PRINCETON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

ROSSEN MILANOV, MUSIC DIRECTOR

2026-2027

Holiday Pops!



December 20 | 2pm

Princeton Symphony Orchestra



The **PRINCETON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** (PSO) is a cultural centerpiece of the Princeton community and one of New Jersey's finest music organizations, a position established through performances of beloved masterworks, innovative music by living composers, and an extensive network of educational programs offered to area students free of charge. Led by Edward T. Cone Music Director Rossen Milanov, the PSO presents orchestral, pops, and chamber music programs of the highest artistic quality, supported by lectures and related events that supplement the concert experience. Its flagship summer program **The Princeton Festival** brings an array of performing arts and artists to Princeton during multiple weeks in June. Through **PSO BRAVO!**, the orchestra produces wide-reaching and impactful education programs in partnership with local schools and arts organizations that culminate in students attending a live orchestral performance.

The PSO receives considerable support from the Princeton community and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts (NJSCA), regularly garnering NJSCA's highest honor. Recognition of engaging residencies and concerts has come from the National Endowment for the Arts, and the PSO's commitment to new music has been acknowledged with an ASCAP Award for Adventurous Programming and a Copland Fund Award. The only independent, professional orchestra to make its home in Princeton, the PSO regularly performs at historic Richardson Auditorium on the campus of Princeton University.

Conductor



Conductor **JOHN GENNARO DEVLIN** is known for compelling performances across a wide range of repertoire and for artistic leadership that connects orchestras more deeply to the communities they serve. He is currently in his eighth season as music director of the Wheeling Symphony Orchestra (WSO). In 2025, he was appointed music director of the Lancaster Festival Orchestra. He is an ardent advocate for new music, having premiered and/or commissioned more than 50 works by composers.

Devlin's artistry and versatility have led to guest engagements with orchestras across the nation, including the National Symphony Orchestra, Utah Symphony, Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, Louisville Orchestra, North Carolina Symphony, Sarasota Orchestra, Colorado Springs Philharmonic, Columbus Symphony, Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra, Princeton Symphony Orchestra, Allentown Symphony Orchestra, and Greenville Symphony Orchestra, among others. Devlin is a recipient of the Georg Solti Foundation Career Assistance Award.

The breadth of Devlin's work is reflected in his partnerships with leading artists across classical music and popular traditions, including Yo-Yo Ma, Joshua Bell, Chris Thile, Sasha Cooke, Time for Three, Tessa Lark, Stefan Jackiw, Shara Nova, Third Coast Percussion, and Maxim Lando, among others. Devlin has also performed with leading Broadway artists including Sutton Foster, Renée Elise Goldsberry, Sierra Boggess, Morgan James, Hugh Panaro, Michael Maliakel, and Capathia Jenkins.

From 2015 to 2018, Devlin served as the National Symphony Orchestra's exclusive cover conductor, assisting Music Directors Christoph Eschenbach and Gianandrea Noseda, as well as the orchestra's distinguished guest conductors. Devlin served concurrently as Assistant Conductor of the Princeton Symphony Orchestra, working alongside Music Director Rossen Milanov.

Devlin completed his master's and doctoral degrees in orchestral conducting under the tutelage of James Ross at the University of Maryland School of Music. At Emory University, he was a Robert W. Woodruff Scholar and Beinecke Scholar, graduating summa cum laude with a double major in Clarinet Performance and Latin.

Devlin divides his time between New York City and Wheeling, West Virginia, with his wife, Camille Cintrón Devlin, and their beloved dog, Arya.

johndevlinmusic.com

Guest Artists



Born and raised in London, **SCARLETT STRALLEN** is best known on Broadway as Mary Poppins and as Sibella in *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murde*r. Other New York highlights include Gwendolyn in *Travesties* on Broadway, Stephen Sondheim's *Old Friends*, and Alice in *The New Yorkers* with Encores at City Center.

Scarlett's West End career highlight's include Kathy in *Singin' in the Rain* (Olivier Award Nomination), Cassie in *A Chorus Line*, Clara in *Passion*, Josephine in *HMS Pinafore* (Olivier Award Nomination), and Truly Scrumptious in *Chitty Chitty Bang Ban*g.

