

BERKSHIRE SYMPHONY

Student Soloist Gala

Ronald Feldman, Director



Locke Meyer '25
CLARINET

Claude Debussy
Première Rhapsodie

featuring the world premiere of
Sungrazer by **Jacob Fanto '25**

Beethoven – *Egmont Overture*
Bartók – *Romanian Folk Dances*
Aaron Copland – *Appalachian Spring*



Jessie Burdette '25
VIOLA

George Enescu
Concertstück



Richard O'Donnell '27
VIOLIN

Samuel Barber
Violin Concerto, op. 14, I. Allegro

Friday, Apr. 25, 2025 7:30 PM Chapin Hall



Williams College
Department of Music

Berkshire Symphony

Ronald Feldman, director

Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770 – 1827)

Egmont Overture, op. 84

Claude Debussy
(1862 – 1918)

Première rhapsodie

Locke Meyer '25, clarinet

Béla Bartók
(1881 – 1945)

Rumanian Folk Dances

- I. *Stick Dance*
- II. *Sash Dance*
- III. *In One Spot*
- IV. *Dance from Bucsum*

George Enescu
(1881 – 1955)

Concertstück

Arranged by Mihail Secichin

Jessie Burdette '25, viola

****Intermission****

Jacob Fanto '25
(b. 2003)

Sungrazer (2025) world premiere

Samuel Barber
(1910 – 1981)

Violin Concerto, op. 14

- I. *Allegro moderato*

Richard O'Donnell '27, violin

Aaron Copland
(1900 – 1990)

Appalachian Spring (suite for full orchestra)

Doppio movimento
Moderato - Coda

Please turn off cell phones.
No photography or recording is permitted.

Bios



Ronald Feldman, director

Twice winner of the American Symphony League's ASCAP Award for Adventuresome Programming of Contemporary Music, Ronald Feldman has achieved critical acclaim for his work as conductor and cellist. He has appeared as guest conductor with major orchestras such as the London Symphony Orchestra, Boston Pops Orchestra, Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, the Saint Louis Symphony, and the Quebec Symphony, as well as many regional orchestras including the Pro Arte Symphony, Springfield Symphony, Albany Symphony, and the Amarillo Symphony. In August of 2016 Mr. Feldman recorded three albums of music by Kevin Kaska with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra.

After successful appearances as guest conductor for three consecutive seasons at Symphony Hall and at Tanglewood, the Boston Symphony's summer home, composer and Conductor John Williams appointed Mr. Feldman Assistant Conductor of the Boston Pops Orchestra. He served as assistant to John Williams from 1989-1993.

Maestro Seiji Ozawa, Conductor Laureate of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, called Maestro Feldman "an outstanding conductor...I find him to have a deep musical mind which is clearly conveyed through his performances...."

John Williams, composer & Conductor Laureate of the Boston Pops Orchestra called Maestro Feldman, "a brilliant conductor, who displays the best leadership qualities...an outstandingly high level of musicianship that imbues his conducting style with strength, taste, and imagination".

Mr. Feldman joined the Boston Symphony at the age of 19. He has appeared as cello soloist with many orchestras performing a wide range of concerto repertoire from Dvorak to Ligeti. His many chamber music affiliations have included performances with the Boston Symphony Chamber Players, Collage New Music Ensemble, the Boston Conservatory Chamber Players, and the Williams Chamber Players. His performances include collaborations with artists Emanuel Ax, Garrick Ohlsson, Gil Shaham, and Yo Yo Ma.

In 2001 Mr. Feldman left the Boston Symphony Orchestra to pursue other musical interests. Mr. Feldman is Artist in Residence in Orchestral and Instrumental Activities/Lecturer in Music, Director of the Berkshire Symphony, Emeritus at Williams College. He was formerly the conductor and Music Director of the New England Philharmonic and the Worcester Orchestra. He has held positions on the faculties of Williams College, the New England Conservatory of Music, Boston Conservatory of Music, and the Longwood Symphony Orchestra.

Mr. Feldman appears on a compact disk recording of an all-Mozart program with the Bucharest "George Enescu" Philharmonic. This CD received excellent reviews in the March/April 1999 issues of the *American Record Guide* and *Fanfare Magazine*.

He also conducted the London Symphony in a recording of music of John Williams and Kevin Kaska, recording with trumpet virtuoso Arturo Sandoval.



