

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



ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

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- Angela (Bracco) Garcia
- Audrey Hayes
- Anthony Jackalone
- Janice Jiang
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Hyunju Ji, Editor - Festival Alumni Newsletter
Festival Founders - Susan Deaver & Maureen Hynes



Salvatore Bracco

A graduate of Stony Brook University with a degree in computer science, Salvatore Bracco has balanced a career in software engineering with a lifelong dedication to music. After participating in the Pierrot Chamber Music Festival, he continued his involvement in music by performing with the Stony Brook University Orchestra. He plays both piano and violin and values the opportunity to stay connected to music alongside his professional work.

Salvatore attended the Pierrot Chamber Music Festival from 2011 to 2013. One of his favorite festival memories was performing "In the Hall of the Mountain King" by Edvard Grieg live, an experience that captured the energy and excitement of making music together on stage.

Emily Chang

Emily Chang, hornist, is a freshman at the Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College and is studying with David Jolley. She attended the Pierrot Chamber Music Festival for four years. From 2024-25, Emily studied at the prep division of the Mannes School of Music. Based on Long Island, she has enjoyed playing in numerous community ensembles including the Northwinds Symphonic Band of Long Island (where she was a featured soloist last year), Rockaway-Five Towns Symphony, Long Island Festival Orchestra, and the Long Island University Orchestra. She attended the Boston University Tanglewood Institute's wind quintet workshop in the summer of 2024 under the direction of Valerie Coleman. Currently, she plays principal horn with the Queens College Orchestra.

I attended the Festival in 2017, 2023, 2024, and 2025, and I have fond memories of learning how to play chamber music, making new friends, and being challenged and growing in new ways each year. I particularly learned a lot from the performances and coachings of the various educational residencies.





Angela (Bracco) Garcia

I loved attending the Chamber Music Festival. While it started as a way to enrich my musical ability, it quickly became the highlight of my summers. I grew significantly while working with Dr. Deaver and Ms. Hynes. Being surrounded by so much talent was inspiring. From the Program's schedule, to the beautiful campus, there was plenty to love!

Fun Fact: Both of my parents graduated from LIU Post as Music Major where the Pierrot Festival was originally held, and my brother was a past Music Festival participant, too!

Attended the Festival 2011 to 2014.

Favorite memory was listening to others' solos in our Cello Circle.

Audrey Hayes

Audrey Hayes is a New York-based violinist, vocalist, and arranger who currently appears as the on-stage soloist and concertmaster in the Broadway musical CHICAGO, the Musical. She has also been featured in productions including Broadway's A Christmas Carol.

Orchestrally, Audrey has appeared as concertmaster and/or soloist with ensembles including the Fort Greene Orchestra, Litha Symphony, and New Tide Orquestra, and was a member of the Radio City Orchestra. She has also performed regularly with groups such as the Mark Morris Dance Ensemble, Albany Symphony, Cayuga Chamber Orchestra, and Symphony in C. Her teachers include Stefan Jackiw, Tricia Park, Patricia Kopec, Elizabeth Chang, and Doris Rothenberg.

A graduate of the University of Notre Dame—where she double-majored in philosophy and music performance—and an alum of Manhattan School of Music Pre-College, Audrey is also a vocalist and arranger whose work has appeared on multiple albums. Her violin playing can also be heard on the Academy Award-winning film Everything Everywhere All at Once. She continues to perform widely in orchestral, chamber, and solo settings and remains especially grateful for the chamber music experiences that started it all.

Attended the Festival in 2003.

Playing music across from my sister (a cellist) and trying to make her laugh is my most precious Festival memory.





Anthony Jackalone

Anthony Jackalone is a senior music major who studies violin with Dr. Joanna Kaczorowska at Stony Brook University. He performed at several major concert venues, including Carnegie Hall, and participated in a performance tour of Italy with the Metropolitan Youth Orchestra of New York. He has held positions as Concertmaster and Principal Second Violin in the University Orchestra. In the Spring of 2025, he began performing as concertmaster of the newly formed Stony Brook Chamber Orchestra. He has also studied conducting with Dr. Susan Deaver, making his debut in December 2025.

Anthony was also awarded the Arthur S. Lambert Prize by the Department of Music for his academic work. As a dedicated pre-law student, he plans to pursue a career as an intellectual property attorney specializing in music copyright.

Anthony attended the Festival from 2016 to 2018. His favorite memory is performing Tchaikovsky's Serenade for Strings with the Conductor's Orchestra.

Janice Jiang

Janice Jiang, age 13, started the double bass at age 9 and is interested in continuing the bass and music for years to come. Janice is entering her freshman year at Syosset High School and has participated in both the Chamber Orchestra and Wind Ensemble of her school since 7th grade, as well as joining the Metropolitan Youth Orchestra that same year. Additionally, she has participated in the Nassau All County and LISFA festivals since 6th grade. Janice was a participant at the 2025 Pierrot Chamber Music Festival.

Favorite memory: I really enjoyed the dinner with new friends on the last day of Pierrot.





Nichole Ki

Nichole Ki is an 8th-grade student at Jericho Middle School. Her musical journey started at age four. She plays violin, flute, and piano and enjoys singing. Received Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM) Piano level 7 Merit; NYSSMA Piano level 6 (A); ABRSM Music Theory level 5 Merit; NYSSMA Violin level 6 (A+), ABRSM Violin level 6 Merit, NYSSMA Flute level 6 (A+), ABRSM flute level 6 (Distinction), NYSSMA Vocal Solo level 4 (Outstanding); Gold in NYSSMA Ensemble Chorus Concert Performance. Jericho District Music Award & NMEA Scholarship recipient (2024,2025). Performed NMEA All County Band 2025 (Flute), NMEA All County Orchestra 2024 (Flute), Long Island String Festival Association Nassau Intermediate Festival 2023 (Violin&Vocal), All-County Music Festival 2023 (Violin). She is an active member of the Metropolitan Youth Orchestra of New York (MYO) Nassau Concert Orchestra Violin, & Nassau-Suffolk Performing Arts Honor Band as Flute, performed Carnegie Hall, Adelphi University & Molloy University; participates in Jericho MS Concert & Jazz Band & Chorus.