Additional theater credits include the title role in *Nell Gwynn* at Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Mabel in *The Pirates of Penzance* at Barrington Stage Company, Lady McDuff in *Macbeth* with Kenneth Branagh at the Armory in New York, Cunegonde in *Candide* and Amalia in *She Loves Me*, both at the Menier Chocolate Factory in London, Marion Paroo in *The Music Man* at Chichester festival theatre, and starring alongside Judi Dench in *The Merry Wives of Windsor* with the Royal Shakespeare Company. In 2014, Scarlett received the "Whatsonstage" award for Best Actress in a Musical for her portrayal of Cassie in *A Chorus Line* and Cunegonde in *Candide* in the same season. Original casts include *Mamma Mia* and *The Witches of Eastwick*.

Scarlett's recent and upcoming orchestral engagements include The Boston Pops, The Cleveland Orchestra, Seattle Symphony, Grant Park Music Festival, Houston Symphony, Utah Symphony, Philly Pops, Phoenix Symphony, Baltimore Symphony, Colorado Symphony, and St. Louis Symphony, among many others.

She debuted with the Philharmonie in Berlin, Germany in *A Celebration of the MGM Film Musicals* and performed with the Prague Philharmonic. For the BBC Proms at the Royal Albert Hall, Scarlett has performed *Cole Porter in Hollywood* and *Bernstein Stage and Screen* with the John Wilson orchestra along with playing Laurie in *Oklahoma*.

She has recorded *Something's Gotta Give* with Simon Keenleyside and *State Fair and the 20th Century-Fox Songbook* for Chandos Records, and recently recorded *My Fair Lady* as Eliza with the Sinfonia of London. Scarlett was requested to sing for Her late Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness King Charles.

Follow Scarlett @scarlettstrallenofficial on Instagram.

Holiday Pops!

ROSSEN MILANOV, Edward T. Cone Music Director

Sunday December 20, 2026 at 2:00pm
Patriots Theater at the War Memorial

John Devlin, conductor
Scarlett Strallen, vocalist

Leroy Anderson — *Sleigh Ride*

Words and Music by Eddie Pola and George Wyle
arr. David T. Clydesdale — "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year"

Words and Music by Frederick Silver
arr. Don Pippin — "12 Days After Christmas"

Katherine Davis, Henry Onorati, and Harry Simeone
arr. Robert Wendel — *A Classical Christmas Suite:* Little Bolero Boy

Georges Bizet
arr. Ernest Guiraud — "Farandole" from *L'Arlésienne* Suite No. 2

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky — *The Nutcracker Suite*, Op. 71a
March
Dance of the Reed Flutes
Trepak

Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II, Music by Richard Rodgers
arr. Robert Russell Bennett — "My Favorite Things"

Assistive listening devices and large print programs are available in the lobby.

No one will be admitted during the performance of a piece. No audio or video recording or photography permitted. Dates, times, artists, and programs subject to change.



PRINCETON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Johnny Marks — *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*
arr. Richard Hayman

Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov — "Dance of the Tumblers" from *The Snow Maiden*

Irving Berlin — *White Christmas*
arr. Robert Russell Bennett

Dudley Brooks — "(Everybody's Waitin' for) The Man with the Bag"
arr. Daryl MacKenzie

Robert Wells and Mel Torme — "The Christmas Song"
Hugh Martin and Ralph Blane — "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas"
arr. Lucas Waldin

Victor Herbert — "March of the Toys" from *Babes in Toyland*
arr. Otto Langey

Various — *Christmas at the Movies*
arr. Bob Krogstad
(*The Polar Express*, Ballard/Silvestri; "Where are You Christmas?", Jennings/Horner/Carey; "Making Christmas," Danny Elfman; *Miracle on 34th Street*, Broughton; "Somewhere in My Memory," Bricusse/Williams)

Words by John S. Dwight, Music by Adolphe Adam — "O Holy Night"
arr. David T. Clydesdale

Leroy Anderson — *A Christmas Festival*

This concert is made possible in part through the generosity of John and Louise Wellemeyer and Capital Health.

