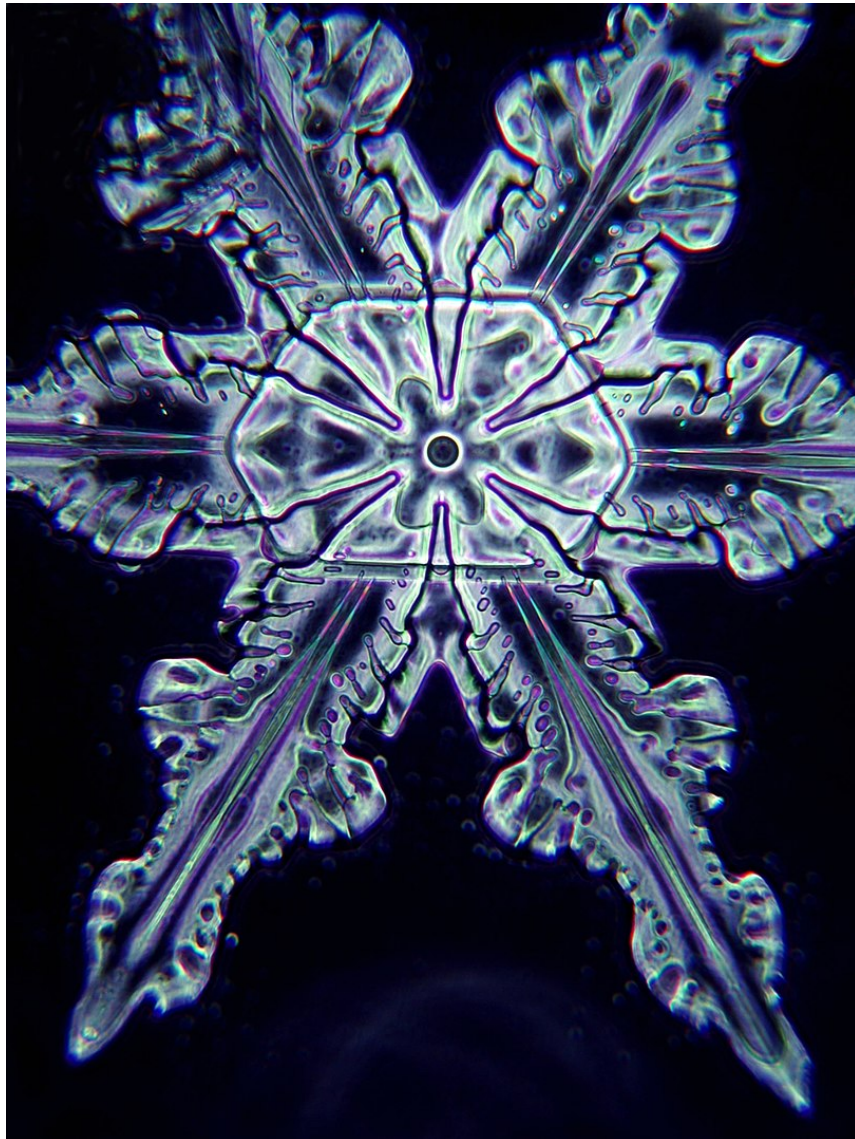




GREATER PRINCETON YOUTH ORCHESTRA



VIRTUAL WINTER CONCERT

Red and Blue Ensembles

William Thompson,
2019-2020 Concerto Competition Winner

January 2, 2021
4:00 pm

RED ENSEMBLE

Conductors

Christopher Beckett
David Rabinowitz

Assistant Conductor

Teresa Lim

Violin 1

Sofia Cervantes
Rohan Giri
Thomas Italia
Brooklyn Jang
Arya Kalra
Etaash Mathamsetty
Adhithi Rajesh
Harinni Shyamalan

Violin 2

Lucas Cervantes
Nidun Dissanayake
Ryka Iyer
Zarna Kalra
Jasmine Liu
Yashmita Logaraj
Ashritha Nayanala

Viola

Gabrielle Carroll
Raymond Chen
William Song
Branden Zhou

Cello

Jacob Chang

Bass

Odhran McDermott

Clarinet

Ian Grenda

Oboe

Wendy Norris, GPYO '87

Percussion

Freddie Gordon

BLUE ENSEMBLE

Conductors

Christopher Beckett
David Rabinowitz

Violin 1

Elise Hwang
Venya Bhardwaj
Joontae Hwang
Sanjeev Harikrishnan
Eric Han

Violin 2

Shivalik Paul
Molly Chang
Keshav Gurushankar
Julian Rossi
Franklin Wang
Aileen Xue

