QUEEN CITY
CHAMBER MUSIC

Sonata Night



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2026

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
1001 Queens Rd, Charlotte, NC 28207

QCCM.ORG

PROGRAM

Camille Saint-Saëns
(1835-1921)

Bassoon Sonata in G Major, Op. 168

I. Allegro moderato
II. Allegro scherzando
III. Molto adagio / Allegro moderato

AJ Neubert, *bassoon*
HyunSoo Kim, *piano*

Robert Schumann
(1810-1856)

Piano Sonata No. 3 in F minor, Op. 14, "Concerto for Piano Without Orchestra"

I. Allegro brillante
II. Scherzo. Molto commodo
III. Quasi variazioni. Andantino de Clara Wieck
IV. Prestissimo possibile

HyunSoo Kim, *piano*

Intermission

Sergei Prokofiev
(1891-1953)

Flute Sonata in D Major, Op. 94

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

Victor Wang, *flute*

Valerie Coleman
(b. 1970)

Portraits of Josephine

II. Les Milande
III. Paris, 1925

ZaRiah
Ben Smith, *flute*
Jamison Hillian, *oboe*
Katelyn Poetker, *clarinet*
Paige Quillen*, *horn*
AJ Neubert, *bassoon*

**Guest performer*

ARTIST PROFILES

AJ Neubert, *bassoon*



AJ Neubert is currently the Principal Bassoonist of the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra. He received his bachelor's degree from the Oberlin Conservatory, studying with Drew Pattison, as well as a Performance Studies Certificate at The Colburn School, studying with Richard Beene.

AJ has performed as guest princpal bassoonist of the Los Angeles Philharmonic and Charleston Symphony Orchestra. He has also performed with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Artosphere Festival Orchestra, and was featured as a soloist with the Buffalo Philharmonic.

AJ has spent multiple summers as a bassoon fellow with the Tanglewood Music Center in Lenox, Massachusetts, and as a fellow with the Music Academy of the West.

In addition to orchestral performance, AJ is a very passionate chamber musician. He is a founding member of the chamber music ensemble ZaRiah, which performs and tours all over the United States and the world. Most recently, ZaRiah was the Grand Prize-winning ensemble in the 2026 Fischoff Chamber Music Competition. ZaRiah was the winning ensemble in the 2025 Frances Walton Competition, which brought them on a tour across the West Coast. ZaRiah has been featured on NPR's Live Sessions numerous times and has an extensive online presence through social media. Apart from ZaRiah, AJ has performed with the Colburn Chamber Music Series, Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, and in chamber music concerts throughout the Charlotte area. AJ is also one of the founders of Queen City Chamber Music, a chamber music society based in Charlotte, NC, that brings guest

artists from around the country to perform for audiences across the Charlotte area.

While at Oberlin, AJ had placed in a number of national and international competitions, such as the National Bassoon Excerpt Competition and the International Double Reed Society's Norma Hooks Young Artist Competition. As an educator, AJ enjoys teaching a studio of private bassoon students from all over the country. He is an active coach for the local youth ensembles in the Charlotte area, leading sectionals and classes for young musicians. Aside from music, AJ enjoys playing video games with friends, watching sports, and going on adventures with his dog Gizmo.

HyunSoo Kim, *piano*



Pianist **HyunSoo Kim** has performed extensively throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, China and South Korea. A much sought-after collaborative artist, Kim has performed with eminent artists such as Jaime Laredo, Sharon Robinson, Miriam Freed, Dina Kuznetsova, Chantal Mathias, and members of the Cavani Quartet, Miami Quartet, Cleveland Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, Boston Symphony, among others.
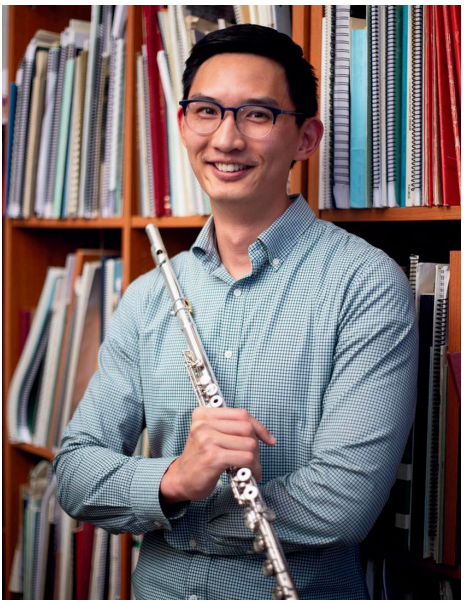
Concerts have brought him to such venues as Carnegie Hall's Stern Auditorium, Merkin Hall in New York City, Chicago Cultural Center, Dallas City Performance Hall, Rolston Hall at Banff Centre, Shalin Liu Performance Center, Olin Hall at Bard College, Kumho Arts Hall, and Seoul Arts Center.

He has performed in numerous chamber music series including La Jolla Music Society, Myra Hess Memorial Concerts, Chamber Music International in Dallas, Hudson Valley Chamber Circle, International Violin Competition of Indianapolis Laureate Series, Linton Chamber Music in Cincinnati, Brattleboro Music Center and Rockport Music.

