



Grooves and Moves

A HSO Dance-Event Featuring

Members of Yale Swing, Blues & Fusion &

Vocalists from Sacred Heart Academy



Friday, February 7th, 2025

7:30 PM

Hamden Memorial Town Hall

www.hamdensymphony.org

About HSO

Last fall marked the beginning of Hamden Symphony Orchestra's 63rd season! An all-volunteer orchestra of more than 80 musicians from the Greater New Haven area and beyond, Hamden Symphony members share a passion for rehearsing and performing great music together.

Founded in 1962 by Ruth T. Brooks, the Orchestra provides cultural enrichment to the community of Hamden, Connecticut, through its series of concerts, its annual Young Musicians Concerto Competition (YMCC), the Ruth T. Brooks Scholarship Award, and the rewarding experience offered to its members and guest artists.

The Orchestra's commitment to the musical development of local students is a source of great pride. For the last 55 years the Hamden Symphony Orchestra's YMCC has provided an invaluable educational experience to gifted high school musicians in the area: the chance to perform as a soloist with a full symphony orchestra. The competition is held annually each winter, and the winners are featured at the Orchestra's spring concert. In addition, for over 40 years the Orchestra has honored a graduating Hamden High School senior who has demonstrated excellence in their musical studies with the Ruth T. Brooks Scholarship Award. The 2024 winner of this award was violinist Aidan Swan.

From 1969-2007, Hamden Symphony Orchestra was under the baton of Maestro Paul Gacek. To honor his distinguished leadership, continuing support and several return appearances to the podium in recent years, Maestro Gacek was officially designated Hamden Symphony Orchestra's "Conductor Laureate" in 2017.

In 2008, Vesna Mehinovic became the Music Director of Hamden Symphony Orchestra. Under Vesna's baton, the Orchestra has continued to expand, and has presented compelling and innovative concert-programs that have featured new compositions, talented instrumental and vocal soloists, and even dance and multimedia components. Hamden Symphony Orchestra has been honored to be invited by the Town of Hamden to perform at its Independence Day Fireworks Celebration for a vast audience several times in recent years.

Hamden Symphony Orchestra

Vesna Mehinovic, Music Director

Friday, February 7th, 2025

7:30 PM

Hamden Memorial Town Hall

Concert Program

Dancing encouraged on the “dance floor” during highlighted songs!

The Greatest Showman
Benj Pasek, Justin Paul & Ryan Lewis
arr. Sean O'Loughlin

The Girl From Ipanema (Garôta De Ipanema)
Norman Gimbel & Vinicius de Moraes
Antonio Carlos Jobim,
arr. James Ployhar

Love's Theme
Barry White
arr. Jay Chattaway

Thriller
Rod Temperton
arr. James Ployhar

Mission: Impossible Theme
Lalo Schifrin
arr. Calvin Custer

Orchestral Rock Artistry
Saul Feldstein

A Fifth of Beethoven
Walter Murphy
arr. James Burden

Pirates of the Caribbean
Klaus Badelt
arr. Ted Ricketts

Big Band Spectacular
Various Artists
arr. John Higgins

Members of Yale Swing, Blues & Fusion
HSO Winds, Brass, Percussion & Bass

Dancing Queen
Stig Anderson, Bjorn Ulvaeus, Benny Andersson
arr. Daryl McKenzie

Vocalists from Sacred Heart Academy

Musicians of the Orchestra

Violin I

Stacy Shafer '09
Concertmaster
The Ruth T. Brooks Chair

Kimberlee Arnett '23
Elizabeth Braddon '16
Ann Clemmons '10
Fred Leng '12
Andrea Osburne '17
Anna Schmeer '91
Frank Schmeer '91
Dongjin Seo '24
Xiangyu Shi '23
Tim Shizume '23
Amanda Zubek '22
Rebecca Zucconi '14

Violin II

Alicia Barrett-Oliver '24
Yinchen Hao '23
Nancy Mangino '14
Joeanna Novak '20
Robert Tavolieri '22
Avinash Veeraraghav '23
Jing Yuan '24
Eleanor Zagoren '22

Viola

Wyatt Bosma '17
Monica Ehrenfels '22
Karen Kriner '13
Shasta Ramachandran '22
Joy Snyder '05
Rolland Strasser '17
Anand Veeraraghav '23

Cello

Elizabeth Baldwin '17
Olga Shevelkina '23
Tanya Townsend '17
Marney Walker '19
Raffaella Zanetti '24

Bass

Andre Cardenas '24

Flute

Judith Kramer Koret '08
Linda Latimer '24
Mamie Wang '22
Elyssa Wrubel '24

Piccolo

Linda Latimer '24

Oboe

Terri Bennett '16
Misha Kummel '24
Clara Wang '22

Clarinet

Kathryn Anderson '25
Elizabeth Black '20
Kathy Muench '15
Marcel Paige '25
Kimberly Vish Vock '20

Bass Clarinet

Elizabeth Black '20

Bassoon

Sam Bergstrom '23
Julia Fischer '25

Alto Saxophone

Alexander Antaya '24
Courtney Carrignan '25
Evann D'Adamo '18
Nick Gardinier '24

Tenor Saxophone

Brendan Cassidy '23
Shire Feingold '17

French Horn

Mitch Dvoracek '23
Matthew McAuliffe '24
Margaret Pavlovich '22
Ashlee Richardson '24
Michelle Scalzo '19

