



DC STRINGS  
WORKSHOP

DC STRINGS WORKSHOP PRESENTS

# 8TH ANNUAL CONCERTO FESTIVAL & FINALS CONCERT

1PM & 3PM - CONCERTO FESTIVAL  
5PM - FINALS CONCERT

SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2024

## FEATURING

STUDENT SOLOISTS

CANDACE CHIEN, PIANO; NICHOLAS PAPPONE, VIOLIN; GLORIA KIM, CELLO

DR. JINHA PARK, CONCERTO AUDITION PROGRAM DIRECTOR

JULIEN BENICHO, MUSIC DIRECTOR/CONDUCTOR

ANDREW M. LEE, ARTISTIC/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THE ACCORD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA THEATRE OF THE ARTS HALL



## DEAR PARTICIPANTS AND SUPPORTERS,

On behalf of the entire team at DC Strings Workshop, it is my great pleasure to extend a warm welcome to the 8th Annual Concerto Audition Program. This year marks a significant milestone in our journey as we continue to nurture and celebrate the talent of young and emerging artists.

The DCSW Concerto Audition Program holds a special place in our hearts as it provides a platform for budding musicians to take center stage and perform with an orchestra for the very first time. This experience is not

only a pivotal moment in their musical journey but also a testament to their dedication, passion, and hard work. New this year, we are hosting a Concerto Festival-opening up more opportunity for young musicians to perform with the orchestra by performing excerpts of a concerto.

To our participants, I commend you for your courage in stepping onto this stage. You are the heartbeat of this program, and your commitment to excellence inspires us all. Embrace this opportunity to showcase your talent, express your artistry, and share your passion for music with our community.

To our supporters, whether you are a mentor, a parent, a friend, or a patron of the arts, your unwavering support plays a vital role in shaping the future of these young musicians. It is pivotal to our success and our ability to present programs like this. Your encouragement and guidance empower them to pursue their dreams and reach for the stars.

As we embark on this journey together, let us celebrate the beauty of music, the spirit of collaboration, and the joy of artistic expression. May this program be a memorable and enriching experience for all involved, leaving a lasting impact on our hearts and minds.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for being a part of this incredible journey. Together, let us create moments that will resonate for a lifetime.

For our students,

Dr. Jinha Park  
Concerto Audition Program Director

# 1 PM CONCERT

## *Olivia Kim*

### Clarinet

Carl Maria von Weber Concertino in E-flat major,  
Op.26, I. Adagio ma non troppo

## *Maxwell Jones*

### Cello

Goltermann Cello Concerto No.4 in G Major,  
Op. 65, I. Allegro

## *Evelyn Ha*

### Flute

Giuseppe Tartini Flute Concerto in G Major,  
GT 1.A18a, I. Allegro

## *Emily Venkataraman*

### Piano

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart Piano Concerto  
No. 21 in C major, K. 467, II. Andate

## *Tyler Song*

### Piano

Ludwig van Beethoven Piano Concerto No.1,  
in C Major, Op. 15 , I. Allegro con brio

## *Luke Cho*

### Piano

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart Piano Concerto No.  
21 in C major, K. 467, II. Andate

## *Minjae Jeon*

### Piano

Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto No.2, 1st movement





## **OLIVIA KIM**

### **CLARINET**

Olivia Kim is a 9th-grade student at Dwight Morrow High School, Academy at Englewood. She has excelled in her musical journey under the guidance of her dedicated teacher, Seungho Choi. Olivia's musical talents have flourished as a member of the NYYS Chamber. Since 2023, she has showcased her skills in the Träumerei Clarinet Quintet. Additionally, she has demonstrated her commitment and versatility as a member of the Amadeus Youth Wind Orchestra, impressively playing both the Bb Clarinet and Bass Clarinet. Olivia's exceptional abilities have earned her recognition in the musical community, including being selected for the 2023-24 NJ Regional Band and the 2023-24 Bergen County Band. Her achievements extend to notable competitions, where she was a finalist at the NY Classical Music Competition in 2021 and secured 1st and 2nd prizes at the Manhattan International Music Competition and the NY International Music Competition, respectively in 2020. Olivia's dedication and talent have been further acknowledged with a Certificate of Achievement from NY State Senator John C. Liu and a 1st Place win at the prestigious Little Mozart Competition.



