPHEN MULLIGAN has been named assistant conductor of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and music director of the Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra, effective with the 2017-18 season.

MARILYN CARLSON NELSON has succeeded **WARREN MACK** as board chair of the Minnesota Orchestra.



Nelson

The Bowdoin International Music Festival (Brunswick, Maine) has appointed **DANIEL NITSCH** executive director.

JOSE-LUIS NOVO has stepped down as music director of the Binghamton (N.Y.) Philharmonic following a thirteen-year tenure.

The Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra has appointed **CHRISTOPHER OLKA** principal tuba.

At the San Diego Symphony, **SAMEER PATEL** has been promoted from assistant conductor to associate

MUSICAL CHAIRS

conductor.

JOSEPH POLISI has announced that he will step down as president of the Juilliard School in June 2018. He has led the institution since 1984.

The Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra has appointed **ECKART PREU** music director.

JAY RASULO has succeeded **DIANE B. PAUL** as board chair of the Los Angeles Philharmonic.



Rasulo

The Detroit Symphony Orchestra has named **ORIOLE SANS** music director of the Detroit Symphony Youth Orchestra.

KATHY SCHUMAN has been appointed vice president for artistic programming and executive producer at Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts (Katonah, N.Y.).

JITEN SHAH has been elected chairman of the Owensboro (Ky.) Symphony Orchestra Board of Directors.

At the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, **YVONNE SHAHEEN** has succeeded **VINCE CAPONI** as board chair.

RITA SHAPIRO has stepped down as executive director of the National Symphony Orchestra following fifteen years in that post.

Los Angeles Philharmonic violist **MEREDITH SNOW** has been elected chair of the International Conference of Symphony and Opera Musicians; she succeeds **BRUCE RIDGE**, who had held the post since 2006.

DANIEL SONG has been named vice president of orchestra and building operations, and **CHELSEA ALLEN** manager of community engagement, at the San Diego Symphony.

New York's Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts has announced the appointment of **DEBORA L. SPAR** as president and chief executive officer, effective in March 2017.



Spar

STEVEN SWIFT has been elected board chair of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra.

The Santa Rosa Symphony has named **BEN TAYLOR** development director.

California's La Jolla Symphony and Chorus has appointed **PATRICK WALDERS** choral director, effective July 1, 2017.

HENRY WARD has been named principal oboe in the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra.

The Fort Worth (Tex.) Youth Orchestra has appointed **LEE WARREN** executive director.

JAMES O. WELSCH has been named music director and general manager of El Paso Symphony Youth Orchestras and assistant conductor of the El Paso Symphony Orchestra.

Ohio's Toledo Symphony has named **KEN WETSTEIN** vice president for development.

Utah Symphony | Utah Opera has appointed **WALT ZESCHIN** director of orchestra personnel.



Bruce Spore

New England Philharmonic Music Director Richard Pittman (above right) works with composer Andy Vores prior to the October 29 world premiere of Vores's *Xylophonic* in Boston.

world premieres and supported several composers-in-residence. NEP's season-opening world premiere in October—*Xylophonic* by former composer-in-residence Andy Vores, led by Music Director Richard Pittman—was followed in December by another world premiere, Bernard Hoffer's *Nocturne: The Timber Wolf*. On tap for NEP's March concert is the first performance of a fanfare by former composer-in-residence Richard Cornell. The season closes in April with two more world premieres: a fanfare by Peter Child (composer-in-residence from 2005 to 2011) and the Violin Concerto No. 2 by David Rakowski, NEP's current composer-in-residence.

Baltimore Symphony Taps Kjome for Top Management Post



Johnny Quirin

Peter T. Kjome

The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra announced in early December that Peter T. Kjome had been selected as president and CEO following a ten-month search. Currently president and CEO of the Grand Rapids Symphony in Michigan, Kjome, 49, takes up his BSO duties on February 1, succeeding Paul Meecham, who stepped down at the end of the 2015-16 season to become president and CEO of Utah Symphony | Utah Opera. Kjome began his association with the Grand Rapids Symphony as

principal oboe, and has held the orchestra's top management post for the past eight years. In 2011 the League of American Orchestras presented him with its Helen M. Thompson Award in recognition of outstanding leadership.

Legacy of Service

Last fall the Orchestra of Southern Utah in Cedar City honored June Thorley, who had not only played in the orchestra's violin section for three-quarters of a century—from 1940 until her final concert in February 2016—but had helped to incorporate the group as a nonprofit in 1989 and then served as its vice president for the next 27 years. Thorley was presented with the first annual Thorley Legacy Award (above) at the orchestra's opening gala on September 27. Over the years, playing violin in the OSU has become a family tradition. Pictured above right with Thorley are two other former members of the orchestra's string section: her daughter Colleen Dowse (left) and Dowse's daughter, Sage Jardine.

