

43rd Summer Season
PIERROT
CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL
Alumni Newsletter



ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

Emily Beckner
Sarah Bogen
Adaliz N. Cruz
Guy Dellecave
Christine Hoerning
justine lee hooper
Roger Kalia
Nichole Ki
Stella Ku
Scott Litroff
Jake Mallen
Gregory Williams

**MEET THE FESTIVAL'S
NEW ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**

Douglas Aliano



Hyunju Ji, Editor - Festival Alumni Newsletter
Festival Founders - Susan Deaver & Maureen Hynes



Emily Beckner

Emily Beckner, violinist, identifies as both a passionate performer and educator, and currently studies at Oberlin Conservatory with Francesca dePasquale. Previous teachers include Todd Phillips and Anton Polezhayev, and she has studied with other renowned violinists over past summers, such as Sandy Yamamoto, Yoojin Jang, and Richard Amoroso.

Orchestral performance highlights include New York Youth Symphony's Grammy winning debut album, the Tribeca Film Festival, and CNN's Fourth of July Special in 2021. As a chamber musician, Emily recently performed at Oberlin's Hidden Valley Chamber Music Intensive. Alongside performing, Emily has her own private violin studio, which stemmed from her volunteer involvement for Musical Relief in 2020. Emily is also a teaching artist for Project: Music Heals Us and the secondary lesson program at Oberlin Conservatory.

I attended the festival from 2015 to 2017, and my favorite festival memory was having the opportunity to play first violin on my very first Beethoven quartet.

Sarah Bogen

Sarah began playing the violin at the age of 11 under Nicole DiCecco. She attended the Chamber Music Festival for nine years. Sarah received her Bachelors and Masters from LIU, graduating Summa Cum Laude. While at LIU, Sarah was a member of string ensemble, Merriweather Consort, and Concertmaster of the orchestra for four years. Additionally, she was Graduate Assistant to Professor Maureen Hynes. She also wrote two theses during her years at LIU. Sarah has performed in masterclasses held by Larry Dutton, NY Philharmonic, Imani Winds, JACK Quartet, the Knights, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra and Shanghai String Quartet. Sarah won the 2019 Concerto Competition performing Vieuxtemps No. 4. In 2023, she won Grand Prix in the International Concert Festival Competition. Her teachers include Dale Stuckenbruck and Anton Polezhayev for violin, Veronica Salas for viola and Yelena Polezhayev for piano. Sarah is a 2nd year law student at Hofstra Law, planning to practice Elder Law upon admission to the bar.

Sarah attended the festival for 9 years. Favorite memory was playing with my two sisters in trios





Adaliz N. Cruz

Adaliz has a Bachelors of Music from the Inter American University of Puerto Rico, a Masters in Library and Information Sciences from Simmons University, and will complete her Masters of Business Administration from Texas A&M in 2025. She currently works at a consulting firm based out of Dallas, TX.

I attended the Pierrot Chamber Music Festival in 2017. My favorite memory is playing chamber music with harpists and bassoonists as I studied in a small music program.

Guy Dellecave

Guy Dellecave is a classical saxophonist based in New York. He received his Bachelor's Degree and Master's Degree from Manhattan School of Music studying under Dr. Paul Cohen.

Guy is a strong advocate of contemporary music written by composers of his generation, premiering numerous works ranging from solo to orchestral. Feeling equally at home in contemporary and traditional repertoire, he holds awards for his chamber playing from the Fuchs Foundation and Pierrot Festival. He has performed with groups such as the Greater Bridgeport Symphony, the Park Avenue Chamber Symphony, the Brooklyn Symphony Orchestra and the New York Wind Orchestra.

My favorite part of being in the festival was being able to work with all the incredible instructors! I attended the festival in 2019.





Christine Hoerning

Originally from Long Island, Christine Hoerning is a clarinetist and bass clarinetist now based in Montreal, Quebec. She is currently the Visiting Assistant Professor of Clarinet at the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam. Her personal artistic practice emphasizes multi-media performance art combined with storytelling. Christine is a D'Addario Artist.

www.i-clarinet.com

Attended the festival in 2012.