# MAXWELL JONES

## CELLO

Maxwell Jones, a second grader from Fort Lee, New Jersey has studied cello since the age of five and half. He is currently studying with Gloria Kim and he performed at the Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall as the winner of national competition.



# EVELYN HA

## FLUTE

Evelyn Ha, an exceptionally talented 8-year-old, has already made waves in the music world with her remarkable achievements. She has clinched 1st place at the National Artis

Competition, showcasing her prodigious talent and musical prowess at such a young age. Evelyn's remarkable journey continues with her recent triumph as the winner of the New York International Music Competition, further solidifying her position as a rising star in the musical realm. Currently, Evelyn is honing her skills under the guidance of her dedicated teacher, Ashely Hae Jee Cho, who is instrumental in nurturing her budding talent and shaping her promising musical future.



## **EMILY VENKATARAMAN**

### **FLUTE**

Emily Venkataraman is a very musical 12-year-old. She has been playing piano since she was 7 and has performed in several recitals, including the Kimmel Centre in Philadelphia. She was also invited to perform at Strathmore. She has been learning with her teacher, Dr. Jinha Park, for the past two years. In addition to the piano, she sings and does musical theater. She recently performed in Gypsy at Ovarions Theatre and will be singing in the upcoming opera Turandot at the Kennedy Center.



## **TYLER SONG**

### **PIANO**

Tyler Song is a junior in high school in Potomac, Maryland. He began playing piano when he was in elementary school and also plays violin for his school orchestra. Tyler has participated and been recognized in multiple music festivals & competitions and enjoys playing a wide variety of genres of music. In his free time he enjoys reading, UI design, and biking.



# LUKE CHO

## PIANO

Luke is a Sophomore at Winston Churchill High School in Potomac, Maryland. He has been playing piano since the third grade and has performed in various competitions and concerts, including: MSTSA ensemble, the 2022 and 2023 Triumph International Music Festival, the YMIC International Music Competition at Carnegie Hall, Metropolitan Music Festival, and as a finalist for the Cogen Concerto. Luke believes in the healing power of music and serves as a volunteer at Payne Elementary School in Washington DC. Besides the piano, Luke enjoys camping, biking, taekwondo, and traveling to learn about different cultures of the world.





# MINJAE JEON

## PIANO

Minjae Jeon is a young pianist from Potomac, Maryland who has been playing the piano since the age of 6. She has been studying with Dr. Jinha Park since the fall of 2022.

While learning from Dr. Park, Minjae has had many opportunities to showcase her talent in various recitals and competitions. She performed in the Triumph Music Festival in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in the years 2022 and 2023. She won first place in the 2022 YMIC Metropolitan Classical Music Festival, as well as first place and Best Performer in the 2023 YMIC Piano Concerto Online Festival. She earned an honorable mention in the 2023 Thomas F. Hulbert International Competition, was a winner in a WMTA judged recital, won first place in Charleston Competition's 2023 World Music Competition and 2023 Romantic Music Competition, placed second in the 2023 Marlin-Engel solo competition and the 2024 Ruth P. Cogen Concerto Competition at Levine School of Music, and was awarded third place in the Maryland division of the Opus Music Competition. Beyond her solo performances, Minjae has served as a piano accompanist during chorus concerts. Through her musical pursuits, Minjae not only honed her performance skills but also cultivated a sense of confidence that permeates into every aspect of her life, whether at school or home.



