

45th Summer Season
PIERROT
CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL
Alumni Newsletter - Summer 2026



ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

Aliana Beckett
Susanne Chen
Julia Chu
Riley Fergus
Aithan Liu
Astele Liu
Benjamin Mora
Zara Ventura
Tommy Wu

IN MEMORIAM

Patricia Laurencot



Hyunju Ji, Editor - Administrative Assistant for Alumni Events
Susan Deaver & Maureen Hynes - Festival Founders



Aliana Beckett

Aliana Beckett has been playing the flute since fourth grade. She is going into eighth grade and is interested in playing the piccolo. She is also an athlete who plays softball and volleyball, and runs track.

Attended the festival in 2025.

Her favorite highlight was getting to perform in the Concert and Recital Halls.

Susanne Chen

Susanne Chen is a European-born bassoonist and contrabassoonist active throughout the Tri-State area. Her musical journey began when she started learning the oboe at the age of 16. It wasn't until three years later that she had the opportunity to take bassoon lessons. She played both the oboe/English horn and bassoon for several years but made the difficult decision to focus on the latter in her mid-twenties. Susanne is a member of Double Entendre, a notable NYC-based double reed ensemble, and a founding member of Bergen Chamber Artists. She was a concerto competition winner at the Pierrot Chamber Music Festival in 2003. She has also appeared as a contrabassoon soloist, performing rare original works composed for the lowest orchestral instrument.

Attended the festival in 2003.

She recalls performing the Rondo of the Weber Bassoon Concerto with the Festival Orchestra as an exhilarating experience.





Julia Chu

Julia, a 19-year-old violinist from Lindenhurst, NY, is going into her sophomore year at Ithaca College, where she is double majoring in violin performance and composition. Along with maintaining a 4.0 GPA, Julia has played both first and second violin in the IC Symphony and Chamber Orchestras, and has served as assistant principal on viola and second violin for the Students for Students Orchestra. Additionally, she is a founding member of her string quartet (unseriously dubbed the “Bogart Baddies” on Instagram), for which she occasionally writes music, and she recently helped her viola student earn a perfect score on the NYSSMA Level 6 exam. This summer, she is taking a break from Pierrot to attend the orchestra program at the Eastern Music Festival in North Carolina.

Attended the festival from 2022 to 2025.

While it is hard to choose just one memory, she loved preparing and playing Caroline Shaw's Plan and Elevation in 2024 and making lifelong friends.

Riley Fergus

Riley Fergus is a violist from Long Island, New York, currently studying with Chih-Ta Chen of the Terra String Quartet. This fall, he begins his studies at The Juilliard School on a full-tuition scholarship under the tutelage of Hsin-Yun Huang. He is the 2025–2026 Metropolitan Youth Orchestra of New York Concerto Competition winner (Instrumental Division II) and served as principal violist of the Suffolk Principal Orchestra. Riley was selected as part of a small number of ensembles to perform at Weill Recital Hall with the New York Youth Symphony Chamber Music Program, where he played in the Opus 4 oboe quartet and participated in masterclasses with Molly Carr, Anna Petrova, and Orli Shaham. He has also performed with the New York Philharmonic's Concerts in the Parks series.

Attended the festival in 2024.

Riley won the Lillian Fuchs Memorial Award and the Outstanding Chamber Ensemble Award, and is excited to return this year. He shares: "My favorite memory was my first day. It was my first chamber music festival, and I loved seeing so many peers passionate about it. Meeting Douglas Aliano was also great—we wore the exact same glasses!"





Aithan Liu

Aithan is a fourteen-year-old pianist and violinist who loves music. He currently studies piano with Mr. Adam Ali and violin with Dr. Ilmar Gavilan. Aithan debuted on violin at Merkin Hall this past May, enjoys participating in international music competitions, and has obtained full marks in Level VI of NYSSMA's Solo Festival for the past few years. Aithan currently serves as Concertmaster of the Long Island Youth Orchestra's Pro Ensemble and is an avid chamber musician, accrediting his love of chamber music to the Pierrot Chamber Music Festival and Talented Artist Program! Aithan will be touring Mongolia, Korea, Vietnam, and China with the LIYO Tour Ensemble this summer and looks forward to making more music with Pierrot in the summers to come!

Attended the festival for 2024 and 2025.

His 2024 highlight was playing Schumann's Andante Cantabile Piano Quartet, Op. 47, which opened him up to a more emotional style of playing. In 2025, he loved the unique challenge of playing Beethoven's Clarinet Trio No. 4, Op. 11.

