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Every great musical instrument has a voice. A rare few also have a remarkable story to tell. The Bachauer Piano, a magnificent 1906 Hamburg-built Steinway & Sons concert grand, is one such instrument. For more than a century, its voice has resonated through concert halls, accompanied legendary artists, and endured some of the most turbulent chapters of modern history.

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THE FINE ARTS ORCHESTRAL SOCIETY (FAOS)
YONKERS PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA (YPO)

2026-2027 Concert Season

Celebrating 64 years of Playing Beautiful Music

YONKERS PHILHARMONIC

DANZA Y ROMANZA CONCERT

ARIEL RUDIAKOV

MUSIC DIRECTOR AND CONDUCTOR

Sunday, November 15, 2026
3 pm
Saunders Trades and Technical High School
183 Palmer Road
Yonkers, New York 10701

PROJECTS ARE SUPPORTED BY ARTSWESTCHESTER AND WESTCHESTER COUNTY GOVERNMENT

ARTSW ARTSWESTCHESTER

FAOS is proud to be a grantee of ArtsWestchester with funding made possible by Westchester County government with the support of County Executive Kenneth W. Jenkins and the Board of Legislators. We also thank the CDBG grant through the City of Yonkers, the Thomas and Agnes Carvel Foundation, Rotary Club of Yonkers-East Yonkers , Westchester County legislatures and New York State Senate grants. We extend special thanks to the Mayor of the City of Yonkers, the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Board of Education for the use of Saunders Auditorium as well as Principal Jeremy Rynders for his support.

Yonkers Philharmonic Orchestra
co-founded in 1962
by
Pasquale A. Pistone and Dr. Kathleen Pistone Carucci
Concert fundraising and organizational support provided by
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2026 ART$WCHALLENGE DONOR CERTIFICATION FORM

The Art$WChallenge matches gifts made in direct response to the Art$WChallenge during the period of **August 13 through December 15, 2026**.

INSTRUCTIONS: This form must be completed by the donor and returned to the designated organization as soon as possible. The organization must then submit **all donation documentation including this form and proof of paid donation through *Submittable.*** *ArtsWestchester* will process submissions in the order in which they are received**. Matching funds are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis.** Participating organizations are encouraged to submit promptly**,** final submission deadline for documentation is **5PM on Friday, December 18, 2026**. Hard copies or submissions by email will not be accepted.

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YONKERS PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

SPONSORED BY:

THE FINE ARTS ORCHESTRAL SOCIETY

Announces its

48th Annual Young Artists Concerto Competition

Spring 2027

First Prize $1000.
Second Prize $750.
Third Prize $500.

The three prize-winners will appear as soloists with the Yonkers Philharmonic Orchestra in a special concert **on Sunday May 23, 2027, at 3:00 pm at Saunders Trades and Technical High School, Yonkers, NY.**

Eligibility
High School Students (grades 9 through 12) who are residents of Westchester County.

Audition Requirement
The deadline for the first part of the audition is a video to be received no later than **March 1st, 2027**. The student should enter the video as part of the final round of auditions and should incorporate all the criteria as noted below.

Finalist audition March 18th, 2027 at the Hoff-Barthelson Music School:
In person audition: All Entrants must provide their own accompanists.
Instrumental contestants should be prepared to perform a complete concerto. All movements must be prepared to be performed to memory.
Piano contestants should be prepared to perform two movements (either the 1st and middle, or middle and final) of a standard 3- or 4- movement concerto, or else a single-movement composition for piano and orchestra, to memory.
Vocal contestants should be prepared to perform three solo arias of contrasting styles from the standard oratorio or operatic repertoire, to memory.

ALL CONTESTANTS ARE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE THEIR OWN ACCOMPANISTS, AND WINNERS MUST REIMBURSE THE ORCHESTRA FOR ANY SCORE RENTAL AND PERFORMANCE RIGHTS FEES IF THEIR WORK IS NOT IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN.

