



Featuring

SOUTH FLORIDA'S GOT TALENT

CELEBRATING THE NEXT GENERATIONS
of Young Musical Masters

EXPERIENCE THE WINNERS OF THE 2025 ALHAMBRA ORCHESTRA RAY MILLETTE CONCERTO COMPETITION as they take center stage to share their passion for music with Alhambra Orchestra. Prepare to be dazzled by their virtuosity and passion as they showcase their musical prowess in captivating performances that will leave you spellbound.



DANIEL ANDAI Conductor

Saturday, February 1, 2025 | 7:30 PM

FIU Wertheim Performing Arts Center

10910 SW 17th Street, Miami 33199



MICHAEL LI Violin



LILAH HAHN piano



RAUL RODRIGUEZ Viola



SOUTH FLORIDA'S GOT TALENT CELEBRATION



Greetings From The Alhambra Orchestra Board, Officers And Musicians,

Welcome to another free concert for you, our beloved community members. We hope you and your family enjoyed the holiday season and to extend the joyous occasion, we are delighted to present this AO favorite event to kick off 2025, the young winners of the annual concerto competition. As a community resource, AO believes in fostering and featuring South Florida's youth. AO engages in side-by-side performances with youth orchestras, includes students in AO's annual chamber music workshop, visits schools, facilitates this competition, now in its twenty-first year, and will begin student performed pre-show concert beginning this season. Many prior winners attended prestigious colleges and conservatories, to then began music careers.

Top students from Miami-Dade, Broward, Monroe, and Palm Beach counties submit recordings of solo pieces of which eminent musicians and educators adjudicate the recordings. Highly rated students perform live with piano accompaniment in a final round, with a different set of judges who selected the winners you'll hear tonight. This year, we thank Javier Mendoza, Ross Harbaugh, Angelica Sganga, Aaron Merritt, Misha Vitenson, and Marina Berberian, for judging all the excellent young performers. The winners rehearsed with AO to prepare tonight's performance and for you to enjoy. You will get to hear the results of this collaboration. AO bookends the evening with two exciting pieces by Dvorak and Wagner.

We invite you to the remaining concerts of this season (see listings on our website), including the upcoming AO musicians small chamber group (7:30 PM, March 16th) concert in an intimate setting at the lovely Coral Gables Congregational Church. This free program (listed on page 13), entitled "From Folk to Classical," features delightful folk tunes and folk-inspired compositions from many cultures. Bring the whole family to enjoy this unusual and enticing repertoire.





THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

This project is supported in part by



We are committed to the belief that music and live performances in particular, are essential to the growth of our community. Made possible by the support of our generous sponsors, the Alhambra Orchestra is pleased to present tonight's program. On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff, we wish to thank all of the individuals that believed in our commitment to bring live music to our community and invested their personal time and effort to make this possible.



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The Alhambra Orchestra's season is made possible with the support of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, the Cultural Affairs Council, the Mayor and the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners.



PERSONNEL

Winners and Soloists



MICHAEL LI, Violin



LILAH HAHN, Piano



RAUL RODRIGUEZ, Viola



Please take a moment to complete our anonymous 11-question survey.

Your responses will help us with our grant applications and assist in evaluating and planning our programs.

ALHAMBRA ORCHESTRA PERSONNEL

Violin 1

Steffen Zeichner (concertmaster), Maria Consuela Armas, Roda Buenconsejo, Joy Castro, Sofia Causa-Dumay, Kelvin Clavelo, Idanis Gallimore, Smiley Hsu, Francisco Jimenez, Roraima Omana, Wendy Ocando, Silvina Parra, Michelle Pelletier, Katie Peña, Katerina Rancano, Dolores Stablini, Celine Thum, Peter Vertes

Violin 2

Xiomara Sepulveda Rueda, Faye Albert, Jackie Alvarez, Cennet Çevik, Janet Copeland, Orlando Correa, Mariangely Diaz, Teko Hashimoto, Joy Hyams, Ana Ortega, Marianna Pineda, Luz Maria Luque Sanchez

Viola

Michelle Sanchez, Bill Burrows, Marjory Fontalvo Carbajas, Jessica Ginsberg, Helen Hauser, Paul Strassburg, Leo Walz

Cello

Sara Wigderson, Starina D' Haiti, Suzanne Gottlieb Calleja, Sophie Hager, Isabelle Mencia, August Neal, Flor Stablini, Ruth Alexandra Smith, Richard Woodworth, Pamela Yen