Astele Liu

Astele started learning the harp when she was eight years old and currently studies under the tutelage of Ms. Alyssa Reit and Caroline Bemba. Astele has programmed a series of harp concerts for the community and created a harp curriculum for elementary school-aged students. She debuted on the harp at Merkin Hall this past May. She also currently studies violin with Ms. Ani Gregorian Resnick. Astele was a top-three finalist in the 2024 Metropolitan Youth Orchestra Concerto Competition for violin, a finalist in the 2025 Hampton Roads Harp Festival Competition, and has played violin in the Philadelphia International Music Festival. Astele was appointed Principal Second Violin of the Metropolitan Youth Orchestra's Concert Orchestra Ensemble for the 2024–25 season and currently serves as Concertmistress of the Long Island Youth Orchestra's Sinfonia Ensemble.

Attended the festival in 2025.

Her favorite memory was playing harp in Jacques Ibert's Entr'Acte for Flute and Harp, which was her first time collaborating with other instruments.





Benjamin Mora

Driven by a sudden realization in his freshman year, this dedicated Long Island flutist transformed a reluctant childhood hobby into a lifelong passion. Through rigorous self-directed study and resilience, Benjamin rapidly advanced to master NYSSMA Level 6 repertoire, earning a remarkable 97 on his All-State solo audition. An accomplished performer and composer, he has served as a soloist for the Sisters of the Arts and the Ivy League Foundation, and has performed with prestigious ensembles including the Gemini Youth Orchestra and the Pierrot Chamber Music Festival. His talent has been recognized with the Nakamura Award, the NYSCAME Leadership Award, and first place in "Treasures of Expression." Eager to pursue music in college, Benjamin aims to share his profound love for music with the world.

Attended the festival in 2025.

His favorite moments were playing in the Festival Chamber Orchestra and taking photos with his ensemble groups afterward.

Zara Ventura

Zara is a multi-instrumentalist, singer, actress, and dancer. She is a member of the International Thespian Society and the American Celtic Pipe Band as a bass and snare drummer. She has been part of the cast of Hunting-Tony nominated shows, including Clue: High School Edition (The Cook), The Music Man Sr. (Ethel Toffelmier), The Play That Goes Wrong (Cornley High Stage Crew), Mamma Mia! (Ensemble), and Hamlet: Or Does Father Really Know Best? (Marcellus). She also won the 2026 Hispanic Heritage Award and Scholarship from the Town of Huntington. She is attending Queens College in the fall, majoring in Music Education.

Attended the festival in 2025 and 2026.

Her favorite memory is playing Beethoven's Storm Quintet as Viola II with Renee Clark, Jonathan Bloomfield, Deandre Simmons, Samuel Greene, and Aaron Goldstein.





Tommy Wu

Dr. Tommy Wu was raised in Bay Shore, NY and started playing the double bass at 8 years old. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Music Education from SUNY Fredonia, a Master's degree in Double Bass Performance, and a Doctorate of Musical Arts from Stony Brook University. He is the orchestra director at Sewanhaka High School and the adjunct double bass professor at Five Towns College. He has served as a guest conductor for All-County Orchestras in Rockland and Putnam counties. He currently directs the Outreach Orchestra at the Staller Center for the Arts. He enjoys horror movies, good food, and petting his dog. He is also a two-time championship winner of Sewanha-Con's Smash Bros. Teacher Tournament and a proud PC gamer.

Attended the festival in 2016.

He remembers the festival as an amazing opportunity to make music and connect with phenomenal musicians and teachers.

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Patricia Laurencot

JANUARY 22, 1967-APRIL 4, 2026

In Memoriam: Patricia Laurencot

January 22, 1967 – April 4, 2026

The Pierrot Chamber Music Festival community mourns the passing of Patricia Laurencot, a cherished member of our musical family whose generosity, dedication, and love of music enriched the lives of all who knew her.

Patricia first attended the Pierrot Chamber Music Festival as a violinist in 1995 when the festival was known as the LIU Post Chamber Music Festival, and continued her participation from 1995 to 2005. She served as the Festival's Administrative Assistant for three years and, beginning in 2001, was a trusted page-turner for pianist Heawon Kim. In recent years, Patricia returned to the Festival as a cellist, performing with the Festival Alumni Cello Ensemble in 2023, 2024, and 2025. Her enduring commitment to Pierrot reflected her lifelong belief in the joy of making music together and the friendships fostered through chamber music.