Jessie Burdette '25, viola

Jessie Burdette is a senior biology major from Winston-Salem, North Carolina. She began playing violin at the age of 5 and took up viola while in high school at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts under the guidance of Ulrich Eichenauer. At Williams, she studies viola with Ah Ling Neu and regularly performs with the Berkshire Symphony and in several chamber ensembles. Outside of classical music, Jessie plays fiddle and banjo, having studied with Rex McGee and Alasdair Fraser. She played in two bluegrass/old-time/Celtic/Americana bands before coming to Williams, with which she performed at festivals and gigs throughout North Carolina and Scotland. She has also played for several Cap & Bells and theater department shows, recently took the songwriting Winter Study class, and formed a Celtic band with other students. She is planning a senior recital in May that will be the culmination of her favorite musical moments on viola, fiddle, and banjo at Williams. Outside of labs and rehearsals, Jessie runs the NovelTeas book club and enjoys running, working in Hopkins Forest, baking, and riding horses. After graduation, she plans to take a gap year before attending veterinary school.



Locke Meyer '25, clarinet

Locke Meyer is a music and computer science double major from St. Louis, Missouri. When he was in the sixth grade, his band director had him blow into flute, trumpet, and clarinet mouthpieces; he could only make a sound on the last of the three, and became a clarinetist by process of elimination. At Williams, he has studied with Paul Green, Bixby Kennedy, and Michael Dee. Last year, while abroad in Vienna, Austria, he received instruction from Stefan Neubauer. On campus, he enjoys playing in the Berkshire Symphony, with the I/O New Music Ensemble, and with various chamber music groups. Off campus, he enjoys cooking, rocking out, watching movies, reading novels and poetry, and sampling such exotic flavors of sparkling water as “Banana Bergamot” and “Mild Spruce.” After delivering a senior recital in May and graduating, he plans to build pipe organs while continuing to perform as a clarinetist in the Boston area. Locke would like to thank Artie Carpenter '25, Charlie Nicholas '25, David Berman, David Byrne, EB Diallo '25, Elaine Boody, Felix King '25, Leonard Solomon, Matthew Gold, Michael Dee, Nate Welsh '26, William Mennerick, Zachary Wadsworth, and yes, his parents, for being among his musical and personal inspirations.



Richard O'Donnell '27, violin

Richard O'Donnell, 19, began violin study at the age of 4. He was enrolled at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, Pre-College Division, under the tutelage of William Barbini. During his high school career, Richard participated in the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra as well as the College Preparatory School Orchestra, Pit Orchestra, and Chamber Music Programs. With the Young People's Symphony Orchestra, he served as Concertmaster and was the 2022-23 Concerto Competition Winner, performing the Khachaturian Violin Concerto. In previous summers, Richard attended the Philadelphia International Music Festival, the Juilliard Summer Strings Program in Geneva, and the Meadowmount School of Music, studying with I-Hao Lee. During his time at the Boston University Tanglewood Institute, Richard was selected as Principal Second Violin of the Young Artists' Orchestra and was invited to perform Vaughan Williams' “Serenade to Music” as violin soloist with the Young Artists' Chorus in Seiji Ozawa Hall. A sophomore at Williams College, Richard is a prospective double-major in Music and Economics. Under the instruction of Joanna Kurkowicz, O'Donnell became the first Williams freshman in at least thirty-five years to hold a full-length recital, performing the Ravel “Blues” Violin Sonata and Brahms Violin Concerto. Additionally, Richard is Concertmaster of the Opera Workshop's Pit Orchestra and the Associate Concertmaster of the Berkshire Symphony, where he also works as concert program annotator. O'Donnell has collaborated with numerous musical ensembles, including the Williams Chamber Players, the Concert and Chamber Choirs, the Saints Patrick & Raphael Music Ministry, the Student Mass Music Ministry, and the Northern Berkshire Chorale. He has performed in masterclasses led by Gerald Elias, Eugene Drucker, Judith Ingolfsson, and Lucie Robert. This summer, O'Donnell will pursue German language immersion while studying violin with Tomas Tomaszewski in Berlin and Poland. In his free time, Richard enjoys listening to new music as well as reading novels and music biographies.