Bass

Joe Yeargin, William Mattimore, Richard Rose

Flute, Piccolo

Carol Naveira-Nicholson, Sophia Camejo, Aldo Fernandez

Oboe & English Horn

Camber Flick, David Suck

Clarinet

Evan Eldridge, John A. Garcia,

Bassoon

Gail Harrison, Robert Lossino

French Horn

Carlos Briceno, **Alejandro Retana**, Taylor Bowen-Longino, Seth Patterson

Trumpet

Jean-Claude Misset, Miles Lawrence, Nelson Martinez

Trombone

Brian Albear, Chandler Finley, Steve Saunders

Tuba

Horby Lopez

Percussion

Brian Lewis, Andrey Kovalenko, Damien Llevada

Bold Indicates Section Principal



PROGRAM

Slavonic Dances, Op. 46, No. 4

Antonín Dvořák (1841–1904)

Concerto for Viola and Orchestra, Movement 1: “Andante”

William Turner Walton (1902–1983)

Raul Rodriguez, Viola Soloist

Concerto for Piano and Orchestra, Movement 1

Emilie Mayer (1812–1883)

Lilah Hahn, Piano Soloist

10-MINUTE INTERMISSION

Violin Concerto No. 5 in A Minor, Op. 37

Henri Vieuxtemps (1820–1881)

Michael Li, Violin Soloist

Presentation of Awards to Competition Winners

Overture to Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg, WWV 96

Richard Wagner (1813–1883)



WERTHEIM PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

FIU | The Wertheim

Herbert and Nicole Wertheim
School of Music & Performing Arts

The Wertheim Performing Arts Center (WPAC), opened in 1996, is a prominent cultural hub located on the Modesto Maidique Campus of Florida International University (FIU) in Miami. Named after Dr. Herbert Wertheim, a renowned inventor, engineer, and philanthropist, and his wife Nicole, who played a significant role in the development of FIU, the center reflects their dedication to the university and the arts. The facility



serves as the home for the FIU Department of Theatre and the FIU School of Music, providing a vibrant space for students and faculty to engage with the arts.

As one of Miami's premier collegiate venues, WPAC hosts a wide range of performances, from theatrical productions to concerts by world-class musicians and artists. The center's state-of-the-art facilities and acoustics make it a key location for both academic performances and community events, contributing to the cultural richness of the region. With a capacity to accommodate diverse audiences, it has become a cornerstone of Miami's artistic landscape.

The \$14 million Wertheim Performing Arts Center underscores Florida International University's strong commitment to the performing arts, enhancing both the educational experience for students and the cultural life of the local community. By providing a platform for artistic expression and creativity, WPAC continues to serve as a vital center for the exploration and celebration of theatre and music in Miami.



DANIEL ANDAI

DANIEL ANDAI, Artistic Director, Conductor

Hailed as an “Exemplary Leader” by the New York Times for leading members of New York Philharmonic and Manhattan School of Music in Carnegie Hall, violinist Daniel Andai has shared his versatile artistry as a soloist, recitalist, chamber musician, concertmaster, conductor and recording artist in major concert venues across 50 countries. He is a prizewinner of numerous competitions and soloed with orchestras around the world.



Daniel Andai is concertmaster of Miami Symphony Orchestra (MISO) with whom he made special solo appearances, including a performance on a violin from the Holocaust surviving Violins of Hope collection and a feature during a private induction ceremony for JAXA Astronaut Soichi Noguchi’s to the Genius 100 Visionary roster, while he orbited Earth aboard the International Space Station. Andai was concertmaster and soloist of the Philharmonic Orchestra of the Americas in New York and recorded multiple Billboard rated SONY Classical CD’s. He appeared as guest concertmaster with orchestras in Mexico, Brazil, Switzerland, and France, and performed in the sections of New York Philharmonic and Miyazaki Festival Orchestra (Japan). He also worked closely with members of major string quartets, symphony, opera, and ballet orchestras from around the world.

Dr. Daniel Andai is an educator and Dean of the Music Division at New World School of the Arts (Miami, Florida) where he is the Chief Academic Officer, responsible for operating an institutional partnership between Miami Dade College, University of Florida, and Miami Dade County Public Schools. He is Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of Alhambra Orchestra in Miami, and previously served as Artistic Director of Killington Music Festival (Killington, Vermont), and as violin professor and Marialice Shivers Endowed Chair in Fine Arts at University of Texas in Edinburg. He has participated in over 30 summer music festivals and performed with countless recognized artists in the pop and classical fields.

He has served on boards and advisory boards, been invited to serve as a panelist for Jeb and Columba Bush’s Arts4Life organization, and performed for numerous world dignitaries, including Hillary Clinton, Donald Trump, Lech Walesa, Al Gore, Benjamin Netanyahu, among others.

Daniel Andai is an alumnus of University of Miami (DMA), Manhattan School of Music (PS & MM), Lynn University (BM), New World School of the Arts (HS) and Miami Dade College.