Trumpet

Jennifer Carlson '24
Sander Cohen-Janes '23
Olivia Enny '22
Jameson Forsythe '20
Kei Kohmoto '23
Christian Venturella '22

Trombone

Anna Franz '14
Bill Gambardella '92
Molly Gambardella '11
Ethan Romano '16
Tylarr Throm '24
Alan Weide '22

Euphonium

Tylarr Throm '24

Tuba

Matthew DeNegre '25

Electric Guitar

Ari Sadowitz '25

Electric Bass

Andrew Zielinski '24

Keyboard

Betsy Goldberg '15
Braeden Shizume '23

Drums & Percussion

Christopher Bradley '24
David Liskov '10
Mitchell Rogers '22
Braeden Shizume '23
Adam Weber '21

“Big Band Spectacular” Dancers
Members of Yale, Swing, Blues & Fusion

Sterling Badner
Becky Lipnick
Jesse Newman
Tia Pogue
Matt Scott
Thomas Torng
Sarah Ullom-Minnich
Freya Wencker

“Dancing Queen” Vocalists
Students from Sacred Heart Academy

Lead Voice
Claire Langdon

Backing Vocals
Cayla Alexis
Sophia Carasco
Lilianna Guistinello
Katherine Kile
Audrey Medvecky
Chloe Retuya
Nylah Tim-Wynn
Lucy Paige White
Efuah Yeboah

HOP INTO SWING

*A Lindy Hop
and Balboa
Workshop
with Jennifer
Barnett and
Dominic
Hanna*

Live Jazz by the
Wes Lewis Quintet



Yale
Swing
Blues
Fusion

FEB 22-23

HIGH LANE CLUB

40 High Lane
North Haven, CT 06473

Carpool available

ko-fi.com/yaleswingbluesfusion



About the Music Director

Vesna Mehinovic has been the Music Director and Conductor of Hamden Symphony Orchestra since 2008. She began her formal education in music by receiving a diploma in Music Theory and Piano Teaching and Performing from the High School for Music in Sarajevo. She continued her Bachelor of Arts degree in Conducting and Music Theory at the Sarajevo Music Academy, and a Master of Arts in Conducting and Music Theory at Wesleyan University in Middletown.

Vesna has been the recipient of many honors in her native country, and is the first professional woman to conduct an orchestra in Bosnia and Herzegovina. She specialized in Conducting at the Academy for Music and Stage Arts in Graz, Austria in the class of Milan Horvat. Ms. Mehinovic has also served as guest conductor for orchestras in Austria, Serbia, and Croatia.

While in the United States, she has worked with several church and non-religious choirs both in Connecticut and Arizona. As a music teacher Vesna has taught in many elementary, middle, and high schools, as well as having worked with college students at Yale and Wesleyan Universities. Currently, she teaches music and directs the Orchestra and Choirs at Sacred Heart Academy in Hamden. She is also the Conductor of the Quinnipiac University Orchestra, and Organist & Choir Master at St. Michael's Church in Naugatuck.



1976 Single for Walter Murphy's "A Fifth of Beethoven"

Save the Date for HSO's Spring Concert

Featuring 2025 Young Musicians Concerto Competition winners:

Lina Elwood, Piano

Mia Jung-Pitkin, Violin

Philip Larson, Violin

&

2024 winner Mia Gribbon, Clarinet

Sunday, April 27th, 2025 - 3:00 PM

Hamden Memorial Town Hall

2372 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, CT 06518

More info to follow...

Special thanks go to the following for their help in making tonight's concert possible:

- ♪ Town of Hamden Mayor Lauren Garrett & Chief of Staff, Sean Grace.
- ♪ Rose Lion, Town of Hamden Legislative Council Administrator.
- ♪ Town of Hamden facilities services staff.
- ♪ Student musicians from Yale University & Cheshire Academy.
- ♪ Carpool drivers: Olivia Enny, Yinchun Hao, Kimberly Vish Vock & Clara Wang.
- ♪ Choir amplification: Charlie Shafer
- ♪ Front-of-the-house support: Sarena Salmeri, Nic Souris & Adam Weber.
- ♪ Becky Lipnick, Thomas Torng & Yale Swing, Blues & Fusion leadership.
- ♪ Sr. Sheila O'Neill, President, and Sr. Kathleen Mary Coonan, Principal, Sacred Heart Academy, faculty & staff.

Hamden Symphony Orchestra

Board of Directors (2024-2025)

David Liskov, President
Karen Kriner, Vice President
Van Nguyen, Secretary
Adam Weber, Treasurer
Brendan Cassidy, Elective Director
Judith Kramer Koret, Elective Director
Ryan Mitten, Elective Director
Andrea Osburne, Elective Director
Charlie Shafer, Elective Director
Stacy Shafer, Elective Director
Tim Shizume, Elective Director
Nic Souris, Elective Director
Amanda Zubek, Elective Director

Additional Support

Bill Gambardella, Legal Counsel
Judith Kramer Koret, YMCC Chairperson
Tracy Turner, Logo Design

Play An Instrument?

Hamden Symphony Orchestra seeks musicians interested in joining the group for its Spring 2025 concert-season and beyond!

Rehearsals begin soon. For more information, and for the most up-to-date list of openings, visit:

www.hamdensymphony.org/join