Registration and Fee payment ($75; free for Yonkers-resident students) will be held via the Orchestra's website (www.YonkersPhilharmonic.com) and registration will be open after New Year's Day 2027. The firm deadline for registration will be Sunday, March 1, 2027. For more information, consult the Yonkersphilharmonic.com website or call 914-844-7506.

MUSIC LOVERS – PLEASE HELP FAOS

FAOS has a special funding program: **"The Sustaining Benefactor"** program, that would guarantee basic financial support for FAOS, sponsor of the Yonkers Philharmonic Orchestra**.** Each **Benefactor** will pledge a minimum of **$100.00** or more a year for three years**.** This contribution will be completely tax deductible as FAOS is a 501(C)3 corporation**.** Thank you in advance for your generous donations**.**

Pledge Form:

I commit to making a donation of $_____ to the Fine Arts Orchestral Society of Yonkers in each of the next _____ (minimum of three) calendar years.

Signature:_____ Date_____

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Sustaining Benefactor Project
P.O. Box 705
Yonkers, NY, 10704-0705

President's Message

As the new president of the Fine Arts Orchestral Society (FAOS), I am honored to welcome you to the 2026–2027 season of the Yonkers Philharmonic Orchestra as we celebrate 64 years of bringing exceptional music to our community. We are delighted to open our season with an exciting musical program under the baton of our Music Director and Conductor, Ariel Rudiakov.

Today's performance features the vibrant music of José Pablo Moncayo García and Arturo Márquez, along with Grammy Award winning pianist Claudia Knafo performing Gershwin's timeless *Rhapsody in Blue*.

Be sure to mark your calendars for our upcoming concerts!

Our second concert, on April 11, 2027, is titled *There's No Place Like Home*. This concert explores folk traditions through music, dance, and storytelling. Violinist Joana Genova will perform the Bulgarian Rhapsody *Vardar*, while fiddler John Kirk and banjoist Trisha Miller bring American musical traditions to the program. Dvořák's *New World Symphony* completes this exciting musical journey.

On May 23, 2027, our 48th Annual Young Artists Concerto Competition Winners Concert will close the season. This special performance showcases the exceptional young musicians who have earned the opportunity to perform as soloists with our orchestra. It is always heartwarming to witness their talent, dedication, and enthusiasm as they perform alongside our accomplished musicians. This concert is truly a memorable occasion for both the young artists and our audience.

All concerts will take place here at Saunders Trades and Technical High School.

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, FAOS depends upon the generosity of sponsors, grantors, and individual donors to keep our concerts free and accessible to all. Rising performance costs and expanding community programs make your support more important than ever. I invite you to partner with us in preserving this treasured tradition. Whether through a one-time gift or a sustaining three-year commitment, your generosity will help us keep the music playing for generations to come.

You can make your donation go even further through ArtsWestchester's matching gift program. New gifts and increased contributions from previous donors may qualify for matching funds. Simply check the ArtsWestchester box when making your donation.

Visit **yonkersphilharmonic.com** for concert information and excerpts from our performances.

Now, please sit back, relax, and enjoy the concert!

Madeline

Madeline Micceri Mignone
President

Fine Arts Orchestral Society
d/b/a Yonkers Philharmonic Orchestra

Fine Arts Orchestral Society
Yonkers Philharmonic Orchestra
November 15, 2026
3 PM
Saunders Trades and Technical High School
183 Palmer Rd, Yonkers, NY 10701

Ariel Rudiakov
Music Director and Conductor

Danza y Romanza
Program

Huapango	**Jose Pablo Moncoya Garcia**	**(1912-1958)**
Danzon No.2	**Arturo Marquez**	**(b.1950)**
Rhapsody in Blue	**George Gershwin**	**(1898-1937)**

Claudia Knafo piano

Today's performance of Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue is dedicated in memory of Ronald M. Weiss, a dear friend and ardent supporter of the Yonkers Philharmonic Orchestra. Rhapsody in Blue was one of his favorites and having it performed today by outstanding pianist Claudia Knafo and the YPO orchestra will celebrate Ron's love for great music and his belief of its power to bring people together in a lasting way.