Kim has previously been a member of the collaborative piano staff at the Cleveland Institute of Music and Kent State University. He also served as a studio pianist for Itzhak Perlman at the Perlman

Music Program. He currently serves as a collaborative pianist at Oberlin Conservatory of Music and Encore Chamber Music, where he is also the admissions director.

Victor Wang, *flute*



Victor Wang joined the Charlotte Symphony as Principal Flute in 2016, and he has since been regularly featured as a soloist with the Orchestra. In 2017, Wang received First Prize and the Philip Dikeman Prize for best performance of a commissioned work at the National Flute Association's Young Artist Competition, and he presented a solo recital at the 2018 National Flute Association convention.

Wang's orchestral work outside of the CSO includes concerts with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra and The Orchestra Now, a training orchestra that performs at Bard College and around New York City. During the summers, Wang has performed at the Tanglewood, Colorado College, Texas, Atlantic, Norfolk, and Bard music festivals.

As a teacher, Wang is a woodwind section coach for the Charlotte Symphony Youth Orchestras (CSYO), and he has presented masterclasses for the CSYO, the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Originally from Rochester, New York, Wang began his flute studies with Sophia Gibbs Kim at the Eastman Community Music School. He went on to earn a Master of Music in flute performance and a Bachelor of Sciences in molecular, cellular, and developmental biology from Yale University, where he studied with Ransom Wilson, Anouvong Liensavanh, and Jake Fridkis. He also studied extensively with Elizabeth Mann (Orpheus Chamber Orchestra) and has pursued additional study with Lorna McGhee (Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra).

ZaRiah



A world-class emerging ensemble, **ZaRiah** is a collaboration of multifaceted artists passionate about creating performances that are both artistically compelling and deeply human. ZaRiah is the Grand Prize winner of the 2026 Fischoff National Chamber Music competition, an honor that has not been won by a wind quintet in nearly three decades.

Known for their vibrant energy and genuine connection with audiences, the ensemble brings a fresh and engaging approach to the chamber music world. The ensemble recently earned First Prize at the Frances Walton Chamber Music Competition presented by the Ladies Musical Club of Seattle (LMC), marking the first wind quintet to ever win this competition.

ZaRiah is the 2026 Artist-in-Residence with the Friends of Chamber Music Kansas City. In 2025, ZaRiah was in residence at the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, where they presented multiple concerts featuring a diverse selection of repertoire. This summer, ZaRiah will be in residence as Shouse Artists for the 2026 Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival in Southfield, Michigan.

Members of ZaRiah have performed and toured extensively all over the world to countries such as China, Korea, France, Germany, Austria, England, as well as Prague, and have also toured with Broadway productions. In addition, ZaRiah's members are accomplished orchestral musicians, having performed with ensembles including the London Symphony Orchestra, Boston Symphony Orchestra, New World Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Artosphere Festival Orchestra, Akron Symphony Orchestra, Hartford Symphony Orchestra, and Charleston Symphony Orchestra, among numerous others.

With three out of the five members being first-generation college students and three members being from the rural south, the group is dedicated to increasing music accessibility in underserved communities.

Thank you for supporting Queen City Chamber Music!

Queen City Chamber Music was created to bring incredible musicians and ensembles to Charlotte for performances that connect, inspire, and bring our communities together.

As we begin our season, your support helps us continue bringing exceptional artists to Charlotte, creating meaningful experiences for our community, and building a vibrant future for chamber music.

SUPPORT QCCM

FRIENDS | $5–$249
Help us keep the music playing and make chamber music accessible to our community.

SUPPORTERS | $250–$499
Help support the artists and performances that make QCCM possible.

BENEFACTORS | $500–$999
Help us expand our programming and bring more exceptional musicians to Charlotte.

FOUNDERS | $1,000+
Help shape the future of QCCM and invest in the continued growth of chamber music in Charlotte.

Every gift helps us connect artists, audiences, and our community through music.

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THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS!

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Jasmine Jahangir
Victor Wang

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William Purvis

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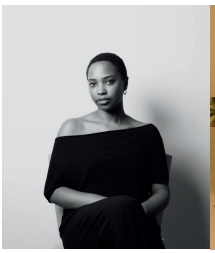
Thank you to all of our supporters. It is with your generosity that we can bring exceptional chamber music to Charlotte. Because of you, we can build something new for our community.

OUR TEAM

KATELYN POETKER, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
BEN SMITH, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
ABIGAIL LOPEZ, ARTISTIC OPERATIONS
AJ NEUBERT
JAMISON HILLIAN
BRAYDON ROSS

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2027



Jas Ogiste, ***piano***



ZaRiah



Hanna Zhdan, ***violin***

MOZART & FRIENDS

Steinway Piano Gallery Showroom

7030 Smith Corners Blvd #A, Charlotte, NC 28269

THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 2027



Laurel Gagnon, ***violin***



Max Hammond, ***piano***



ZaRiah

INAUGURAL SEASON GALA

Blumenthal Arts Center - Stage Door Theater

7155 N College St, Charlotte, NC 28202

Special thanks is extended to St. Mark's Lutheran Church for their partnership and continued support of our organization, especially Director of Music Ministry Les Ackerman and Pastor Tim McKenzie.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT **QCCM.ORG**