

CENTRAL
CHAMBER
SERIES

Members of the New York
Philharmonic at Central
May 16, 2023 | 7:30pm

MEMBERS OF THE NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC AT CENTRAL

May 16, 2023 | 7:30pm | Central Chamber Series

Jia Kim, Artistic Director

Sextet from Capriccio, Op. 85

Richard Strauss
(1864-1949)

String Sextet No. 1 in B flat Major, op. 18

Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)

I. Allegro ma non troppo

II. Andante ma moderato

III. Scherzo. Allegro Molto

IV. Rondo. Poco Allegretto e grazioso

Sheryl Staples, violin

Doori Na, violin

Cong Wu, viola

Leah Ferguson, viola

Nathan Vickery, cello

Jia Kim, cello

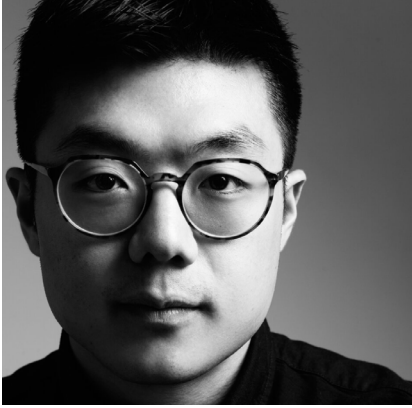
PERFORMER BIOS



Violist **Leah Ferguson** joined the New York Philharmonic in October 2018, having previously been a member Boston Symphony Orchestra since 2016. Originally from Chicago, she began playing the violin at age five and switched to the viola at age twelve, studying with Roland Vamos. As a chamber musician, Leah has performed at festivals including Music@Menlo, Ravinia's Steans Music Institute, the Verbier Festival, and the Perlman Music

Program. She has collaborated with musicians including Itzhak Perlman, Joshua Bell and Miriam Fried, and performed as a guest artist with the Academy of St Martin in the Fields Chamber Ensemble. Leah's performances have been broadcast by WCLV Cleveland, WFMT Chicago, WQXR The Greene Space, NPR's From the Top and HBO's documentary television series Masterclass.

Leah has also performed with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra as guest principal viola, with the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal as guest associate principal and with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra as assistant principal. Leah holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the Cleveland Institute of Music and a Graduate Diploma from The Juilliard School, where she was a recipient of the Kovner Fellowship. Her teachers have included Robert Vernon, Mark Jackobs, Heidi Castleman, and Cynthia Phelps.



Known for his sweet and “sumptuous” (New York Times) tone, American-born **Doori Na** took up violin at the age of four and began his studies with Li Lin at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. He quickly made his first performance with orchestra at age seven with the Peninsula Youth Symphony as the first prize winner of the concerto competition. Thereafter Doori went on to win top prizes in The Sound of Music Festival, The Korea

Times Youth Music Competition, the Chinese Music Teacher’s Association, The Menuhin Dowling Young Artist Competition, The Junior Bach Festival, VOCE of the Music Teacher’s Association of California, and The Pacific Musical Society. Receiving full scholarships to private high school Crossroads School of Arts and Sciences in Santa Monica, he moved to Los Angeles to study with renown violin teacher, Robert Lipsett, at The Colburn Music School. There he appeared as soloist with the Palisades Symphony, Brentwood Symphony, and Torrance Symphony. During that time, the summer of 2004 was Doori’s first time at the Perlman Music Program where his expression and musical identity were greatly influenced. He has been a part of the program ever since and participated in many of their special residencies in Florida, Vermont, New York, and Israel.

Currently living in New York City, Doori plays with numerous ensembles around the city. He has played with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra with tours in the US, Japan, and Europe performing in venues such as Carnegie Hall in New York and the Musiverien in Vienna. Other orchestras include American Symphony Orchestra at Bard College, American Ballet Theatre at the Metropolitan Opera House, and Riverside Symphony at the Alice Tully Hall in Lincoln Center. The music of our time has also been an integral part of Doori's New York life. He is part of the New Music Project of Argento Chamber Ensemble performing the

works of Georg Friedrich Haas, Beat Furrer, Tristan Murail, and many more. One of his favorite groups to work with is New Chamber Ballet, where he has been a member since 2013. He provides live solo music for dance at their regular venue of City Center Studios and have also gone on tour to Lake Tahoe, Germany, and Guatemala.