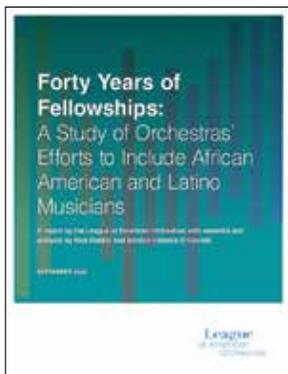
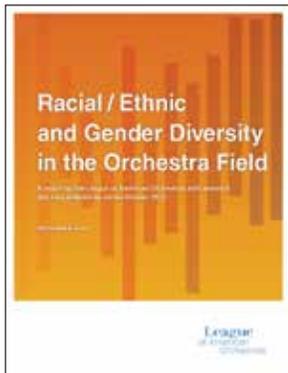


Kearl Hugh



Sara Henry

League Releases Landmark Studies on Orchestra Diversity



This fall, the League of American Orchestras published two pioneering studies on diversity at U.S. orchestras. *Racial/Ethnic and Gender Diversity in the Orchestra Field*, commissioned by the League with research and data analysis by Dr. James Doerer, reports on workforce gender and ethnic/racial diversity among orchestra musicians, conductors, staff, executives, and board members. The study uses longitudinal data—going back nearly 40 years in some cases—to identify trends and to establish a baseline of where we stand today. *Forty Years of Fellowships: A Study of Orchestras' Efforts to Include African American and Latino Musicians*, commissioned by the League with research and analysis by Nick Rabkin and Monica Hairston O'Connell, is an in-depth examination of orchestras' programs to diversify their musician ranks with fellowships for African American and Latino musicians. The report presents data about diversity fellowships from 1976 to the present day; explores the perspectives of fellowship alumni; and contains recommendations that could be used to strengthen not only fellowship programs but diversity efforts of all kinds. Download the reports at the Learning and Leadership Development section of americanorchestras.org.

Lessons in Giving

In May, Virginia's Richmond Symphony partnered with the city of Richmond for a three-day music festival at the city's Chimborazo Park, which city councilwoman Cynthia Newbille called a "party with a purpose": to raise \$100,000 for new musical instruments for Richmond public school students. They succeeded in their goal, and in October string instruments went to five elementary schools in Richmond's East End.

Prior to the instrument donation, the five schools had a total of seven instruments among them. Funds from the festival—as well as from corporate and foundation sources—allowed the orchestra to provide each of the five schools with 25 instruments, enough for a full string orchestra per school. The Richmond Symphony also plans to donate instruments and music-related equipment to Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School, Armstrong High School, and Franklin Military Academy. Above right: Fifth-grade students at Chimborazo Elementary School pose with their new instruments.



Maxim Schulz

File This!



"I've admired Dan Kamin's work for many years. He has a unique talent for physical comedy and wonderful feel for music."

— Ted Wiprud, Director of Education, New York Philharmonic

"Engaging and delightful shows for symphony audiences of all ages."

— Don Reinhold, Executive Director, Wichita Symphony

"Dan is absolutely THE BEST artist you would ever want to work with—his shows are terrific and his residencies really build your audience."

— Delaware Symphony

Check out the file on Dan at www.dankamin.com

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Shifting into Gear

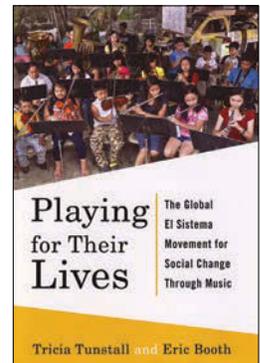
The inaugural year of SHIFT: A Festival of American Orchestras is about to get underway in Washington, D.C., with residencies by the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Boulder Philharmonic, The Knights, and North Carolina Symphony. From March 28 to April 1, the four orchestras will present education events, symposia, and community gatherings in venues around Washington, along with full-orchestra performances in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall. SHIFT, spotlighting North American orchestras of all sizes, is presented by the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and Washington Performing Arts in cooperation with the League of American Orchestras.



BOOKS IN BRIEF

Playing for Their Lives: The Global El Sistema Movement for Social Change Through Music by Tricia Tunstall and Eric Booth. W.W. Norton: 408 pages, \$28.95. Since its origins in 1975 as the brainchild of José Antonio Abreu, a Venezuelan government official and conservatory-trained musician, El Sistema has spread to more than 60 countries, inspiring musicians and educators with its potential for

uplifting young people, even those in seemingly desperate conditions of poverty and stress, through the rigorous study of music. Tunstall, author of *Changing Lives: Gustavo Dudamel, El Sistema, and the Transformative Power of Music* (2013), and Booth, a longtime faculty member at Juilliard and Lincoln Center Education, traveled widely in researching this book, and the result is a blend of anecdotal color and pedagogical analysis. Many activities are documented in extensive photographs. The book is exhaustively indexed, and an appendix catalogues El Sistema-inspired programs in countries ranging from Angola to Greenland to Vietnam, and in virtually every state of the U.S.