She participated in the Pierrot Chamber Music Festival in 2023, 2024, and 2025. Her favorite memory was when her ensemble accidentally started a piece completely out of tune—but kept going without hesitation, finishing confidently and smiling. It became an unforgettable experience.

Benjamin Mora

Benjamin Mora is an 11th-grade classical flutist from Long Island. Currently studying with Dr. Helen Park following foundational work with Kirsten Schmidt, Benjamin's technical mastery earned him a 97 (A+) All-State score. His talent has been recognized with scholarships to Shenandoah Conservatory and acceptance to the Crane School of Music, alongside a \$2,000 Ivy League Foundations award.

A seasoned performer, Benjamin won first place in a major performing arts competition and held leadership roles as Principal (All-County) and Assistant Principal (Gemini Youth Orchestra). Having performed with the 5 Towns Rockaway Symphony Orchestra and studied with Brandon Patrick George, Benjamin is dedicated to reaching the highest levels of professional flute performance.

Attended the Pierrot Chamber Music Festival in 2025.

Meeting my current teacher Dr. Helen Park and her becoming my teacher is my favorite Festival memory.





Misook Park

Pianist Mi-sook Park graduated from the College of Music at Kyung Hee University and its graduate school, and then earned a master's degree at the Cleveland Institute of Music in the United States. Upon entering the music school, she received the President Award and studied there on a scholarship. While attending the Cleveland Institute of Music, she held solo recitals at Kulas Hall and Mixon Hall, and participated in the Duxbury Music Festival in Boston and the Pierrot Chamber Music Festival in New York, gaining recognition for her musicianship on various stages. At the Duxbury Music Festival, she won a chamber music award, and at the Pierrot Chamber Music Festival, she won first place in the Concerto Competition and the Piano Award, beginning to stand out in both chamber and solo performances.

In addition, alongside performances in the United States at the Alison Center in Boston, Hillwood Recital Hall in New York, and Tilles Center in New York, she has continued numerous performances in Korea, starting with her return solo recital at the Sejong Center for the Performing Arts in 2015, as well as the

Korean Piano Society Grand Piano Concert, Traum Ensemble regular concerts, Accor Ensemble, Korean Emergency Association Rising Piano Festival, Nazareth Ensemble regular concerts, Sejong Center solo recitals (2021, 2024), and regular concerts and lecture concerts (at the Seoul Arts Center) of the Korean Music Arts and Criticism Association. She is currently teaching at Kyung Hee University Graduate School of Education and Samyook University. She also serves as the music director of Lepida Ensemble and a board member of the Korean Society of Music Arts and Criticism.

I participated in the Festival in 2014 and was excited to win 1st Place in the Festival's Concerto Competition. My most precious memory is meeting members of The Pierrot Consort – Susan Deaver, Heawon Kim and Dale Stuckenbruck.

Samantha Yan

Samantha Yan is a 14-year-old violist entering 10th grade at Plainview Old-Bethpage JFK High School. She began playing the viola at age 7 and is a frequent participant in LISFA and All-County festivals. Samantha has performed at LIU Post, Adelphi University, and Carnegie Hall. She joined MYO's Symphony Orchestra in 2023 and currently performs with MYO's Principal Orchestra. She has also been a member in JFK High School's Chamber Orchestra and has taken NYSSMA level 6 three times. This is her second year of participating in the Pierrot Chamber Music Festival. During her first year, she received the Lillian Fuchs Memorial award.

Attended the Festival in 2025.

My favorite Festival memory is becoming friends with the other people in my chamber groups.





Vivian Zheng

Vivian attended the festival in 2024, and to this day it is one of her favorite memories. She is the principal violist at Lindenhurst High School and plays with other ensembles, such as the Long Island Youth Orchestra. She has attended both SCMEA and LISFA multiple years and has earned scholarships from both festivals. She also has performed multiple piano and percussion solos within her district. She is an active member of her school's Marching Band and the Vice President of the Tri-M Honor Society. Vivian adores Pierrot for its environment with outstanding musicianship, wonderful staff and attendees, and overall the absolutely fantastic experience it brings. There was truly never a dull moment and every single moment, from rehearsing, to lunch, to performances, were all extremely enjoyable.

Attended the Festival in 2024.

There are so many favorite memories and I wish I could say the entire experience was the best, but if I had to pick one it would be when our conductor Douglas Aliano showed the orchestra his fish pencil case and for my birthday a friend at the Festival got me the exact same one.

45TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

PIERROT CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL

JULY 13 TO JULY 24, 2026
ADELPHI UNIVERSITY
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



Photos by Lauren Buscemi

FESTIVAL PROGRAMS

Artistry Program: Professional & Pre-formed Chamber Ensembles

Performance Program: College/Conservatory Musicians

Precollege Program: High School Students

Young Musicians Program: 7th & 8th Grade Students

FESTIVAL CLASSES

Individual Master Classes

Chamber Music Performance Classes

Master Classes with Special Guest Artists & Educational Residencies

Festival Chamber Orchestra & Precollege Chamber Orchestra

APPLICATION DEADLINES



March 1, 2026 (deadline for early acceptance)

April 1, 2026 (deadline for regular acceptance)

May 1 & June 3, 2026 Extended Application Deadlines

Late applications will be accepted based on available openings



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APPLY NOW