Getting to meet and work with so many lovely people. It was a wonderful experience to get to learn and perform in such a warm and encouraging environment.

justine lee hooper

Drawing upon the breath and beat of flute and body, justine lee hooper exhales sentiments of past, present, and future by accessing defining nuances of human emotion. Performances by justine often invoke the vast interdisciplinary repertoire and legacy of black and gender-expansive creatives, using interpolation, improvisation, and electronics to pigment distinct perspectives of sound. An invitation is extended to listeners to self-reflect in the mirrors of comfort and discomfort.

justine is on the Jazz Committee of the National Flute Association, and they are an artist for CloudVocal wireless audio technology. They have performed for the United Nations and have been acknowledged by The New York Times, Playbill, and Rolling Stone. justine has collaborated with artists such as duendita, Joy Guidry, Key Glock, and Solange.

justineleehooper.com

I attended the festival in 2014. My favorite Festival memory was the connections that I made with my fellow attendees and the staff! One of my favorite pieces that we performed was the Schulhoff Concertino for Flute, Viola, and Bass. A unique treasure of a work!





Roger Kalia

With a dynamic podium presence and noted passionate interpretations, Indian American conductor Roger Kalia has been celebrated by audiences and industry professionals alike. Kalia serves as Music Director of the Evansville Philharmonic, Symphony New Hampshire, and Orchestra Santa Monica. He is also Co-Founder and Music Director of the celebrated Lake George Music Festival in upstate New York.

The recipient of several awards from the Solti Foundation U.S., including an Elizabeth Buccheri Opera Residency with Lyric Opera of Chicago and five Career Assistance Awards, Kalia has appeared with the National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center, Chicago Sinfonietta, Louisiana Philharmonic, Szczecin Philharmonic (Poland), Hollywood Chamber Orchestra, Baltimore Chamber Orchestra, and the Long Beach Symphony, among many others.

A native of New York State, Kalia holds degrees from Indiana University, the University of Houston, and SUNY Potsdam's Crane School of Music.

Attended the festival in 2007.

I have many wonderful memories from the festival. As a young conductor at the time, I learned a great deal from Susan Deaver who was extremely encouraging and inspiring to work with. Having the opportunity to conduct the Festival Orchestra in Beethoven's Eighth Symphony on the Tilles Center stage is something that I will never forget.

Nichole Ki

Nichole Ki is studying at Jericho Middle School. She began to explore her musical world at the age of four. She plays violin, flute and piano; and enjoys singing. She received distinction in the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM) Piano Level 4; outstanding in NYSSMA Piano Level 5; merit in ABRSM Music Theory Level 3; A- in NYSSMA Violin Level 5; distinction in ABRSM Violin Level 4; outstanding in NYSSMA Flute level 3; outstanding in NYSSMA Vocal Solo Level 3; Gold in the NYSSAM Ensemble Chorus Concert Performance. She was the Jericho District Music Award recipient.

She performed in the All-County Music Festival in 2023 (Violin) and 2024 (Vocal); and performed in the Long Island String Festival Association (LISFA) in 2023.

Nichole is an active member of the Metropolitan Youth Orchestra of New York (MYO) Nassau String Orchestra Violin and made her Carnegie Hall and Adelphi University debut at age 10; she participates in Jericho Middle School Concert Band, Jazz Band, and Chorus.

She participated in the Pierrot Chamber Music Festival in 2023. Her favorite Festival memory is the moment when her ensemble performed a piece titled "Mozart: String Quartet in D Major", and they sounded great together after days of hard work.





Stella Ku

Stella Ku is a junior at Stony Brook University. She is currently a cellist in the University Orchestra under the direction of Dr. Susan Deaver. Stella was selected as a cellist of the 2021 New York All-State Symphony Orchestra and participated in the All County and LISFA festivals from 2017-2020. She has placed at several competitions including the Concert Festival International Competitions (1st place in 2020, Grand Prix in 2018) and the New York International Music Concours (1st place in 2019).

Stella attended the Festival from 2013 to 2015 and her favorite memory from the festival was participating in the cello masterclasses with Professor Maureen Hynes.