-Intermission-

Three dances from the Three Cornered Hat **Manuel de Falla** **(1876-1946)**

The Neighbor's dance (Seguidillas)
The Miller's dance (Farruca)
Final dance (Jota)

PROUD TO BE SUPPORTED BY ARTSWESTCHESTER AND WESTCHESTER COUNTY GOVERNMENT
This program is made possible by: ARTSW ARTSWESTCHESTER
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Fine Arts Orchestral Society (FAOS)
Yonkers Philharmonic Orchestra (YPO)

How much does "free" really cost?

For the past 64 years, FAOS / YPO has provided high-quality, live *admission-free* concerts for audience members like you.

Each concert season, FAOS raises the funds and organizes at least 3 symphonic "Saunders" concerts for our 55+ member YPO. Funding permitting, FAOS also produces ensemble concerts, featuring 2 to 20 YPO musicians, which are held at the Hudson River Museum, Philipse Manor Hall, senior community and residential centers and the Riverfront and Will libraries.

Concerts cost money and time to produce. While most of the funding is raised through grants awarded by governmental sources and private foundations, FAOS board members and YPO musicians also donate their time. Together, they undertake all of the tasks associated with producing a concert – fundraising, audience development, marketing, publicity, logistics, etc. Each year, that *free labor* combined with the *free use* of the Saunders' auditorium (granted by the Board of Education and the Yonkers Dept. of Parks and Recreation) equals more than $100,000 - when calculated in actual dollars.

Everything else costs real dollars. A soloist costs about $1,500, a piano (rental and tuning) almost $3,000. Each orchestral concert costs about $17,000 to produce. In total, a minimum of $51,000 per year – all of which has to be raised through grants and, hope fully from donations from loyal audience members, like you.

Won't you help us keep the music playing?
Please donate … whatever you can!!

♦ Drop some cash into the donations jar in the lobby ♦ Send us a check - FAOS, P.O. Box 705, Yonkers NY 10704 ♦
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Every donation is greatly appreciated.
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Please help us keep the music playing for you, your friends, and neighbors!! We depend on your support.
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- Cash - In the lobby at the concert
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- Online - Via our website (https://yonkersphilharmonic.com/donor)

Thank you for your continued support.
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Program Notes

Margaret Benedict, Ph.D.

Jose Pablo Moncayo 1942-1958

Huapango

Jose Pablo Moncayo was a Mexican pianist, percussionist, teacher, composer and conductor. He represents the legacies of Mexican Nationalism in music. Moncayo produced masterworks symbolizing the essence of national aspirations.

James Reel writes, *"Huapango* is an 'orchestral rhapsody' that is probably performed more than any other Mexican classical work". Reel suggests that *Huapango* is an exuberant treatment of Mexican folk tunes and based his work on three themes from Veracruz: Siquisiri, Balaju and Gavilancito that are keenly apparent and uniquely intertwined. The word, *Huapango,* may be a corruption of "fandango," or derived from the *Nahuatl* which literally translates as, "onn top of the wood." Thus, alluding to a wooden platform where dancers are performing heavy rapid foot stomping to create the sound of the percussions beat.

Arturo Marquez 1950-

Danzon No 2

Arturo Marquez was the first of nine children. He became familiar with "salon music" when he was a child. His father was a mariachi musician in Mexico, and his parental Grandfather was a Mexican Folk musician in the northern states of Sonora and Chihuahua. The family moved to Los Angeles when he was in middle school, but Arturo was able to return to Mexico when he was sixteen to study at the Conservatory of Music and the Institute of Fine Arts. He also studied in Paris with Jacques Casterede. In 1990 Marquez was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to complete his MFA at California Institute of the Arts in Valencia, California.