Viola

Christopher Beckett

Cello

Stephanie Guo
Madysen Silvestre
William Thompson

Bassoon

Kenneth Eng

Oboe

Wendy Norris, GPYO '87

Harp

Aqua Withers-Carello

GPYO Board of Directors

Dave DeFreese, President

Sunny Chen
Michael Donahue
Carey Hwang
Teresa Marrin Nakra

Andi Sjamsu
Uli Speth
Adrienne Walsh

Wendy Norris, *Interim Executive Director*

PROGRAM

Symphony No. 104
Adagio-Allegro (excerpt)

Franz Joseph Haydn

Red Ensemble

String Symphony X

Felix Mendelssohn

Blue Ensemble

Cello Concerto No 1 in A Minor (excerpt)

Camille Saint-Saëns

William Thompson

Winner

Greater Princeton Youth Orchestra
Concerto Competition, 2019-2020

Sebastian Grand, piano

Intermezzo from “La Cavalleria Rusticana”

Pietro Mascagni

Blue Ensemble

Thank you to all who made this event possible!

**Congratulations to all of our musicians for their dedication, hard work
and artistry.**

We are so proud of your accomplishments!

Thanks to their families for trusting us during this new virtual adventure!

Many thanks to our artistic staff:

**Conductors Christopher Beckett and David Rabinowitz
and Assistant Conductor Teresa Lim
for sharing your time, expertise,
patience and good cheer with us!!**

**Thanks to the GPYO Board, whose belief in the power of music
sustained us through a challenging year!**

FEATURED PLAYERS:

We are pleased to present this video performance of WILLIAM THOMPSON, the winner of the Greater Princeton Youth Orchestra's 2019-2020 Concerto Competition.

Will selected the Saint-Saëns Concerto for Cello in A minor because he wanted to tackle a Romantic-era piece that would allow more freedom of expression than the repertoire from the Classical or Baroque eras. This is an interesting move for a self-avowed fan of Bach's solo works and Beethoven's symphonies! He was drawn to the challenge of working through the tempo changes of the Saint-Saëns, as well as its openness to his personal interpretation.

Will is a senior at the Pennington School, has been playing cello since fourth grade. The only member of his family involved in music-making, Will's achievements reflect both commitment and curiosity. In addition to cello, he plays bass guitar, acoustic guitar and electric guitar, and enjoys the process of mixing and mastering music. He credits teachers Lou Cordas and Mimi Morris-Kim with providing him with a solid foundation in music-reading skills and technique. He has studied with Elizabeth Loughran since eighth grade, and feels that working with her has helped refine all aspects of his playing.

The Greater Princeton Youth Orchestra has been a source of motivation throughout his musical journey. Will joined the GPYO family in 2013 as a member of the Preparatory Strings Orchestra under Dr. Arvin Gopal. Playing with the Prep Strings in the wonderful acoustics of the Kimmel Center left a lasting impression on him. The experience motivated him to dedicate energy to practicing, and Will moved up to the Concert Orchestra the following year. He has played in the Greater Princeton Youth Orchestra's Symphonic Orchestra throughout high school, serving as principal cello since tenth grade. This year, he is playing with our Blue Ensemble.

Will also spent two years playing with the Central Jersey Region Orchestra. He now enjoys playing a leadership role in the Pennington School Orchestra, and can be frequently seen playing at school events, and sometimes memorial services. He plans on continuing his musical pursuits throughout his college years and beyond, and is exploring ways that he can parlay his performing skills into a way to support himself during his student years.

Like many members of our musicians, Will has many interests outside of music. He pitches and fields for the Pennington School baseball team. He was awarded the Eagle Scout honor for a project building outdoor free libraries for a local organization that helps people in unstable financial situations. After graduation this spring, Will hopes to pursue studies in either nuclear or quantum physics, and is in the midst of the college application process. We look forward to learning what the future brings!

Accompanist SEBASTIAN GRAND is a Director of the Grand School of Music in Pennsylvania and active as a pianist, conductor and educator both throughout Europe and in the United States. He is a first-class graduate of the Joint Course between the University of Manchester and the Royal Northern College of Music and has received a Masters with Distinction from the Royal Academy of Music in London. Mr. Grand is a prizewinning pianist and has performed at major venues throughout Europe, including several appearances as concerto soloist. Mr. Grand is Assistant Conductor of the Bucks County Symphony Orchestra, Conductor of the Youth Orchestra of Bucks County's Philharmonia, a faculty member at Lafayette College and a coach and accompanist for the Philadelphia International Music Festival. Mr. Grand studied on the Orkney International Conductors Course and received a full scholarship to conduct the Orchestra of the Swan in a public masterclass. He was Principal Conductor of the Guernsey Sinfonietta for seven years, co-founded the Odyssey Symphony Orchestra and has worked with numerous professional orchestras including the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Trondheim Soloists and Baltimore Chamber Orchestra. He has also worked as an adjudicator for several competitions, including the Bart Pitman Memorial Scholarship and the Caprio Competition.