Scott Litroff

Renowned internationally for his seamless stylistic versatility, saxophonist DR. SCOTT LITROFF demonstrates his command of classical, jazz, and pop idioms through his extensive work as both a performer and educator. He has performed and served as guest artist/clinician throughout the United States and internationally at venues in Mexico, Taiwan, China, Thailand, and Japan. Dr. Litroff is Associate Professor of Jazz and Popular Music at Queensborough Community College at CUNY. His 2021 debut classical album, *Global Saxophone*, released by MSR Classics, was hailed by *Classics Today* as, "...intelligently curated, impeccably executed...appealing program that ought to attract more than just classical saxophone fans," and received a review score of 10/10. His Smooth Jazz single, "Never Forget," released in November 2023, was composed, produced, and mixed by the world-renowned Smooth Jazz producer and Billboard #1 chart topper, Darren Rahn. Dr. Litroff is the recipient of the prestigious 2013 Samuel Baron Prize, the 2012 Ackerman Prize in Music, the 2011 Bob Meyers Award for Excellence in Jazz, first prize in Stony Brook University's undergraduate and graduate concerto competitions, and first prize in the Mannes College for Music Concerto Competition. He is also a two-time recipient of both the PSC-CUNY Research Award.

Scott Litroff attended the Festival in 2007.

"It's wonderful that former students of the Festival went on to great things, and I know that has much to do with the great mentorship you provided us!"





Jake Mallen

Jake Mallen is a freshman at Stony Brook University, pursuing a double major in computer science and mathematics. Beyond academics, Jake has a passion for music, and he has been playing the piano and viola for over a decade now. He is a part of Stony Brook's Competitive Programming Club and a member of the University Orchestra. Jake also attended the Manhattan School of Music Precollege Program while in high school. In his free time, Jake enjoys riding his bike, tackling coding problems, and transcribing songs for solo piano.

I attended the festival in 2019. My favorite memory from the festival was four-hand piano where collaboration not only made the music fun, but also elevated it to new heights.

Gregory Williams

Gregory K. Williams is the Principal Violist of Parlando and Acting Principal Violist of the the Washington Heights Chamber Orchestra. He is a member of the Golden Williams Duo, and has performed with several orchestras, including the American Symphony Orchestra, American Ballet Theatre, and he has subbed on Broadway for Sweeney Todd and Phantom of the Opera. His debut solo album, *Shadows: the Unaccompanied Viola Sonatas of Günter Raphael*, was released in February 2024 by Affetto Records.

Dr. Williams served as a visiting viola faculty member at the Eastman School of Music for the 2022-23 school year, and at the University of Tennessee Knoxville in Fall 2023. He currently teaches viola and chamber music at the Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College, CUNY.

For more information about how to get a copy of his album, *Shadows: the Unaccompanied Viola Sonatas of Günter Raphael*, please visit <https://gregorykwilliamsviolist.com/projects/shadows/>

Attended the festival in 2011 (as a student) and 2013 (as a conductor).

I truly enjoyed the opportunity of working with the members of the Pierrot Consort-- they each offered unique perspectives based on their musical experiences. They each brought something special into their coachings and rehearsals, which in turn would shape our performances!

PHOTO CREDIT: MATT DINE





MEET THE FESTIVAL'S NEW ASSISTANT DIRECTOR - Douglas Aliano

Douglas Aliano is a native of Long Island, the youngest of five double bassists in his family, and a proud Pierrot Chamber Music Festival alum, winning the Festival's Concerto Competition in 2012. He recently completed work as a Double Bass Fellow with the New World Symphony in Miami Beach, FL. and has appeared with the New York Philharmonic, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and the National Symphony Orchestra. His festival appearances include the Music Academy of the West, the Pacific Music Festival, Spoleto Festival, the Tanglewood Music Center, and the Verbier Festival in Switzerland. An active chamber musician and passionate advocate of new music, he has participated in numerous chamber music projects and has premiered many new chamber music and orchestral works. He also appeared as a member of Echo Chamber, an NYC-based ensemble dedicated to performing new works specially commissioned for its distinctive instrumentation. Douglas completed his undergraduate and graduate studies at The Juilliard School where he studied with Albert Laszlo and was a recipient of the Jerome L. Greene Fellowship. He recently received his master's degree in Music and Music Education from Columbia University and was a recipient of the Florence K. Geffen Scholarship.

Attended the festival 2007-2012. My favorite Festival memory would have to be playing the Grande Finale at the conclusion of every festival - everybody in the Festival on stage playing "Hornpipe" from Handel's Water Music was just such a fun rush!