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YCA on Tour 2024-2025

YCA on Tour is an extraordinary and unique chamber music touring ensemble that is made up of the incredible talent of both current YCA artists and esteemed alumni from the YCA family. This unique initiative brings together the brightest emerging musicians and the seasoned veterans who have already made a significant impact in the classical music world. YCA on Tour programs offer audiences a truly remarkable musical experience; featuring ensembles of unique instrumentation playing repertoire that spans a wide range of musical styles and genres that is rarely heard on tour. Each concert is thoughtfully designed to highlight the strengths and individuality of each performer. Rather than more commonly heard ad hoc ensembles, YCA on Tour groups are established ensembles that not only plan programs multiple seasons in advance, but also rehearse and explore the repertoire intensely over an unusually long rehearsal period prior to any touring activity. This investment in the rehearsal process results in profound musical discoveries that offer audiences astoundingly high-quality performances of rarely heard works.

Following a March 2023 sneak peak of the inaugural YCA on Tour group at Merkin Hall in New York City, an ensemble of five YCA artists embarked on a twelve city tour presenting a program of works for voices, violin, cello, and piano with venues and presenters across the country including the Asheville Chamber Music Society, Clarion Concerts, Raymond F. Kravis Center for the Performing Arts, Newport Classical, Utsey Chamber Music Series at Clemson University, Pepperdine University in Malibu, California, BIG ARTS Sanibel Island, and more.

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Alexander Cox's early studies were with the late Orlando Cole. He later earned degrees at the Cleveland Institute of Music, Juilliard School, and New England Conservatory, studying with Melissa Kraut, Timothy Eddy, Paul Katz and Laurence Lesser.

He co-founded the Omer Quartet with friends while studying in Cleveland, which ignited his passion for shared discovery and the quartet repertoire. They went on to win international competitions, including the Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition, Young Concert Artists International Audition, Premio Paolo Borciani Competition (Italy), and Trondheim International Chamber Music Competition (Norway), as well as holding residencies at the New England Conservatory, University of Maryland and Yale University. Subsequently, the group concertized throughout North and South America as well as Europe and developed performances for incarcerated populations in the mid-Atlantic as well as a series of concerts benefitting local food pantries in the DC-Metro area.

During the pandemic, the group amicably ended their near-decade-long adventure together. Nowadays you can find him performing as interim cellist of the Thalea String Quartet.

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Risa Hokamura began studying the violin at the age of three, and by the age of ten captured top prizes in competitions throughout her home country of Japan. She first came to international attention upon winning First Prize in the 2018 Young Concert Artists Susan Wadsworth International Auditions at the age of seventeen, as well as the Tannery Pond Concerts Prize, The Ruth Laredo Memorial Prize, and The Ronald A. Asherson Prize, and the Silver Medal at the 2018 International Violin Competition of Indianapolis, where she performed with the Indianapolis Symphony conducted by Leonard Slatkin. Risa has

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since performed as concerto soloist orchestras including the East Coast Chamber Orchestra, Muncie Symphony Orchestra, Greensboro Symphony Orchestra, Kanagawa Philharmonic Orchestra, New Japan Philharmonic Orchestra, Tokyo Philharmonic, Kansai Philharmonic Orchestra, Tokyo Symphony Orchestra, and the Sapporo Symphony Orchestra.

Risa made her New York City debut at Merkin Hall and her Washington, DC debut at the Kennedy Center's Terrace Theater. In addition she has performed chamber music at Music@Menlo, Clarion Concerts, and The Morgan Library & Museum and in recital at Artist Series Concerts of Sarasota, University of Florida Performing Arts (Gainesville, FL), Arts at Abingdon (Gloucester, VA), and Arts Council of Moore County (Southern Pines, NC).

During the 23-24 season Risa will make concerto appearances with the Kennett Symphony (PA) and The Apollo Orchestra (Washington, DC), and will appear in recital with the International Violin Competition of Indianapolis, Ithaca College, Buffalo Chamber Music Society, The Morgan Library & Museum (NYC), and Port Washington Library.

A native of Japan, Risa studied at the Tokyo College of Music as the Honorary Scholarship student under the tutelage of Koichiro Harada, Mayuko Kamio, and Machie Oguri. She continued her studies this year at the Manhattan School of Music as the Full Scholarship student under the tutelage of Koichiro Harada and Lucie Robert, and additional studies with Cho-Liang Lin. She is also a recipient of scholarships from the Ezo Memorial Foundation and the Rohm Music Foundation. Risa Hokamura is represented in Japan by Kajimoto.

Risa plays the 1715 "Joachim" Stradivarius violin on loan from the Nippon Music Foundation and 1734 "Ames-Totenberg" Stradivarius violin on loan from Ryuji Ueno and Rare Violins In Consortium, Artists and Benefactors Collaborative.