Marquez became popular in the 1990's when he was introduced to Latin Ballroom dancing, which led to his most popular works, the *Danzónes.* These works reflect the music of the Veracruz region of Mexico. The rhythmic interest in *Danzon No 2.,* inspired by Cuban folk music, is maintained by a variety of accents and tempos that are a staple throughout the ballroom music of Veracruz and became the inspiration for *Danzon No.2.*

George Gershwin 1898-1937

Rhapsody in Blue

Inspired by Canadian singer Eva Gauthier's classical-jazz concert in November 1923, band leader Paul Whiteman, commissioned Gershwin to write a concerto-like piece in honor of Lincoln's Birthday. *Rhapsody in Blue* premiered in Aeolian Hall in 1924. Following a successful premiere, Whiteman told reporters how Gershwin agreed that it would be "silly to write a symphony which demands certain form. Architecturally It's pretty complicated and it doesn't allow much free movement. And a Rhapsody means that you can rhapsodize,…wander all around."

Gershwin had only five weeks to write before the scheduled premiere. He later admitted he was on a train to Boston when the train's "steely rhythms and "rattle-ty bang" inspired him. "I frequently hear music in the very heart of the noise, and then I heard, and even saw the composition the complete rhapsody from beginning to end," Gershwin called the work, a musical kaleidoscope of America's vast melting pot.

Rhapsody by its very definition means improvisation. So, during the final rehearsal, the virtuoso clarinetist improvised the opening measure with the glissando, stretching the notes and adding what he considered a jazzy humorous touch to the passage. Gershwin liked the improvisation and chose to improvise his piano solo. It is interesting to note that Gershwin did not write the final piano solo section until after the concert.

Manuel de Falla b. 1950

The Three-Cornered Hat

The Neighbor's Dance (Seguidillas)
The Miller's Dance (Farruca)
Final Dance (Jota)

During World War 1 Paris, Berlin and Vienna were the most popular cities for the arts. But when these cities closed the theaters, Madrid in Spain became a safe haven for artist to look for audiences and potential markets for their music. One of these artist was Serge Diaghilev, and when his *Ballets Russes* became a favorite of King Alfonso XIII, he was encouraged to produce more music. Diaghilev discussed several projects with Spanish composer Manuel de Falla. In 1919 they adapted the 1874 comic novella by Pedro Antonio de Alarcon, *The Three Corner Hat*, into a 1919 ballet. The music was written by Manuel de Falla; Pablo Picasso designed the stage and costumes.

The novella has many conflicting and sometime confusing events. The core narrative is centered around Lucas, a well-respected miller, Frasquita, his quick witted beautiful young wife, and the pompous antagonist, Don Eugenio, the local magistrate who wears a *three-cornered hat*. The oafish but persistent Eugenio is thwarted at every turn and eventually arrested by his own constables. The ballet concludes when justice is served and he is tossed in a blanket for a finale of comic relief.

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The Fine Arts Orchestral Society thanks the Klavierhaus for the piano our guest pianist is playing today.

We thank the students from Riverside High School for volunteering and helping the Fine Arts Orchestral Society during today's concert.

Fine Arts Orchestral Society
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Ariel Rudiakov

Conductor and violist Ariel Rudiakov is co-founder and Artistic Director of Taconic Music in Manchester, VT. He currently serves on the faculty of Bennington College.

At the podium, Ari is Music Director and conductor of the Danbury (CT) Symphony Orchestra and Yonkers Philharmonic Orchestra, and is Assistant conductor of the Greenwich CT. Symphony Orchestra, which he guest conducted last year. Past resident and guest conducting positions have included the Adelphi Chamber Orchestra, Metropolitan Symphony, Bergen Philharmonic Antara Ensemble, Manchester Chamber Orchestra, Harlem Chamber Players, Sage City Symphony and recording sessions with Dance Theater of Harlem. In the Fall, Ari will guest conduct the Excelsior Symphony Orchestra in November. Ari studied conducting privately with Maestro David Gilbert.

