

• PRINCETON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
ROSSEN MILANOV, MUSIC DIRECTOR

2025-2026

HOLIDAY *Pops!*



Kara Dugan, vocalist



John Brancy, vocalist

December 13
3pm & 6pm

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 music director of the Wheeling Symphony Orchestra (WSO) as well as the recently appointed music director of the Lancaster (OH) Festival Orchestra.

For his work with the WSO, he received West Virginia Governor's Award for Resiliency in the Arts in 2022, and was named a recipient of the 2023 Georg Solti Foundation Career Assistance Award. Also in 2023, Devlin was honored by Wheeling's mayor, Glenn F. Elliott, with the Mayor's Award.

Devlin's artistry and versatility make him a frequent guest conductor with major orchestras across the nation. He has performed with the National Symphony Orchestra, Utah Symphony, Louisville Orchestra, Sarasota Orchestra, Colorado Springs Philharmonic, Virginia Symphony Orchestra, Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra, Columbus Symphony, Princeton Symphony Orchestra, Allentown Symphony Orchestra, and Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, among others, and the American Repertory Ballet.

Devlin has recent or upcoming performances with many significant American soloists, including Yo-Yo Ma, Joshua Bell, Time for Three, Chris Thile, Joshua Roman, Stefan Jackiw, Tessa Lark, and Maxim Lando, among others. A lover of all things Broadway, he has collaborated with Sutton Foster, Renée Elise Goldsberry, Sierra Boggess, Hugh Panaro, Scarlett Strallen, Capathia Jenkins, Morgan James, Dee Roscioli, Christiane Noll, and Ryan Shaw.

From 2015 to 2018, Devlin apprenticed with some of the world's best conductors, soloists, and orchestras while based in Washington, D.C. He was the exclusive cover conductor for the National Symphony Orchestra, where he served as assistant to world-renowned Music Directors Christoph Eschenbach and Gianandrea Noseda. He served concurrently as the assistant conductor of the Princeton Symphony Orchestra in New Jersey, 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. As an undergraduate, Devlin attended Emory University, earning degrees in Clarinet Performance and Latin. His professional career has been shaped by his time as an assistant to conductors Gianandrea Noseda, Christoph Eschenbach, Rossen Milanov, and Victoria Gau.

johndevlinmusic.com

Guest Artists



Mezzo soprano **KARA DUGAN** has been praised by *The New York Times* for her “vocal warmth and rich character.” She has made debuts with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, and Buffalo Philharmonic. She performed with the New World Symphony in the world premiere of Michael Tilson Thomas’ *Four Preludes on Playthings of the Wind* and its New York premiere at Carnegie Hall.

Ms. Dugan has performed at venues ranging from National Sawdust to Alice Tully Hall. Operatic highlights include Cherubino in Mozart’s *Le nozze di Figaro*, Zaida in Rossini’s *Il Turco in Italia*, and Nireno in Handel’s *Giulio Cesare*. This summer season she sang at the Metropolitan Opera House in a seven-show run of American Ballet Theater’s production of Christopher Wheeldon and Joby Talbot’s *Like Water for Chocolate*.

Her love of new music has sparked collaborations with the Albany Symphony performing Michael Daugherty’s *This Land Sings*, a multi-genre tribute to Woody Guthrie, the title role in American Lyric Theater’s workshop premiere of *Working for the Macbeths* composed by Johanny Navarro with libretto by Marcus Yi, as well as a performance in a workshop of Ricky Ian Gordon’s *Intimate Apparel* with Lincoln Center Theater. As an inaugural member of WQXR’s Artist Propulsion Lab, she commissioned and performed the world premiere of *In a New York Minute: Miniatures for Voice and Piano*, a song cycle highlighting the voices and perspectives of women and everyday New Yorkers. She performs often with her husband Peter Dugan, pianist and host of NPR’s *From the Top*. The duo’s eclectic repertoire has brought them to a wide range of venues from Joe’s Pub at The Public Theater to Sun Valley’s Argyros Theater, where they joined genre-defying string group Time for Three.

Ms. Dugan received her Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from The Juilliard School. She is a proud recipient of the Novick Career Advancement Grant.

karadugan.com



Grammy-winning baritone and New Jersey native **JOHN BRANCY** is a master with “mesmerizing tone,” says *OperaWire*. This powerhouse graduate of New York’s famed Juilliard School expertly performs across operatic and musical styles. He has headlined performances with leading orchestras and opera companies, including the LA Phil, San Francisco Symphony, Oper Frankfurt, Boston Symphony, Glyndebourne Festival Opera, Pacific Opera Victoria, and Opera Omaha, among others.