League's National Diversity Task Forces

As part of its ongoing commitment to diversity and inclusion in the orchestral field, the League of American Orchestras launched several working groups last year, with participants from a broad range of classical music stakeholders, to create action plans to tackle various dimensions of diversifying American orchestras. These groups and their strategic priorities grew out of a convening the League organized in December 2015 in partnership with The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. A larger group then gathered at the League's 2016 Conference, which centered on diversity and inclusion. Two of the groups, one devoted to developing a national mentoring and audition training initiative for musicians of color, the other a national diversity audition fund for musicians of color, have already found institutional homes, initial funding, and considerable traction. The other groups—on board and staff diversity; the music education pipeline; and parent and family resources—are in various stages of activity and progress. The League will present the outcomes of the diversity task forces at the 2017 National Conference in Detroit.

Reversing Cognitive Decline with Music

In 2015, the Fort Collins Symphony in Colorado launched B Sharp, a program for people with dementia and their primary caregivers. B Sharp provides tickets to the Fort Collins Symphony for 30 people with dementia and their caregivers as well as receptions and opportunities to engage with other community members in a social setting. Dr. Jeni Cross, an associate professor of sociology at Colorado State University, is conducting a study that measures the program's impact on quality of life and social sustainability; preliminary results show that the majority of dementia and Alzheimer's participants experienced a reversal of cognitive decline from exposure to classical music. Her study notes heightened alertness and engagement and more positive interactions between caregivers and patients. While the study is limited in size, the results as they relate to cognitive decline reversal are substantial. The Fort Collins Symphony is partnering on B Sharp with Colorado State University as well as healthcare firms, local businesses, and the Larimer County Office on Aging.



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Maxim Schulz

Hamburg Hub

With the opening of the Elbphilharmonie (left), Hamburg is putting itself out there as Germany's next big cultural hub. On the site of a former warehouse overlooking the Elbe River, the \$835 million space features two concert halls, as well as a hotel, restaurant, and apartments. It is designed by the Swiss firm Herzog & de Meuron, and the acoustician is Yasuhisa Toyota. The larger hall features wraparound seating for an audience of 2,100; the smaller space has a flexible stage and seating for 500. The NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchestra, the resident orchestra, made its debut in the space on January 11 with Music Director Thomas

Hengelbrock leading the orchestra—plus the NDR choir, the Chor des Bayerischen Rundfunks, and vocal soloists—in music of Beethoven, Cavaliere, Liebermann, Messiaen, Praetorius, Wagner, and Zimmermann, plus a world premiere by Wolfgang Rim.

Hip-Hop + Classical

Violist Wilmer “Wil B” Baptiste and violinist Kevin “Kev Marcus” Sylvester—the team aka Black Violin—became a breakout touring phenomenon this season, taking their unique blend of classical music and hip-hop seemingly everywhere. The tour follows the 2015 release of their third album, *Stereotypes*. The Florida natives met as students in Ft. Lauderdale, where they played in the orchestra at the Dillard High School of the Performing Arts. Classically trained, they developed a popular club act covering hip-hop songs on their string instruments and brought the act to the Apollo Theater in New York, which led to performances with Alicia Keys, Wyclef Jean, and others. The duo says its tour and their educational engagement work are “all about breaking stereotypes and bringing out the best in people through music.” At a Brooklyn College performance in late October, the audience was packed with everyone from students and hip-hop fans to families with children, holding up cellphones rock-concert-style.



Violist Wilmer “Wil B” Baptiste (left) and Kevin “Kev Marcus” Sylvester of the duo Black Violin

Dispeker Artists

Conductors Daniel Boico Christoph Campestrini Steven Fox Nir Kabaretti Bernard Labadie Richard Lee Mathieu Lussier Dirk Meyer James Paul Gregory Vajda
Pianists Anderson & Roe Piano Duo Katherine Chi David Kadouch Alexander Korsantia Benedetto Lupo Dubravka Tomsic Gilles Vonsattel **Violinists** Nikki Chooi Timothy Chooi Mayuko Kamio Elina Vähälä **French horn** David Jolley **Ensembles** Aeolus Quartet Calefax Reed Quintet I Musici di Roma Jasper String Quartet Kelemen Quartet New York Brass Arts Trio Signum Quartet Trio Valtorna **Special Projects** Acte II Cirque de la Symphonie* Festival Pablo Casals Prades Collective Ute Lempfer **Sopranos** Tracy Dahl Karina Gauvin Christy Lombardozi Shannon Mercer Kelley Nassief Christina Pier
Mezzo-Sopranos Kristin Gornstein Abigail Nims Barbara Rearick Claire Shackleton
Contralto Emily Marvosh **Tenors** Frank Kelley Jesús León Tilman Lichdi Christopher Pfund Steven Tharp Daniel Weeks Lawrence Wiliford **Baritones** Anton Belov Jochen Kupfer* Richard Zeller **Bass-Baritones** Stephen Bryant Michael Dean Kevin Deas **Basses** Nikita Storojev
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