Patricia's passion for teaching spanned every level of education. After earning her bachelor's degree from St. Joseph's College and master's degrees in Music and Educational Technology from LIU Post, she began her career as a classroom teacher at St. Martin of Tours School in Amityville. She later became the school's music and computer teacher, inspiring generations of students through general music, chorus, and the Recorder Club she founded. During the final two years of her career, she also taught PK–8 music at Saint Joseph School in Bay Shore while continuing her work at St. Martin of Tours. Additionally, she shared her knowledge with higher education as a lecturer in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at St. Joseph's University, Long Island.

As a cellist, Patricia performed with the Sound Symphony and West Islip Symphony Orchestra, and previously with the C.W. Post Orchestra, North Shore Symphony Orchestra, and James Street Players. She served the broader musical community as webmaster for the Recorder Society of Long Island, co-chair of SCMEA's Day of Recorder, a choir member with the Sisters of St. Joseph, and as a page-turner for distinguished pianists. In every role, she brought warmth, humility, and quiet excellence.

Patricia's legacy lives on through the countless students she inspired, the colleagues and friends she cherished, and the Pierrot Chamber Music Festival community she faithfully supported for more than three decades. She will be remembered with deep affection and gratitude, and will be greatly missed.





45th ANNIVERSARY SEASON

PIERROT CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL

July 13 - July 24, 2026

Festival Concert Series at
Adelphi University Performing Arts Center

1 South Ave, Garden City, NY 11530



*The Pierrot Consort: "... A cohesive ensemble with
real affinity for the music... consistently interesting..."
- Newsday*

The Pierrot Consort

Susan Deaver, flute

Dale Stuckenbruck, violin

Veronica Salas, viola

Maureen Hynes, cello

Heawon Kim, piano

Guest Artists: Heejeon Ahn, violin
Sung Jin Lee, viola
Noah Koh, cello
Douglas Aliano, bass

"The Department of Music at Adelphi University proudly welcomes the Pierrot Chamber Music Festival back to its new home at Adelphi's world-class Performing Arts Center. Participants in the Festival will enjoy rehearsing and performing in a variety of spaces throughout the Performing Arts Center including our beautiful Concert Hall."

Pierrot Chamber Music Festival

Further information & Advance Ticket sales: PierrotChamberMusicFest.simplenetix.com

Susan Deaver, Festival Director & Douglas Aliano, Assistant Director

Festival Founders - Susan Deaver & Maureen Hynes

www.pierrotchambermusicfestival.com

Festival Alumni Concert

Tuesday, July 14 - Concert Hall at 7:30 p.m.

Featuring Alumni Cello Ensemble, Alumni soloists and chamber ensembles
in celebration of the Festival's 45th Anniversary Season

General admission \$20 Seniors/Students \$15

The Pierrot Consort & Guest Artists

Friday, July 17 - Concert Hall at 7:30 p.m.

Featuring **The Pierrot Consort**, the faculty ensemble at the Pierrot Chamber Music Festival. Susan Deaver, flute; Dale Stuckenbruck, violin; Veronica Salas, viola; Maureen Hynes, cello and Heawon Kim, piano

Guest Artists: Heejeon Ahn, violin; Sung Jin Lee, viola; Noah Koh, cello
and Douglas Aliano, bass

Program

Sidney Boquiren: Three Memories - commissioned for The Pierrot Consort
in honor of the 45th Anniversary Season

Alberto Ginastera: Impresiones de La Puna for flute and string quartet

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: Allegro maestoso from Grande Sestetto Concertante K. 364

Johann Nepomuk Hummel: Piano Quintet in D minor, Op. 74a

General Admission \$25 Seniors/Students \$15

Evening of Chamber Music

Performed by Festival Participants' Chamber Ensembles

Wednesday, July 22 - Concert Hall & Olmsted Theatre 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, July 23 - Concert Hall & Olmsted Theatre 7:30 p.m.

(Length of these concerts is approximately two hours)

General Admission \$20 Seniors/Students \$15

Afternoon of Chamber Music

Performed by Selected Ensembles

Friday, July 24 - Concert Hall 4 p.m.

Including the Precollege Chamber Orchestra - Douglas Aliano, conductor

General Admission \$10

Festival Chamber Orchestra & All Participants

Friday, July 24 - Concert Hall 7:30 p.m.

All participants will be included in the final concert

Susan Deaver and Douglas Aliano, conductors

Music of Beethoven, Elgar, Rameau and others with premiere of Kevin Lubin's

"A Rose for Pierrot" commissioned by the Pierrot Chamber Music Festival

General Admission \$20 Seniors/Students \$15

These concerts are supported by the Department of Music at Adelphi University, the Adelphi University Performing Arts Center and the Pierrot Chamber Music Festival.



*Programs and performing artists subject to change



Scan for Advance Ticket Sales