In recent seasons, he returned to Opéra de Montréal in the title role of Don Giovanni, and made his role debut as Il Conte Almaviva in a new production of *Le nozze di Figaro* at Opéra national du Rhin. On the concert stage, Brancy made his debut with the Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks in *Carmina Burana* under the baton of Sir Simon Rattle, and appeared with the San Jose and Albany Symphony Orchestras. He was also the baritone soloist in *Carmina Burana* with both the Cleveland Orchestra and the Austin Symphony.

Since winning the Marilyn Horne Song Competition in 2013, he’s performed multiple times at Carnegie Hall, most recently with MasterVoices in Ricky Ian Gordon’s *The Grapes of Wrath* as Al. He has also made debuts at Alice Tully Hall with pianist Brian Zeger, at Jazz at Lincoln Center as Escamillo in *Carmen*, and at Café Carlyle with pianist Peter Dugan.

Brancy also released a self-produced collaborative album with Avie Records and Vocal Arts DC, *The Journey Home: Live from the Kennedy Center*, which reunited Brancy and Peter Dugan in a recital program inspired by the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I. He produced the recital as a film which aired on WNET and the PBS app AllArts TV. He also collaborated with Tony Award-winning composer Adam Guettel to create a short film titled *Medusa*.

While his career has taken him around the world, in New York Brancy is known as the official anthem singer of Madison Square Garden for NY Rangers NHL Hockey home games.

johnbrancy.com

Princeton High School Choir



The Princeton High School Choir has a vibrant tradition of choral excellence that is unique among American high schools. The choir has performed extensively in North America and Europe, touring as representatives of Princeton, New Jersey, one of America's most distinguished communities. One of four performing ensembles, the 101 choir members are selected after carefully

auditioning nearly two hundred voices in the high school's choral program.

The foundation of the Choir's repertoire is rich in the study of Western choral music. Its curriculum includes traditional sacred and secular choral music spanning Medieval through 21st-century repertoire, contemporary music, staged opera and operetta productions, and American folk music, spirituals, and gospel repertoire.

The Princeton High School Choir has a history of collaborating with notable composers, conductors, and guest clinicians and is featured every December with the Princeton Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Rossen Milanov. The choir hosts a biennial Gospel Festival, led by past guest conductors Raymond Wise, Donald Dumpson, and William Heard. Notable performances have been with conductor Andrew Parrott on Michael Tippett's *Dance, Clarion Air*; John Harbison, performing his *O Magnum Mysterium*; Vincent Persichetti, singing his Mass for Mixed Voices; Peter Maxwell Davies, premiering his *Veni Sancte Spiritus*; Roger Sessions, premiering his Mass; and Frank Lewin, premiering and recording his Mass for the Dead in memory of Robert F. Kennedy. Maurice Duruflé conducted the choir in a performance of his Requiem in 1971. In 1963, Gian Carlo Menotti invited the choir to perform at his Festival dei Due Mondi in Spoleto, Italy, and Zoltán Kodály conducted the choir for the International Association of Choral Directors in Budapest. Additional performances of note have been at the ACDA Regional and National Conventions, the White House, and the Washington National Cathedral.

The choir has received numerous awards and honors, including first prize at the 1994 Festival of Gold in Washington, D.C., second prize at the 1984 International Youth and Music Festival in Vienna, and the "Best in Class" designation at the 1981 convention of the American Choral Directors' Association in New Orleans.

Vincent Metallo, Director
Sarah Pelletier, Associate Director

Ellis Atkins	Valere Hansen	Simon Obregon
Charles Baglio	Konrad Hedges	Rishon Ojha
Avery Bahr	Samantha Henderson	Simryn Patel
Elena Barreto	James Huang	Alexander Paul
Lily Berkery	Declan Hughes	Peter Pessutti
Ryan Bole	Soha Jameel	Judy Pwee
Matthew Brophy	Olivia Johnson	Brooke Robinson
Alexis Brown	Serafina Joseph	Valen Roden
Penelope Cardona-Fox	Milania Kapoor	Onyx Roden
Jessica Carrera	Rachel Kaswan	Isaac Salama
Sophie Carroll	Anna Kaufman	Andrey Sarkisov
Benjamin Caswell Klein	Deja Kelsey	Sylvia Schreiber
Ashly Cervantes	Andrew Khislavskiy	Julia Scibienski
Mason Charles	Andrew Kim	Yasna Shariarian
Katherine Chen	Amelie Kraft	Iris Sikma
Sarah Chen	Nicki Lee	Tessa Silver
Jasper Clayton	Ezra Lerman	Aimy Solares-Zacarias
Liam Clemens	Kaden Li	Marcus Strum
Logan Collier	Zihan Lin	Emily Suttmeier
Maggie Collins	Jeffrey Liu	Abhi Tripathi
Gabe Colon	Arianna Malave	Mila Trkov
Gabi Colston	Oriana Marcano	Jojo Vitaro
Ivy Cordle	Nolan Maurer	Lizzie Voronin
Elsie Davis	Jimmy McAloon	Emily Walden
Sofia DiGioacchino	Phineas McCulloch	Audrey Wang
Len dos Santos Barreto	Ray McLaughlin	Max Wang
Mia Dunlap	Suroor Menai	Richelle Yao
Mercy Ebong	Mona Mobin-Uddin	Jacob Zacks
Julian Frevert	Milo Molina	
Etienne Garcia	Asha Nag	
Rio Giamarese	Julian Nag	
Anna Gniewosz	Olli Navarette	
Leany Gonzalez	Zach Nelson	
William Griffith	Nomsa Nganang	
Josiah Hall	Ash Nieman	



