

*Williams College Department of Music*



## **Berkshire Symphony Student Soloist Competition**

Jacques Offenbach (1819 – 1880) "Les oiseaux dans la charmille," from *The Tales of Hoffmann*

Sarah McGinn '24, soprano; Jesse Cohen-Greenberg '24, piano

Felix Mendelssohn (1809 – 1847) Violin Concerto in E Minor, op. 64

*I. Allegro molto appassionato*

Isabella Hayden '26, violin; Bob Logan, piano

W.A. Mozart (1756 – 1791) "Hai già vinta la causa!" from *Le nozze di Figaro*

Peter Miles '24, baritone; Jesse Cohen-Greenberg '24, piano

Edward Elgar (1857 – 1934) Cello Concerto in E Minor, op. 85

*IV. Allegro*

Rachel Broweleit '24, cello; Bob Logan, piano

Gaetano Donizetti (1797 – 1848) "Quel guardo, il cavaliere... So anch'io la virtù magica," from *Don Pasquale*

Emma Hennessy '26, soprano; Jesse Cohen-Greenberg '24, piano

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770 – 1827) Violin Concerto in D Major, op. 61

I. *Allegro ma non troppo*

Frances Hayward '24, violin; Lucy Luo '27, piano

Camille Saint-Saëns (1835 – 1921) "Amour Viens Aider ma Faiblesse," from *Samson and Delilah*

Iona Kruger '25, mezzo soprano; Jesse Cohen-Greenberg '24, piano

Maurice Ravel (1875 – 1937) Piano Concerto in G Major

I. *Allegrement*

Janine Wang '26, piano; Doris Stevenson, piano

W.A. Mozart (1756 – 1791) "Mi tradi quell'alma ingrata," from *Don Giovanni*

Lea Obermüller '24, soprano; Jesse Cohen-Greenberg '24, piano

Ernest Chausson (1855 – 1899) *Chausson Poeme*, op. 25

Weiran Jiang '26, violin; Jesse Cohen-Greenberg '24, piano

Charles Gounod (1818 – 1893) *Avant de quitter ces lieux*

Edmond Laird-Raylor '24, baritone; Jesse Cohen-Greenberg '24, piano

Giacomo Puccini (1858 – 1924) "Chi il bel sogno di Doretta," from *La Rondine*

Molly Arts '24, soprano; Jesse Cohen-Greenberg '24, piano

**Tuesday, December 5, 2023**

**6:00 p.m.**

*Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall  
Williamstown, Massachusetts*

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

# Berkshire Symphony Student Soloist Competition

## The Judges

Soprano **Amanda Boyd** has been hailed by critics as one of Britain's "Rising Stars." Ms. Boyd trained at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, where she won the Susan Longfield prize and was supported by the Countess of Munster Trust. She also trained at the National Opera Studio in London, where she was supported by Friends of Covent Garden and the Foundation for Sports and the Arts. Ms. Boyd was coached and mentored by Elizabeth Vaughan and Dame Janet Baker throughout her training.

Among her many roles, Amanda Boyd played the title role in the film Lucia (Donizetti's Lucia di Lammermoor). Other operatic roles include: La Contessa (Mozart's Le Nozze di Figaro) for the New Opera Festival in Rome, Italy; Ginevra (Handel's Ariodante) for the Covent Garden Festival; Adina (Donizetti's L'Elisir d'Amore) for Bel Canto UK and the Cambridge Opera Players; Martha (Flotow's Martha) for Bel Canto UK; Lucia (Britten's The Rape Of Lucretia) for Music Theatre Wales at the Cheltenham and Buxton Festivals; Romilda (Handel's Xerxes) with The Early Opera Company; Gretel (Humperdinck's Hansel and Gretel); Despina (Mozart's Cosi Fan Tutte) for The London Opera Players; Cunegonde and Maria (Bernstein's Candide and West Side Story) with the Columbia Festival Orchestra, NY; Dido (Purcell's Dido & Aeneas) with Broad Street Players, PS21, Chatham NY; Cleopatra (Handel's Giulio Cesare) with Upstate Chamber Opera, Albany, NY., and Constance Fletcher in R.B. Schlather's production of The Mother Of Us All at Hudson Hall, NY.