Berkshire Symphony Personnel

Violin I

Joanna Kurkowicz
concertmaster
Jessica Belflower
Melanie Dexter
Marla Bracco
Michelle Stewart
Joshua Xie '28
Lydia Jung '28

Violin II

Sarah Briggs, *principal*
Lisa Ji '27
Lee Blackmore
Josh Rodriguez
Sonja Wermager
Chloe Koch '27
Sirius Tao '28

Viola

Chad Topaz, *principal*
Ray Wang '25
Cathy Hall-Schor
James Bergin
Leo Goldmakher
En-Ting Hsu

Cello

Julian Muller, *principal*
EB Diallo '25
Richard Mickey
Perri Morris
Owyn Darrell-Sterbak '28
Leah Yoon '28
Arianna Suarez '25
Seohyeon Lee '26.5
Nykolas Rekasius '26
Mia Holmgren

Double Bass

Marc Schmied, *principal*
Dorian Jackman, *principal*
Evan Runyon, *principal*
Spencer Nichols '28
Lachlan Canavan '26

Flute

Jacqueline DeVoe, *principal*
Nicole Albright '25
Hannah Yoon '25
Serenity Young-Ferguson '25
Austin Lin '27
Jackson McFerron '28
Alex Moon '27

Oboe

Charles Huang, *principal*
Kiri Fitzpatrick '25
Quentin Funderburg '25

Clarinet

Michael Dee, *principal*
Locke Meyer '25
Susanna Boberg '27
Eric Zhou '27

Bassoon

Susan Daves, *principal*
Nathaniel Tunggal '25
William Safford

Contrabassoon

William Safford

Horn

Victor Sungarian, *principal*
Tom Monkell
Benjamin Wien '28
Protik Majumder

Trumpet

Eric Latini, *principal*
Artie Carpenter '25
Oliver Jones '27

Trombone

Alan Burns, *principal*
Gerald Zaffuts

Bass Trombone

Jonathan Myers

Tuba

Fisher Irwin '28

Harp

Heather Cornelius, *principal*
Summer Keating '25

Piano

Charles Tsui, *principal*

Timpani/Percussion

Matthew Gold, *principal*
Jacob Fanto '25
Eleanor Race '28
Arthur Boote '28
Alex Atchely
Bailey Forfa

Orchestra Manager

Jeff Miller

Librarians

Leena Zhu '27
Seohyeon Lee '26.5

Stage Managers

Beza Lulseged '25, *head*
Giulianna Bruce '25

Special thanks to:

The Department of Music and custodial staff; Jonathan Myers, Concert and Event Coordinator
Harry van Baaren, poster design; Dan Czernecki, recording engineer

See music.williams.edu for full details and additional happenings as well as to sign up for the weekly e-newsletters.

Williams Gospel Choir

Sat Apr 26 | Chapin Hall | 4:00 PM

EB Diallo '25, cello

Sat Apr 26 | Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall | 6:00 PM

MIDWEEKMUSIC

Wed Apr 30 | Chapin Hall | 12:15 PM

Violin Studio Recital

Wed Apr 30 | Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall | 4:00 PM

Brass Ensemble

Wed Apr 30 | Chapin Hall | 7:30 PM

Music program funding is provided by

Starr Danforth Fund
M. C. Thompson Fund
Delta Upsilon Fund
Sutton Family Music Fund
Irwin Shainman Fund
F. C. Cardillo Memorial Fund
L. Antony Fisher 1956 Endowment for Music
Lester Martin Fund for Music Instrument Maintenance
Lyell B. Clay 1946
Artist-in-Residence in Jazz
Artist-in-Residence in Piano, Voice & Violin
Arthur Foote Music Collection
Lester Martin Fund for Music Lesson Scholarships
R. Ramsey Music Fund
Spring Street Stompers
Alice Oakes Dunn Music Lessons
Willem Willeke Music Collection
Steven Bodner Memorial Fund
The Roselie and Louis Kurtzman Fund
Williams Musical Clubs, Williams Jazz Ensemble

Visiting Artists

Renee Rosnes Quartet

Talujon

Music from China

Sona Jobarteh, kora

Lucie Robert, violin; Jeffrey Cohen, piano

funded by W. Ford Schumann '50 Performing Arts Endowment

Kusika and the Zambezi Marimba Band are sponsored by the
Department of Music, the Department of Dance, and the Fund for Afro-American Studies

Music Ensembles Fund

This fund has been established in support of the following ensembles at Williams:
Berkshire Symphony, Concert & Chamber Choir, Jazz Ensemble, Symphonic Winds,
and Kusika & the Zambezi Marimba Band

If you wish to become a donor, contributions may be mailed to Music Ensembles Fund, Attn. Michelle Picard, 54 Chapin Hall Drive, Williamstown, MA 01267. Please let us know how you would like your name listed in our program.