Chamber music has always been a big part of Doori's growth as a musician. His first endeavor playing in an ensemble was with the Luna Trio as a teenager, and were finalists at the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition in 2016. From then on, he has collaborated with members of the Juilliard String Quartet, New York Philharmonic, Metropolitan Opera and has been fortunate to tour with Itzhak Perlman at venues such as the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. Other notable experiences include performing at the Chamber Music Society of Palm Beach with the Bonhoeffer Trio and Les Amies trio.

Doori has also found that teaching and doing outreach is essential to being a well rounded musician. He currently works at the Juilliard School as a teaching assistant to Catherine Cho and gives lessons as well as running play-through classes for the students. In 2015, he returned to the Music Teacher's Association of California to give a masterclass and recital for their annual convention. Outreach to schools includes going to Sarasota, Florida with the Perlman Music Program/Suncoast, Brazil with Juilliard Global Ventures, the British International School of Chicago with Juilliard President Joseph Polisi, and more.

Doori attended the Juilliard School with the Dorothy Starling and Dorothy Delay scholarships and holds a Bachelor's and Master's Degree where he studied under Itzhak Perlman, Catherine Cho, and Donald Weilerstein. He was concertmaster of the Juilliard Orchestra and was fortunate to play on a Guadagnini and Vuillaume violin from the Juilliard School's prestigious violin collection.



Violinist **Sheryl Staples** joined the New York Philharmonic as Principal Associate Concertmaster, The Elizabeth G. Beinecke Chair, in 1998 and made her solo debut with the orchestra in 1999 performing the Tchaikovsky Concerto led by Kurt Masur. Since that time she has been featured in concertos of Felix Mendelssohn, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Joseph Haydn, Johann Sebastian Bach and Antonio Vivaldi with conductors including

Lorin Maazel, Sir Colin Davis, Alan Gilbert, Kent Nagano, Jeffrey Kahane and Jaap van Zweden. She has also appeared as soloist with The Cleveland Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Richmond Symphony and San Diego Symphony among many others. The New York Times wrote that “she is a perceptive musician, who plays with great rhythmic integrity and a lucid sense of phrase structure...she draws a wonderful array of vibrant and luminous colors... interpretive honesty and unmannered elegance.”

In demand as a chamber musician, Sheryl performs frequently in the New York area with Philharmonic colleagues as well as other esteemed artists including Yefim Bronfman and Emanuel Ax, and has performed for US Ambassadors in London, Paris, Berlin, Hong Kong, and Beijing as well as touring the US, Asia and Latin America. She was a founding member of the New York Philharmonic String Quartet and now leads the newly formed New Jersey String Quartet. Summer festival appearances include La Jolla Summerfest, Salt Bay Chamber Music Festival, Santa Fe, Seattle, Aspen, Martha’s Vineyard, Sarasota and Strings Music Festivals.

Sheryl is a member of the violin faculty at Manhattan School of Music and Juilliard Pre-College. She also teaches at The Juilliard School in orchestral studies.

Originally from Los Angeles, Sheryl began studying violin at age five, and her major mentors were Robert Lipsett and Heiichiro Ohyama. Sheryl is married to percussionist Barry Centanni and they have two adult children, Michael and Laura.



Lauded as a “formidable cello soloist” (New York Times), cellist **Nathan Vickery** appears regularly in solo and chamber music recitals and music festivals around the country. In a 2016 performance of the Dvorak Cello Concerto, he was celebrated for his “talent and artistry... a fresh and appealing account” of the work (New York Times).

Nathan joined the New York Philharmonic in September 2013 as its youngest member, performing and touring with the orchestra at home in New York and throughout the world. He also performs frequently on the New York Philharmonic chamber music series Ensembles at Merkin Hall, and on the Philharmonic's new music series.

Nathan is a member of the Rosamunde String Quartet, which is a collaboration violinists Noah Bendix-Balgley, Shanshan Yao, and violist Teng Li—fellow musicians from the world's top orchestras: the Berlin Philharmonic, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and the New York Philharmonic. He has appeared as a soloist with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra and as a recitalist and chamber musician at festivals including the Marlboro Chamber Music Festival, Summer Music at Indiana University, and the Steans Institute at Ravinia. He has served on the faculty of the Indiana University Summer String Academy, teaches privately in New York City, teaches with the Shanghai Orchestra Academy, the New York Philharmonic's professional training partnership with the Shanghai Symphony, and enjoys presenting masterclasses.