STEFFEN ZEICHNER

STEFFEN ZEICHNER, Concertmaster

Dr. Steffen Zeichner is a creative violinist who actively performs within jazz, classical, klezmer, and a variety of other musical genres.



A native of Gainesville, Florida, Steffen plays with several ensembles and orchestras throughout the South Florida area. He is the leader of 5 String Swing, a lively jazz violin driven band that regularly presents shows of Jazz, Swing, and American Standards.

Steffen is a passionate educator with a focus on developing the creative potential of string players, particularly through exposing them to musical genres outside of the classical world and through helping students to develop improvisational and real-world performance skills. He has an international studio of private violin students learning various styles of music with him both in-person and virtually, and is the adjunct Lecturer of Jazz Violin at Florida International University.

Throughout his career Steffen has shared the stage with many top artists including Chick Corea, Gloria Estefan, Cyrille Aimee, Nestor Torres, Kenny Loggins, Ben Folds, Maria Schneider, Terence Blanchard, and George Benson, with whom he was featured as the violin soloist and concertmaster for Benson's 2013 album, "Inspiration".

Steffen is also an experienced studio musician, credited on a Grammy winning CD, multiple Downbeat awarded recordings, and many other albums and commercial releases within a myriad of genres.

He holds a BM in Violin Performance from Indiana University (studying with Henryk Kowalski, Federico Agostini, Jorja Fleezanis, David Baker) and a Masters and Doctorate of Musical Arts from the University of Miami (Glenn Basham, Charles Castleman, Gary Lindsay, Stephen Guerra Jr). Steffen has also studied jazz violin with acclaimed jazz violinists John Blake Jr, Mark O'Connor, and Jeremy Cohen.



MICHAEL LI

MICHAEL LI, 1st Place, Violin Soloist



Violinist Michael Li, first place winner, is 17 and attends the Dreyfoos School of the Arts in West Palm Beach, where he is a junior. He has been studying violin for 11 years; his present teacher is Huifang Chen. In the past, Michael has studied with Mr. Li-Yuan Sun; Ms. Jin Zhang,

a member of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra; and with Mr. Patrick Clifford at PBA University from 2020 to 2023. Additionally,

Michael has participated in competitions such as the Hilton Head and PBAU Concerto Competition. He has a deep love for music and enjoys performing in different settings. Outside of music, Michael enjoys cross country and track.



LILAH HAHN



LILAH HAHN, 2nd Place, Piano Soloist

Pianist Lilah, age 11, started piano lessons when she was five. Homeschooled, she studies with Dr. Luca Cubisino through The Frost Prep Advanced Piano Program. She has participated in numerous solo and duo competitions. Recent achievements include first place in the 2023 FMTA district concerto competition, Chopin Foundation 2023 and 2024 young local pianists concerts, first place in the 2023 Golden Classical Music Awards where she performed at Carnegie Hall, and first place in the 2024 GMYS piano concerto competition where she performed with the Greater Miami Youth Symphony.

Lilah also studies composition, singing, and violin. She plays in the North Palm Youth Symphony for violin and piano. Her passion is playing music by women composers to share pieces that deserve to be well-known. Beyond music, Lilah finds joy in baking, art, jewelry making, Girl Scouts, swim team, and 17 chickens, each named after women pianists and composers.



RAUL RODRIGUEZ



RAUL RODRIGUEZ , 3rd Place, Viola Soloist

Raul is a 17 year old violist from Boca Raton, FL. He is a current senior at the North Broward Preparatory School where he is a recipient of both academic and Fine Arts music scholarships. His musical journey began at the age of 5 as a piano student, adding violin studies at the age of 7. He subsequently discovered his love for the viola at 10 years old. He currently studies with Mr. Michael Klotz. Raul is an experienced orchestra musician and has been a member of the Florida Youth Orchestra (FYO) since 2015. He has been the principal violist of FYO's Principal Orchestra since 2021. He has been a consistent FL All-State Orchestra violist yearly since 2020. Raul was also selected to be one of 2 principal student violists of the New World Symphony Side by Side ensemble in April 2023 and April 2024. He received an Honorable Mention in Eastern Music Festival's concerto competition in July 2024. Raul hopes to pursue his musical studies in college, considering a degree in viola performance as well as completing his pre-medical studies. In his free time, Raul enjoys traveling, computer coding, playing video games and recreational tennis.



PROGRAM NOTES

ANTONIN DVORAK (1841-1904), was a Czech composer of the Romantic period who incorporated folk and nationalistic elements into the symphonic tradition. Following early success in Prague, Dvorak submitted scores to a prize competition in Austria, where his work was seen and championed by Brahms. Brahms introduced Dvorak to his own publisher, and with the publication of Dvorak's Slavonic Dances, Op. 46, his international career was launched. Among his travels, Dvorak spent several years in the United States where he composed the Symphony from the New World and the string quartet nicknamed "American," his most famous piece of chamber music.