# 3 PM CONCERT

## *Emma Lee*

**Violin**

Millionaire's Hoedown - AL ordered

## *Justin Lee*

**Cello**

Kabalevsky Cello Concerto in G Minor, 1st  
Movement

## *Jeremy Hines*

**Piano**

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart Piano Concerto No.  
21 in C major, K. 467, II. Andate

## *Alexandra Vinokurov*

**Piano**

Saint Saens Piano Concerto number 2 in g 8 in  
E minor Movement I. Moderato

## *Angelin Cho*

**Viola**

Romanze op. 85 for viola & orchestra

## *Zoie Chu*

**Cello**

Saint-Saens Cello Concerto in A minor  
Movement 3

## *Nadim Spohr*

**Violin**

Mendelssohn Violin Concerto in E minor, Op.  
64, Mvt. I





## **EMMA LEE**

### **VIOLIN**

Emma started studying piano at age 5, and has won numerous competitions and awards over the years. She started studying violin at age 9, and is currently a member of the "Maryland Classical Youth Orchestra". She enjoys playing soccer and she plays as a defender in soccer club MDFusion.





# JUSTIN LEE

## CELLO

Clara Minhye Kim. In 2024, Justin won first place in Northern Virginia Music Teachers Association's Concerto Competition and NVMTA's Bach/Baroque Festival. In addition, Justin placed second in the Camerata Artists International Concerto Competition. Justin also won first place in many other competitions including Washington National Youth Competition (2018), American Protégé Piano & String Competition (2019), Washington Performing Art's Joseph and Goldie Feder Memorial String Competition (2019), King's Peak International Music Competition (2022), YMIC Virtuoso International Music Competition (2022) and Asian American Music Society International Competition (2022). Justin was featured in Maryland Public Television and he has performed at Weill Hall Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center Millennium Stage, Merkin Hall, DiMenna Center and the National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C. Justin attended the Heifetz International Music Institute in the summer of 2023 under the tutelage of Thomas Mesa. Justin is also passionate about Chamber and Orchestral music. He served as the principal cellist at American Youth Philharmonic Orchestra's String Ensemble in 2023-2024 season, and he was a member of the Quantum Piano Trio and currently a member of the Mosaic Quartet since 2022. Aside from playing the cello, Justin enjoys folding complex origami models. Justin's artwork has been featured on "The Paper" magazine by Origami USA and has been selected to be displayed in a traveling exhibit for schools, libraries and museums.



# **JEREMY HINES**

## **PIANO**

Jeremy Hines is a passionate pianist who has rekindled his love for the instrument after a 25-year hiatus. His journey back into the world of music in 2022 has led him to perform at notable venues and festivals across the globe, including the Winter Harbor Music Festival and the prestigious International Academy of Music Festival in Garfagnana, Italy. Last September, Jeremy was awarded first prize in the adult mature category at the Triumph Music Festival. This July, he looks forward to enchanting audiences at the Burgos International Music Festival in Burgos, Spain.





# ALEXANDRA VINOKUROV

## PIANO

Alexandra Vinokurov, at 17 years old, has been studying piano since the age of six under Elena Arseniev and has participated in numerous competitions. In 2022 and 2023, Alexandra performed at the Carnegie Weill Recital Hall. She also performed at the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia in 2021 and 2022 after winning first prize at the Triumph International Music Festival. Currently, Alexandra is in her third year of studying with Dr. Jinha Park. She also studies at the Levine School of Music as an Honors student. Furthermore, Alexandra has participated in masterclasses with Joseph Rackers (Eastman School of Music), Efrem Briskin (Manhattan School of Music), Yong Hi Moon, Marian Hahn (Peabody Conservatory), and Gregory Brown (Five Browns Ensemble). In addition, she has played live for ballet performances at Kirov Academy of Ballet in DC. Aside from piano, Alexandra excels academically at Poolesville High School. In her free time, she enjoys dancing and painting.