Ms. Boyd's performances of contemporary works include: the lead as Maeve in the world premiere of Deirdre Gribbin's Hey! Persephone for the Almeida and Aldeburgh Festivals; the role of Duende in the world premiere of Simon Holt's A Nightingale's To Blame for Opera North UK; Edward Barnes' one woman opera The Vagabond Queen for Hudson Chamber Opera, Hudson, NY and Soprano soloist in John Kelly's Find My Way Home at the Joyce Theatre. Amanda headlined and toured with the band, The Art of Noise, for their album The Seduction of Claude Debussy, in the USA and UK.

Amanda's regular solo concert appearances include Vaughan Williams' Serenade to Music with Sir Simon Rattle; Poulenc's Gloria with Sir David Willcocks; Britten folksong arrangements (Albany Symphony Orchestra) Britten's Les Illuminations; Haydn's Nelson Mass; Honegger's King David; Handel's Ode St.Cecelia; (Broad Street Chorale and Orchestra NY)

In the Fall of 2022, Amanda performed the US premiere of Kindersang - a song cycle composed by Deirdre Gribbin, set to poems written by kindertransport survivor Lotte Kramer, for soprano and violin at the Lincoln Center, NYC.

Under BoydSong, Amanda continues to keep the Art Song repertoire alive, regularly performing recitals with piano, her trio Trimonious and other chamber groups in concert halls; private homes; and galleries both in the USA and Europe.

Amanda has a private teaching studio in Chatham NY and lives on an apple farm with her family.

**Joel Pitchon** is active as a soloist, concertmaster and chamber music player. He has received acclaim for his performances with nationally and internationally renowned ensembles.

Pitchon studied with Lewis Kaplan, Oscar Shumsky and Joseph Fuchs, and received his degrees from The Juilliard School. He has served as the concertmaster of numerous orchestras, including the Orquestra Ciutat de Barcelona (Spain), the New York Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra, the Colorado Music Festival Orchestra, the New Zealand Symphony (guest), the National Arts Centre Orchestra (Ottawa, Canada, guest) and the EOS Orchestra (NY). He has participated in many concerts in the United States and abroad with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra and the New York Philharmonic.

Mr. Pitchon also works extensively in chamber ensembles. He has been a member of the Forster String Trio, the Walden Chamber Players and the Kinor String Quartet, among other groups. Each summer he participates in a series of concerts as leader of the New Baroque Soloists. Mr. Pitchon is currently a member of the Sage Chamber Music Society.

As a soloist he has performed with the Orquestra Ciutat de Barcelona, Philharmonia Virtuosi, and the EOS Orchestra among others. The New York Times wrote of his playing in the EOS production of Stravinsky's L'Histoire du Soldat "...superb playing by Joel Pitchon...."

He has appeared on numerous radio and television broadcasts including WGBH, WNYC and PBS. Mr. Pitchon was featured on the TV3 Catalunya program Cadencia, and has been interviewed about his work for The Strad magazine. He has recorded for Deutsche Grammophon, CBS Masterworks and Vox Cum Laude, among others. Recordings include a CD of four Sonatas for violin and piano by Clifton J. Noble, with the composer at the piano for the Gasparo label New England Legacy, with pianist Jonathan Bass of works by Quincy Porter, Walter Piston and Amy Beach, also recorded for the Gasparo label; Sun Threads, a recording of the chamber music of Augusta Read Thomas, made with the Walden Chamber Players, is available on the ARTCD label; works of composer Donald Wheelock, also with the Walden Chamber Players, is available on the Albany label. His most recent CD of Piano Trios by Perera, Piston and Bernstein on the Bridge label has received critical acclaim including winning the Art Music Lounge, "What a Performance award."

**John Perkel** serves as Music Coordinator of the Berkshire Chamber Players. Mr. Perkel has spent 35 years as an orchestra librarian for the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, and Boston Symphony Orchestra. During summers, he served as orchestra librarian at the Tanglewood Music Center, where he had the privilege of working with some of the most talented and wonderful young musicians from all over the world. After the 2016 Tanglewood season, Mr. Perkel retired from the Boston Symphony and moved with his wife, Barbara, back to the Berkshires. Before his employment in the orchestra world, he was a music teacher at the Berkshire Hills Regional School District and also was a psychiatric worker at the Austen Riggs Center in Stockbridge.