WILLIAM TURNER WALTON (1902-1983) was a British composer who, during a sixty-year career, wrote music in several classical genres and styles, from film scores to opera. The Viola Concerto (1929) brought Walton to the forefront of British classical music. It was written at the suggestion of Sir Thomas Beecham for the viola virtuoso Lionel Tertis. When Tertis received the manuscript, he rejected it immediately. The composer and violist Paul Hindemith stepped into the breach and gave the first performance. The work was greeted with enthusiasm. In The Manchester Guardian, Eric Blom wrote, "This young composer is a born genius." Tertis soon changed his mind and took the work up.

EMILIE MAYER (1812-1883) was a German composer of Romantic music. She produced eight symphonies and at least 15 concert overtures, as well as numerous chamber works and lieder. She is often referred to as the "Female Beethoven" because of her pioneering attitude and certain similarities of style. She was, by far, the most famous German woman composer during her lifetime, and her works were performed in leading European cultural centers. However, since her death, she has been largely neglected until recent times. In addition to composing, Mayer was a sculptor, and many of her sculptures are in collections across Europe to this day.



PROGRAM NOTES

HENRI VIEUXTEMPS (1820-1881) was a Belgian composer and violinist. He occupies an important place in the history of the violin as a prominent member of the Franco-Belgian violin school. He was particularly admired in Russia where he resided permanently between 1846 and 1851 as a court musician of Tsar Nicholas I and soloist in the Imperial Theatre. He founded the violin school of the Saint Petersburg Conservatory and guided the formation of a “Russian school” of violinists. Although he also wrote for other instruments, Vieuxtemps as a composer is best known for the seven virtuosic violin concerti he wrote for himself and his students.

RICHARD WAGNER (1813-1883) was a German composer, theatre director, polemicist, and conductor who is chiefly known for his operas. Wagner revolutionized opera, synthesizing the poetic, visual, musical and dramatic arts. His compositions, particularly those of his later period, are notable for their complex textures, rich harmonies and orchestration. His advances in musical language, such as extreme chromaticism and quickly shifting tonal centres, greatly influenced the future development of classical music. His *Tristan und Isolde* is sometimes described as marking the start of modern music. Despite his contributions to art, Wagner remains a controversial figure because his personal life was turbulent and many of his social theories deplorable.

Program notes by Helen Hauser
Sources: Wikipedia and YouTube



ABOUT THE ALHAMBRA ORCHESTRA

Founded in 1990, the Alhambra Orchestra is dedicated to promoting live classical performances and music education in Miami-Dade County. Its corporate entity, Alhambra Music, Inc., is a tax-exempt nonprofit primarily operated and managed by volunteer musicians. As a result, the orchestra has minimal administrative expenses, with nearly all of its funding going directly into programming. The orchestra strives to provide free concerts whenever possible, ensuring that everyone in the community can experience its performances without barriers.

The Alhambra Orchestra is entirely independent and not affiliated with any educational or civic institutions, though it frequently partners with other community groups. Our highly trained musicians, most of whom volunteer their time and talents, are diverse members of the community who pursue various professions but share a deep belief in the importance and power of great music. Until this year, government support at all levels has been a mainstay, but state funding was withdrawn from all Florida arts groups this year, and other government sources are in doubt for the future. Therefore, funding from corporate sponsors, foundations, and generous audience members is vital for our ability to continue serving our community.

Tax-deductible donations are gratefully accepted through our website (alhambraorchestra.org)

Donate via Venmo: Open the Venmo app, tap "Pay/Request," search for Alhambra-Music, and choose the amount to donate. It's fast, easy, and secure!

By mail: Checks can be sent to: 5794 SW 40th Street, PMB 189, Miami, FL 33155.

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KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH THE ORCHESTRA

For our schedule and general information about the orchestra, please visit our website, AlhambraOrchestra.org.

You can also contact us via email, music@alhambraorchestra.org, Facebook messages, and our voice-mail, (305) 668-9260.

Please be sure to visit our social media channels and subscribe to them:

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FROM FOLK TO CLASSICAL

JOIN US NEXT FOR



FROM FOLK TO CLASSICAL

Prepare to be swept away on a journey across continents as the talented members of our orchestra breathe life into a vibrant tapestry of folk-inspired works from Europe and America. Join us for an evening of enchantment and celebration as we unite through the universal language of music.

DATE:
Sunday, March 16, 2025

TIME:
7:30 PM

VENUE:
CORAL GABLES
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
3010 Desoto Blvd.,
Coral Gables 33134



FREE:
No Tickets Required.



THANK YOU!

For Your Continued Support

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