HOLIDAY *Pops!*

ROSSEN MILANOV, Edward T. Cone Music Director

Saturday December 13, 2025, 3pm and 6pm
Richardson Auditorium, Princeton University Campus

John Devlin, conductor

Kara Dugan, vocalist

John Brancy, vocalist

Princeton High School Choir – Vincent Metallo, Director

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

arr. Sydney Banes

Christmas Overture

Felix Mendelssohn

"There Shall a Star from Jacob Come Forth"
from *Christus*

George Frideric Handel

"Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter of Zion"
from *The Messiah*

John Francis Wade

arr. Daryl McKenzie

Adeste Fidelis

Felix Bernard

Lyrics by Richard B. Smith

arr. Wally Harper

orch. Larry Blank

"Winter Wonderland"

Dana Friedman and

Robert Wendel

orch. Robert Wendel

A Chanukah Overture

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.



Edward Elgar
Words by C. Alice Elgar

The Snow, Op.26 No.1

Malcolm Arnold
arr. Christopher Palmer

The Holly and the Ivy: Fantasy on Christmas Carols

Kim Gannon
Words by Buck Ram
Lyrics by Walter Kent
arr. John Scott Trotter

"I'll Be Home for Christmas"

Adolphe Adam
arr. James Nathaniel Holland

"O Holy Night"

Leroy Anderson

Sleigh Ride

Delvyn Case

Rocket Sleigh

Leroy Anderson

A Christmas Festival

**This concert is made possible in part through the generosity of
Beth and Maeve Walsh, and Louise and John Wellemeyer.**



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

Kenneth Bean, Georg and Joyce Albers-Schonberg Assistant Conductor

ENDOWED IN PERPETUITY

December 13, 2025

VIOLIN I

Elizabeth Fayette**

Concertmaster

The George W. Pitcher Chair,

ENDOWED IN PERPETUITY

Cameron Chase

The Yvonne Marcuse Chair,

In Memory of Mark M. Rutzky

Giancarlo Latta

Cheng-Chih Kevin Tsai

Jennifer Ahn

Rachel Da Young Lim

Yoon Be Kim

Linda Howard

VIOLIN II

Emma Richman**

The B. Sue Howard Chair

Tara A. Pagano-Toub

Cheng-Hsun David Tsai

Yuyu Ikeda

Diana Dohyung Kim

VIOLA

Stephanie Griffin*

The Harriet & Jay Vawter Chair

Chieh-Fan Yiu

Beth Meyers

Kevonna Shuford

Noemie Chemali

Natalie Clarke

CELLO

Ari Evan**

***The Julian Grant & Peter Lighte
Family Chair***

Jasmine Pai

Jumi Lee

Wangshu Xiang

BASS

Sam Zagnit**

***The Stephanie & Robert Wedeking
Chair***

Zachary Merkovsky

Luke Rogers

FLUTE

Denis Savelyev**

The Lunder/Ezekowitz Family Chair

James Blanchard

Ginevra Petrucci

OBOE

Tai Yokomori**

The Cynthia & Robert Hillas Chair

Megan Wojtyla



CLARINET

Gi Lee**

*The Richard J. & Neil Ann S. Levine
Chair*

Raissa Fahlman

BASSOON

Brad Balliett*

The Cynthia & Robert Hillas Chair
Emma Fuller

HORN

Steven Harmon*

The Dr. Michael L. Barnett Chair
Shichen Li
Colin Weyman
Stephanie Fritz Ferguson

TRUMPET

Jerry Bryant*

The Donna & Donald Deieso Chair
Tom Cook

TROMBONE

Connor Rowe*

The David A. Tierno Chair
Lars Wendt
The Lor & Michael Gehret Chair
Alex Felker

TUBA

Andrew Hitz**

TIMPANI

Jeremy Levine*

The Anne VanLent Chair

PERCUSSION

Phyllis Bitow*

The Lunder/Ezekowitz Family Chair
Greg Giannascoli
Eric Borghi

HARP

Karen Tay**

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

KEYBOARD

Tom Cuffari**

*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.
'Tis the season to be jolly,
Fa la la la la la la la.
Don we now our gay apparel,
Fa la la la la la la la.
Toll the ancient yuletide carol,
Fa 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!