Nathan received his Bachelor's degree from the Curtis Institute of Music, under the tutelage of Peter Wiley. His pre-college studies were with Susan Moses at the Indiana University String Academy.



Cong Wu joined the New York Philharmonic as Assistant Principal Viola, The Norma and Lloyd Chazen Chair, in September 2018. Winner of the Third Prize and the Chamber Music Prize in the Fourteenth Primrose International Viola Competition, and the Special Prize in the Twelfth Tertis International Viola Competition, he has performed throughout North America and Asia, including solo appearances with the Santa Barbara Chamber Orchestra, Macau Youth Orchestra, and New York Classical Players.

An avid chamber musician, Cong has collaborated with Christoph Eschenbach, David Finckel, Itzhak Perlman, Peter Wiley, Pinchas Zukerman, the American String Quartet, and many Philharmonic musicians. He has performed at various festivals, including the Marlboro Music Festival, The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center's Chamber Music Encounters, Music@Menlo, Bridgehampton Chamber Music Festival, Perlman Music Program, Lake Champlain Chamber Music Festival, and Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival in Germany. He also regularly appears with the Jupiter Symphony Chamber Players, East Coast Chamber Orchestra, and New York Classical Players.

Passionate about teaching, Cong served as a guest faculty member of the National Arts Centre Summer Music Institute in Canada and as teaching artist at the Music@Menlo Winter Residency. In addition, he has been invited to give masterclasses at the Manhattan School of Music, the Mead Witter School of Music (University of Wisconsin-Madison), China Conservatory of Music, Hong Kong Baptist University, and the Renmin University of China.

Born in Jinan, China, Cong (Cong pronounces as Ts'ong) moved to New York in 2010 after graduating from the Beijing Central Conservatory of Music. He holds a Master's degree from The Juilliard School and a Doctoral degree from the Manhattan School of Music. His teachers include Wing Ho, Heidi Castleman, Hsin-Yun Huang, Patinka Kopec, and Pinchas Zukerman.



Korean-American cellist **Jia Kim**, recipient of the prestigious 2017 career award from the Leonore Annenberg Foundation for Performing and Visual Arts, leads a dynamic musical life as a performer, educator, and a passionate advocate for the Arts. She has appeared on stages across the US, South America, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East with performances broadcasted on WQXR, PBS, KMZT Classical, and acclaimed by the

New York Times. An avid chamber musician, Jia has performed at Tanglewood, Ravinia, Caramoor, Carnegie Hall, Disney Hall, Chicago's Orchestra Hall, the 92Y, and joined Itzhak Perlman on a tour across Toronto, Mexico City, Virginia Beach, Miami and New York City.

Jia has been invited as Visiting Artist at the University of Hawaii, American Academy of Jordan, College of William and Mary, Grand Valley State University, and served as a Tone Judge for the Violin Society of America's 2016 International Competition.

Currently she is on Faculty at The Juilliard School Precollege Division, The Perlman Music Program, and New York Youth Symphony's Chamber Music Program. As Artistic Director of Central Chamber Series in NYC and Spruce Peak Chamber Music Society in Stowe, VT, she is committed to connecting with a wider audience through the powerful language of Chamber Music, both through education and performance.

Jia is evermore grateful to her mentors and teachers Ronald Leonard, Itzhak&Toby Perlman, and to Joel Krosnick, with whom she studied at the Juilliard School for a Bachelor and Master Degree in Music. Jia performs on a Testore cello made in 1748.



Central Church is committed to building a strong community of faith in Jesus Christ that enables people from diverse backgrounds to experience the transformative power of the gospel through insightful biblical teaching, expressive worship, authentic prayer, and meaningful relationships. At the same time, we aim to provide a setting in which people who are undecided about their religious commitments may freely investigate the claims of Christianity. Together, we strive to serve the people of New York in humility and love so that we might have a positive impact on the world around us. Join us for worship services on Sundays at 10am or 11:30am in the sanctuary or watch the recording via our website, YouTube channel or the Central Church NYC app!

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