# CHRISTOPHER YUN VIOLIN

Christopher Yun, a fifth-grade student at Chevy Chase Elementary School in Maryland, has been playing the violin since the age of four. He has showcased his talent at various prestigious venues, including Carnegie Hall in November 2023, where he was honored as the winner of the American Fine Arts Festival. Christopher has also earned accolades in competitions such as the Philadelphia International Music Festival, Summit Music Festival, Triumph Music Festival, Rockville Music Competition, and YMIC International Competition where he secured second place in the string division. Additionally, he has been featured in community magazines as an Artist of the Month alongside his violin teacher, Gersh Chervinsky. Christopher is an active member of the Maryland Classic Youth Orchestras (MCYO), currently serving as concertmaster in the Chamber Strings Orchestra. When he's not immersed in music, Christopher enjoys listening to classical music and playing basketball.



# ANGELIN CHO

## VIOLA

Angelin Cho, currently a sophomore in High School, started her musical journey as a violist at the age of ten. Throughout her continuing journey, she has participated in a wide range of ensembles and orchestra programs along with music programs such as Maryland Classic Youth Orchestra (MCYO), New Life Philharmonic Orchestra (NLPO), Symphonic Orchestra, All State junior and senior orchestra, Young Musicians Inspiring Change (YMIC), etc. She has also participated and won in various competitions and festivals such as the 2024 Concert Artists International Competitions, the 2024 Winter Music Competition as part of the Charleston International Music Competition, the Great Composers Competition (the Music of 18th Century), Metropolitan Music Festivals, and YMIC Global Competition (performed at Winners Concert at Carnegie Hall).



## **ZOIE CHU**

### **CELLO**

Zoie Chu is a 13-year-old cellist and seventh grader at Thomas W. Pyle Middle School. She started studying cello at the age of five and currently studies with Mrs. Christina Gullans at Levine Music. She is also a member of the Orion Youth Orchestra under the Annapolis Symphony. Zoie has been a member of the Heifetz Institute Music Festival, Greater Washington Suzuki Summer Camp, and the MCPS Junior Honors Orchestra. Recently, she won first place in the Instrumental Intermediate Division of the Ruth P. Cogen Concerto Competition. She also played in a master class with Baltimore Symphony's Assistant Principal Cellist, Lachezar Kostov. Aside from cello, Zoie is an avid bass player in her school orchestra and jazz band. In her free time, Zoie likes to swim, listen to music, and hang out with friends.





# **NADIM SPOHR**

## **VIOLIN**

Nadim Spohr started studying music in Beirut, Lebanon, at the age of 7. Since 2018, he has lived in New York City, studying with Nicholas Pappone. During that time, he won several awards, including 1st place at the 2021 Triumph Music Festival, including a performance at the International Academy of Music in Philadelphia, 3rd place at the 2021 Rondo Vanguard competition, including a performance at Victor Borge Hall in New York, and 3rd place at the 2022 Pittsburgh International Performance Competition, including a performance at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie. He is currently 18 and will be attending Case Western Reserve University as part of its class of 2028, studying aerospace engineering.

# 5 PM CONCERT

## *Orchestra*

Moart - Figaro Overture

## *Christopher Yun*

Pierre Rode Violin Concerto No. 8 in e minor, Op. 13, I. Moderato

## *Emma Zou*

Viola

G. Enesco Concert Piece for Viola and Orchestra

## *Joseph Yun*

Cello

Lalo Cello Concerto in D Minor 1st Mvt

*Violin, Cello, Piano* Beethoven Triple



## JOSEPH YUN CELLO

Joseph Yun, a 10th-grade student at Northern Valley Demarest High School, is a rising star in the music world. With victories at the Prima Volta Music Competition and the Manhattan International Music Competition, along with being named the winner of the New York International Music Competition, Joseph's talent shines brightly. He has also earned a Certificate of Achievement from NY Senator John C. Liu.

Joseph's performances have graced prestigious venues like the Summit Music Festival and Carnegie Hall. Currently studying with Gloria Kim, Joseph's dedication and skill promise a bright future in music.