Made possible by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

Princeton Symphony Orchestra

Rossen Milanov, Edward T. Cone Music Director
ENDOWED IN PERPETUITY

Tomás García, Georg and Joyce Albers-Schonberg Assistant Conductor
ENDOWED IN PERPETUITY

December 19-20, 2026

VIOLIN I

Laurel Gagnon**
Concertmaster
The George W. Pitcher Chair,
ENDOWED IN PERPETUITY
Krzystof Kuznik
The Yvonne Marcuse Chair,
In Memory of Mark M. Rutzky
Tiffany Chang
Cheng-Chih Kevin Tsai
Cameron Chase
Margaret Banks
Isabella Egawa
Coco Ziyao Sun

VIOLIN II

Emma Richman**
The B. Sue Howard Chair
Tara A. Pagano-Toub
Josephine Kim
Rubi Lee
Virgil Moore
Vincent Cart-Sanders

VIOLA

Chieh-Fan Yiu**
The Harriet & Jay Vawter Chair
Beth Meyers
Cameren Anai Williams
Carlos Walker

CELLO

Julia Lee**
The Julian Grant & Peter Lighte Family Chair
Elizabeth Loughran
Jasmine Pai
Hannah Rubin

BASS

John Grillo*
The Stephanie & Robert Wedeking Chair
Jingwan Guo
Devin Ascioti

FLUTE

Denis Savelyev**
The Lunder/Ezekowitz Family Chair
Hilary Jones
Kyungmin Eom

OBOE

Zhe Chang**
The Cynthia & Robert Hillas Chair
Becca Nelsen

CLARINET

Pascal Archer*
The Richard J. & Neil Ann S. Levine Chair
Gi Lee



BASSOON

Brad Balliett*
The Cynthia & Robert Hillas Chair
Zach Feingold

HORN

Steven Harmon*
The Dr. Michael L. Barnett Chair
Colby Kleven
Jonathan Clark
Colin Weyman

TRUMPET

Jerry Bryant*
The Donna & Donald Deieso Chair
Thomas Cook
Luke Schwalbach

TROMBONE

Nicole Abissi**
The David A. Tierno Chair
Lars Wendt
The Lor & Michael Gehret Chair
Jahi Alexander

TUBA

Jonathan Fowler*
The Liza and Schuyler Morehouse Chair

TIMPANI

Jeremy Levine*
The Anne VanLent Chair

PERCUSSION

Phyllis Bitow*
The Lunder/Ezekowitz Family Chair
Eric Borghi
Jeff Sagurton

HARP

André Tarantiles*
Anonymous Chair, given by a PSO friend in honor of all parents

KEYBOARD

Jason Yeager**

ELECTRIC BASS

Sarah Klein**

*Principal player
**Guest principal player

Carol Sing-Along

Joy to the World!

Joy to the world, the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare Him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Deck the Halls

Deck the halls with boughs of holly,
Fa la la la la la la la la.
'Tis the season to be jolly,
Fa la la la la la la la la.
Don we now our gay apparel,
Fa la la la la la la la la.
Toll the ancient yuletide carol,
Fa la la la la la la la la.

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

God rest ye merry, gentleman;
let nothing you dismay.
Remember, Christ our Savior
was born on Christmas day
to save us all from Satan's power
when we were gone astray.
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy.
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem!
Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King!

Silent Night

Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright
round yon Virgin Mother and Child.
Holy Infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

Jingle Bells

Dashing through the snow in a one-horse open sleigh,
over the fields we go laughing all the way: "ha, ha, ha!"
Bells on bob-tail ring, making spirits bright;
what fun it is to ride and sing a sleighing song tonight.

Oh! Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way;
oh what fun it is to ride in a one-horse open sleigh, hey!
Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way;
oh what fun it is to ride in a one-horse open sleigh.

Oh Come, All Ye Faithful

Glory to God; Glory in the highest!
Oh, come let us adore Him.
Oh, come let us adore Him.
Oh, come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Jingle Bells (reprise)

Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way.
Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way.

Happy Holidays!