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Violist **Hsin-Yun Huang** has forged a career by performing on international concert stages, commissioning and recording new works, and nurturing young musicians. Ms. Huang has appeared as soloist with leading orchestras in Beijing, Taipei, and Bogota, amongst others. Inspired by authentic folk elements, the focus and highlight of Ms. Huang's 2022-23 season is the program "Strings of Soul", in collaboration with composer Lei-Liang and pipa virtuoso Wu Man. Additional performances this season include chamber and solo recitals in New York City, Philadelphia, and more.

She was the first solo violist to be presented in the National Performance Center of the Arts in Beijing and was featured as a faculty member alongside Yo-Yo Ma in Guangzhou. She has commissioned compositions from Steven Mackey, Shih-Hui Chen, and Poul Ruders. Her 2012 recording for Bridge Records, titled *Viola Viola*, won accolades from Gramophone and BBC Music Magazine. Her most recent release is the complete unaccompanied sonatas and partitas of J.S. Bach, in partnership with her husband, violist Misha Amory.

Ms. Huang regularly appears at festivals, including Marlboro, Spoleto, Ravinia, Santa Fe, and Music@Menlo, among many others. Huang was the gold medalist in the 1988 Lionel Tertis International Viola Competition, the top-prize winner in the ARD International Competition in Munich, and was awarded the highly prestigious Bunkamura Orchard Hall Award. A native of Taiwan, she received degrees from the Yehudi Menuhin School, the Curtis Institute of Music, and The Juilliard School. She now serves on the faculties of Juilliard and Curtis.

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Winner of the 2022 YCA Susan Wadsworth International Auditions and Finalist in the 2023 Rubinstein Piano Competition, **Chaeyoung Park** has been praised as a passionate pianist who "does not play a single note without thought or feeling" (New York Concert Review). Through Chaeyoung various roles as a recitalist, chamber musician, and concerto soloist, she has performed at Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall, Bravo! Vail Music Festival, Ravinia's Bennett Gordon Hall, Symphony Center's Orchestra Hall, as well as live-streamed concerts presented by the Gilmore Rising Stars series.

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As winner of the 2019 Hilton Head International Piano Competition, she is the first female Korean pianist to receive First Place in the history of the competition. She subsequently presented her solo recital debut at Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall and performed Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4 with the Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra.

An avid chamber musician, Chaeyoung participated in Ravinia's Steans Music Institute, Yellow Barn, Kneisel Hall and Juilliard ChamberFest. She has worked under renowned artists such as Leon Fleisher, Gary Hoffman and Robert Levin and has been featured at the Greene Space at WNYC/WQXR, Harvard Club in New York City and First Congregational United Church of Christ in Sarasota.

Recent and upcoming highlights include a debut at Merkin Hall and the Kennedy Center's Terrace Theater as well as the Gina Bachauer International Piano Festival, Honest Brook Music Festival, Orchestra of the Triangle in Chapel Hill, Rockport Music, and Hayden's Ferry Chamber Music.

Chaeyoung has appeared as soloist with the Kansas City Symphony, Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, Utah Symphony Orchestra, Canton Symphony Orchestra, and Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra with such conductors as Michael Stern, Rei Hotoda, John Morris Russell.

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Anthony Trionfo is the First Prize Winner of the 2016 Young Concert Artists Susan Wadsworth International Auditions. The New York Times has lauded his playing as "breezily virtuosic" and he is actively building one of today's most exciting musical careers.

Recent and upcoming solo engagements include concertos with the Edmonton Symphony, Grant Park Festival Orchestra, Orchestra of St. Luke's, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Santa Fe Pro Musica, Stockton Symphony, Riverside Symphony, Brevard Music Festival Orchestra, Longwood Symphony, and the Mobile Symphony.

Recent recitals and chamber music performances include Clemson University, Festival de Ibagué in Colombia, The Kennedy Center, The Morgan Library & Museum, Artists Series of Sarasota, Newport Classical. Highlights of the current season include recitals at the Buffalo Chamber Music Society and a recital with harpist Charles Overton at Merkin Hall.

Anthony has performed on multiple tours with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra. He often collaborates with the Jupiter Chamber Players and Kaleidoscope Chamber Orchestra in addition to performances with the Columbus, Knoxville, Princeton, and Seattle Symphonies.

In 2020, Anthony curated the panel discussion "Learning to Listen: A discussion addressing the nuances of the Black experience within classical music" and the "Illuminate!" series, which explored intersectionalities of allyship, ethnicity, pedagogy, queerness, and race in the music field. Anthony is a founder of the Umoja Flute Institute, a non-profit dedicated to providing flutists of African descent with the tools needed to succeed and thrive at all levels of music making. Anthony also serves on the Aspen Music Festival and School's Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access (IDEA) Committee and has served on faculty for programs at The Juilliard School and Interlochen Center for the Arts.

Anthony received his master's and bachelor's degrees from the Colburn School Conservatory of Music under the tutelage of James Walker. He completed his high school studies at the Interlochen Arts Academy in Michigan as a student of Nancy Stagnitta. Anthony's additional teachers include Nadine Asin, Timothy Day, Megan Lanz, Emmanuel Pahud, and Mark Sparks.

Anthony is a Burkart Flutes & Piccolos artist.