# EMMA ZOU

## VIOLA

Emma Zou is a versatile musician with exceptional talent in viola, composition, and piano. Born on July 20, 2006, Emma's musical journey began at a young age, igniting a passion that would shape her remarkable career. Under the guidance of Tzi-Ming Yang, Emma has earned numerous accolades, including Grand Winner at the AAFAA Young Artist Competition. In the realm of viola, Emma serves as the Principal Violist in the Maryland Classic Youth Orchestras' Philharmonic, showcasing her exceptional skill and musical leadership. She has also received prestigious awards such as 1st Prize at the VIVO International Music Competition and multiple honors at the U.S. Army Orchestra Young Artist Competition. In addition to her solo endeavors, Emma is a dedicated chamber musician, participating in string quartets and piano ensembles. Her commitment to collaborative music-making is evident through her involvement in volunteer projects such as the Do Re Mi Project and the Tacy Foundation.





# *Candace Chien*

## **PIANO**

Lauded for her “particularly lovely” playing and “boundless creativity”, pianist Candace Chien is an versatile performer and teacher in the New York City area. Recent concert season appearances includes chamber music performances at Kimmel Center Perelman Hall and Academy of Music, Trinity Wall Street St. Paul’s Chapel, New Hampshire Music Festival, as well as a solo concerto appearance with Chelsea Symphony performing Saint-Saens Piano Concerto No. 2. Candace maintains relationships with On Site Opera, Fresh Squeezed Opera and Opera On Tap as repetiteur, and has appeared as part of On Site Opera’s collaboration in Caramoor’s 2022 summer season alongside Stephanie Blythe and Laquita Mitchell. She was also chosen as Music for Autism’s Spotlight Artist of 2022, advocating for neurodiverse classical music experiences with “extraordinary artistry and humanity”.

She has held piano faculty positions at International Music Academy in Castelnuovo di Garfagnana, Usdan Center of Creative and Performing Arts and Point Counterpoint Chamber Music Festival, as well as music teaching positions in the public schools of Westfield, New Jersey and Queens, New York. She appears as a master clinician for Anemone Music Studio, and Main Line Music Teachers Association. Candace is a graduate of The Juilliard School, studying with Jonathan Feldman and Margo Garrett, and continues on at Juilliard as one of their staff pianists. She received her Master’s degree in piano performance at the Manhattan School of Music with the guidance of Jeffery Cohen and obtained her undergraduate degree in piano performance and music education at Temple University under Professor Harvey Wedeen. In her spare time between teaching and performing, one can also find Candace in the kitchen. Her personal connection to music and food can be seen on Food Network tv show, Cooks Versus Cons, Season 4 in the episode “Fry, Fry Again!”.

# *Nicholas Pappone*

## **VIOLIN**

Lauded as a “first rate” violinist by Maestro Lorin Maazel, Nicholas Pappone makes a diverse career as soloist, chamber musician, orchestral player, and teacher in New York City. Growing up as a professional child actor in Los Angeles, portraying the role of a prodigy violinist in a film inspired his interest in the instrument. Nicholas has performed with members of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, the Emerson String Quartet, the New York Philharmonic, Vienna Piano Trio, and the Zukerman Chamber Players. This includes collaborations with violists Paul Neubauer, Paul Coletti, Jethro Marks, and the cellists Paul Watkins and Tchaikovsky Competition Gold Medalist, Sergey Antonov.

In 2022-23, Nicholas appeared as soloist in the Beatles Fantasy Concerto with Diane Wittry conducting the Garden State Philharmonic, and John Williams movie score solos with Michael Buttermann conducting the Lancaster Symphony. Past seasons have included performances of the Bernstein Serenade with the Chelsea Symphony, and appearances with the Marina del Rey Symphony, the Pacific Palisades Symphony, New York Session Symphony, and the New Westchester Symphony.