He attended pre-college at Manhattan School of Music and went on to receive viola performance Bachelor and Master's degrees at SUNY Purchase and University of Illinois Urbana-Champaigne. Rudiakov was a scholarship student at Yale University's master's program where he studied with Jessie Levine and chamber music with members of the Tokyo String Quartet. His most influential viola teachers were Karen Ritscher and Guillermo Perich.

As violist, he has performed to critical acclaim throughout much of the US and abroad. In recent years he has performed at the Kawai a Ledro Festival in Italy and Pikes Falls Chamber Music Festival in Vermont, and continues to be active in a wide variety of musical settings. He is a former member of the New York Piano Quartet and Equinox String Quartet, and a founding member and past president of the String Orchestra of New York City (SONYC). Mr. Rudiakov was Artistic Director of the Manchester (VT) Music Festival from 2000 to 2016. Among his recordings are the complete string quartets by Camille Saint-Saens and the piano quintet by Vittorio Giannini (MSR Classics), which Fanfare Magazine described as "utterly superb".

Composers Richard Lane, Philip Lasser, Thomas Caprino and Coleridge Taylor Perkinson dedicated solo, string and full orchestral works to him. Ari plays a viola made in 2000 by Geoffrey Ovington.



Claudia Knafo

Grammy Award-nominated pianist Claudia Knafo has captivated audiences in the United States and abroad with her passionate artistry, distinctive programming, and adventurous repertoire. Winner of the 1993–1994 Artists International Competition, she made her New York recital debut at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall in 1995. She has earned critical acclaim for her "fiery and passionate approach to the piano" and "luscious sonority and definitive execution of technical complexities."

Her international career spans South America and Europe, with performances in Brazil, Ecuador, Serbia, the Czech Republic, and Italy, including appearances at the Karlovy Vary Music Festival and in Acqui Terme. A recognized specialist in Latin American music, she has performed Grieg's *Piano Concerto* with Ecuador's Orquesta Sinfónica de Cuenca and Orquesta Sinfónica Juvenil de la Prefectura del Guayas, and Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* with the University of the Arts orchestra and the Orquesta Sinfónica Juvenil de la Prefectura del Guayas. She also gave the world premiere of Astor Piazzolla's *Las Cuatro Estaciones Porteñas*, arranged for piano and orchestra, with the Orquesta Sinfónica Juvenil de Guayaquil. She is scheduled to make her debut with the Filarmónica Municipal de Guayaquil. Her international engagements include solo and chamber recitals, master classes, and lectures on Latin American music.

In the United States, Ms. Knafo has appeared at the Caramoor Music Festival, Merkin Concert Hall, and other distinguished venues. Her critically acclaimed performance of Janáček's *Piano Sonata 1.X.1905* at Carnegie Hall reflects her commitment to exceptional and lesser-known repertoire. Her recording of *Circles of Light* with the North/South Chamber Orchestra received a 2010 Grammy nomination.

A native of New York, Dr. Knafo studied at the Manhattan School of Music and earned her Doctor of Musical Arts degree at Boston University under Anthony di Bonaventura. She serves on the piano and chamber music faculties of the Manhattan School of Music Precollege, Queensborough Community College, and LaGuardia Community College.

Concert Musicians

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Urara Mogi, *Concertmaster*
Mary Ann Meade, *assistant concertmaster*
Joyce Balint
Rhonda Resnick
Joshua Daniels
Anne Papantonio
Anne Campbell
Mary Fernandes
Gregor Kitzis

Violin 2
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Marianne Volpi
Stephanie Pietros
Susan Horn
Linda Carpenter
Leanne Dodge

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Chris Kalish, *Principle*
Bernard Klinger
Stephanie Merkado Weiss
Anne Frascarelli
Margaret Benedict
George Drapeau

Cello
Michael Meade, *Principle*
Karen Chalif
Howard Cohen
Richard Paley
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Marcel Villaflor
Geoff Morrow

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