Guest concertmaster or principal engagements include the Allentown Symphony, Reading Symphony, Binghamton Philharmonic, Mount Vernon Virtuosi, Wicked on Broadway, as well as performing as a guest musician in the Baltimore Symphony. He also appeared with the Cleveland Orchestra as violinist and actor in a unique collaboration with actor John De Lancie. Recent recital and chamber music highlights include the Kimmel Center Perelman Theater and Academy of Music, Philadelphia, the Boulder International Duo Competition, Rutgers University, Islip Arts Council, Bar Harbor Chamber Music Festival, Grunin Center for the Arts, WMP Concert Hall's Strad for Lunch, Teatro Principal of Burgos, Spain, Cathedral of St. John the Divine, the National Arts Centre of Ottawa, and Heliconian Hall in Toronto, Canada.

In the summers, Nicholas is violin and chamber music faculty at the Summit Music Festival and Institute NY, International Academy of Music in Tuscany, Italy and the Burgos International Music Festival in Spain. Nicholas's teachers and mentors include Patinka Kopec, Pinchas Zukerman, Rodney Friend, and Grigory Kalinovsky.

# *Gloria Kim*

## **CELLO**

Cellist Gloria Kim has appeared in the US and across the globe as both a soloist and sought-after chamber musician. She has performed extensively in renowned concert venues in the New York metropolitan area such as Merkin Hall, Steinway Hall, Alice Tully Hall and Carnegie Hall and has toured throughout Europe, China and Korea. She has also performed in many orchestras under renowned conductors, including a tour with Andre Previn. Other highlights include performing at the UN, US Capitol, and for the US President, Bill Clinton.

She has been invited to appear as faculty, concert artist, and to present master classes at the Pan Music Festival at the Seoul National University, Sarasota Music Festival, Verbier Music Festival, 4String Music Festival, Triumph Music Festival, and Summit Music Festival amongst others.

Her first album, “An Evening of Sentimental Classics,” includes the great works of Chopin, Rachmaninoff, and Schumann with the Pianist Sehwan Park, and was released in April 2023 in Korea, sponsored by Huks Music.

Born into a family of professional musicians, Gloria studied at the Curtis Institute of Music and Manhattan School of Music, where she had the privilege to study under Peter Wiley, David Soyer, Joseph Silverstein, Gary Graffman, Felix Galimir, and the Guarneri String Quartet.

She is a founding member of the BeneSori Quartet, member of the Trio Portinari, and on a faculty at the County College of Morris and the Summit Music Festival in New York.



## **DR. JINHA PARK**

### **PROGRAM DIRECTOR**

"Pianist Jinha Park demonstrated ample dexterity, velocity, and accuracy in Chopin's Piano Concerto in F Minor." – San Antonio Express-News  
Jinha Park stands today on the brink of a significant career as a concert pianist, shaped by a journey spanning three decades and enriched by a mosaic of global experiences. Dr.

Park made her public debut at fourteen with the Sunha Arts Orchestra. Her arts based education commenced at Seoul National University in South Korea and culminated at the Johns Hopkins Peabody Conservatory in the U.S. A laureate of competitions, Dr. Park's journey has been adorned with victories in the Vienna Allegro Vivo International Chamber Music Competition, Burgos International Music Competition, Baltimore Music Competition, and the Texas Music Teachers Association (TMTA) competition. Noteworthy engagements include performances with the Virtuoso Brunensis Orchestra (Italy), Vienna CMS Chamber Orchestra, Festival Philharmonic Orchestra (Korea), National Orchestra of the Dominican Republic, Oltenia Symphony Orchestra (Romania), Alicante Symphony Orchestra (Spain), Romanian Timisoara Orchestra (Romania), and performances across Italy, Germany, France, Belgium, Austria, Korea, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, and major cities in the United States. Dr. Park has contributed her discerning expertise as a jury member at international competitions, including the International Youth Competition 'A Step Towards Mastery' in Saint Petersburg, Russia, the ICA International Piano Competition in Hanoi, Vietnam, the Virginia Queen Piano Competition in the U.S., the New York Musicians Club in the Seoul International Piano Competition, the Sunhwa Piano Competition in Seoul, and the OMTA (Oregon Music Teachers Association) Classical Music Competition in Portland. Additionally, she has lent her discerning insights to the Kirov International Music Competition in Washington, D.C., and the Northern Virginia Music Teachers' Association Concerto Competition. Beyond the spotlight, Dr. Park's commitment to education and artistic leadership shines through. She has served as the Director of the Music Fest Perugia in Seoul and on the faculty of the Music Fest Perugia in Italy, Summit Music Festival, Montecito International Music Festival, Triumph International Music Festival, Portland Classical Festival, Ouachita International Keyboard Music Festival, Washington International Piano Festival, and Costa Rica International Music Festival. Her teaching roles include positions at the University of Maryland University College, August State University, Sookmyung Women's University, and Sunhwa Arts Performing Arts High School. Currently, Dr. Park holds the position of Associate Director at the Colorado International Piano Academy and Festival, Chair of the YMIC Virtuoso International Music Competition (U.S.), and U.S. Associate Director of the Amigdala International Music Competition (Italy). Her role as Department Manager and Piano Faculty at Levine Music adds a harmonious note to her illustrious career.



## JULIEN BENICHOU, MUSIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR, ACCORD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Conductor Julien Benichou is making his mark as a champion for the future of classical music. Currently, Benichou is the Artistic Director of the Washington Opera Society (WOS), and Music Director of the Chesapeake Youth Symphony Orchestra (CYSO). In 2023, he became Music Director of the Accord Symphony in Washington, DC.

Before coming to the United States, Benichou studied harmony and counterpoint with Pierre Doury at the Schola Cantorum in Paris. Benichou received a Graduate Performance Diploma from the Peabody Institute and earned a Master's Degree from Northwestern University. His primary teachers have been Victor Yampolsky, Gustav Meier, and Jorma Panula.

As a guest conductor, Benichou has garnered high acclaim through his work with the New York City Ballet, and Baltimore Symphony Orchestra's collaborations with Mobtown Modern Synchronicity. Recent guest engagements have included conducting the Portuguese Philharmonic at the Champs-Élysées Theater in Paris, the Dallas Symphony, the Padeloup Orchestra in Paris, and the Stellenbosch Music Festival. Upcoming concerts include a return engagement for Christmas with Tim Janis at Carnegie Hall, a Kennedy Center debut with the Accord Symphony.

As Music Director of the Mid-Atlantic Symphony for 17 seasons, Benichou dramatically raised the professional quality of the ensemble. His leadership of the MSO led to collaborations with Stefan Jackiw, Kurt Nikkanen, Leon Fleisher, Arnaud Sussmann, and Tine Thing Helseth. Benichou has also found great success in conducting operatic productions. With the Washington Opera Society, Benichou recently concluded productions of *The Magic Flute*, *Aida*, and *Carmen* in Washington, DC.

In 2017, Benichou premiered "Way of the Rain" at Carnegie Hall, a climate change awareness project featuring Robert Redford and Vice President Al Gore. A repeat performance was held in 2021 in Monte-Carlo, in the presence of his Highness Albert II, Prince of Monaco. Benichou serves on the advisory board of the Way of the Rain foundation.

Benichou has also received numerous commissions for theater, film, and concert music, most recently arrangements for French rock musician Arthur H. Julien Benichou is the lead conductor and creative partner for Environmental Symphony: The Movement. Benichou brings natural musicality, infectious energy, and a creative approach that is fostering the next generation of classical musicians.

## ACCORD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

**Julien Benichou,**  
Music Director & Conductor

**Dr. Jinha Park,**  
Concerto Audition Director

**Wayman McCoy,**  
Concertmaster

**Bill Hoggard,**  
Orchestra Manager

**Rebecca Welch,**  
Orchestra Librarian

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