



Civic Orchestra of New Haven

# *A Civic Celebration*

*Kalena Bovell, Music Director*

*December 16, 3:30pm*  
**Battell Chapel**  
**400 College St. New Haven**

[www.civicorchestraofnewhaven.org](http://www.civicorchestraofnewhaven.org)

# History of the Orchestra

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In 1939, founding conductor Harry Berman conceived the idea of an adult orchestra whose members played not for compensation but for enjoyment. He collected a group of 30 advanced amateur musicians for a first rehearsal in his studio. They began preparations for their first concert, given on April 7, 1941, at Sprague Memorial Hall on the Yale University campus under the name "Philharmonic of New Haven, Connecticut."

In its early years, the orchestra's repertoire consisted primarily of works by Gilbert and Sullivan, light classical pieces, and traditional compositions by Haydn, Mozart, Mendelssohn, and Beethoven. In the 1960s, when Harry Berman stepped down and Gordon Emerson began conducting the orchestra, the group started to include soloists and local choruses as part of its programs.

Under Emerson's direction, the orchestra expanded its repertoire to include local, state, and world premieres of works by composers such as Carlos Chavez, Charles Ives, Leonard Bernstein, Henry Cowell, and others. In addition, the Civic Orchestra of New Haven began offering gifted local artists the opportunity to perform solo concertos, and started collaborating with local choruses for its annual holiday performance.

With the opening of the 21st century Christopher James Hisey became Music Director. Under his leadership the orchestra continued its nearly 75-year tradition of offering two annual performances in the heart of downtown New Haven. The programming remained primarily in the classical arena, and Maestro Hisey's creative direction with the group welcomed collaboration with local composers and soloists.

In 2018 the Civic Orchestra welcomed Kalena Bovell to the podium. Dedicated to outreach and education, Maestro Bovell has worked with youth orchestras and ensembles in California and Connecticut, spreading her passion for classical music. As an advocate of new music, she envisions commissions for the Civic Orchestra by local composers. Maestro Bovell is a graduate of the Hartt School of Music, and is Music Director at the Loomis Chaffee School.

For more information about the Orchestra or to schedule an audition, please e-mail us at [conhcivic@gmail.com](mailto:conhcivic@gmail.com).

# Program

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## *A Civic Celebration*

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor  
1875 – 1912

**Ballade for Orchestra in A minor**

Johann Sebastian Bach  
1685 – 1750

**Pastoral** from *The Christmas Oratorio*

Leroy Anderson  
1908 – 1975

**Sleigh Ride**

Georges Bizet  
1838 – 1895

**Farandole** from *L'Arlésienne Suite No. 2*

Leroy Anderson  
1908 – 1975

**A Christmas Festival**

INTERMISSION

Jean Sibelius  
1865 – 1957

**Symphony No. 2 in D Major**

- I. Allegretto
- II. Tempo Andante, ma rubato
- III. Vivacissimo
- IV. Finale: Allegro Moderato

# Upcoming Performance

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## *Spring in St. Petersburg*

Saturday, May 4, 2019

7:30pm

Battell Chapel

Music by Rimsky-Korsakov,  
Tchaikovsky, and Borodin

# Program Notes

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**Samuel Coleridge-Taylor** (1875–1912) was an English composer of mixed race, son of an African physician and an English woman. He is often confused with Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772–1834) the English poet, for whom he was named. His music incorporated African themes and songs, much as Brahms included Hungarian dances and Dvorak included Bohemian folk songs in their music. His fame brought him three tours of the US including a visit with Theodore Roosevelt at the White House. He is best known for his three cantatas based on the Song of Hiawatha, by Longfellow. His concerto for violin has also been recorded several times in recent years. Unfortunately, composers were not well paid at that time and he died in poverty at the age of 37.

**Johann Sebastian Bach** (1685–1750) is considered by many to be the greatest composer of all time. His intricate fugues, canons, and counterpoint compositions remain as gems of the baroque era. Born into a family of musicians, he had many children, most of whom also became famous musicians. He spent much of his working years as organist in German churches, writing primarily for keyboard. One great feature of Bach's music is its ease of transcription into other forms. In 1968, Wendy Carlos popularized the Moog synthesizer with the album

"Switched-On Bach." Another example is Eugene Ormandy's transcription of the Choral Prelude, originally written for organ, was performed by the Civic Orchestra at our last concert in May of this year.

You are probably familiar with the light orchestral music written by **Leroy Anderson** (1908–1975). He grew up in Cambridge, Mass., attending the New England Conservatory and Harvard University. His musical compositions came to the attention of Arthur Fiedler who premiered many of these with the Boston Pops Orchestra, some conducted by the composer himself. In previous concerts, the Civic Orchestra has performed his Bugler's Holiday in addition to Christmas Festival and Sleigh Ride. Sleigh Ride was not originally written as a piece for Christmas. In fact, it was composed during a heat-wave in August, 1946.

French composer **Georges Bizet** (1838–1875) is best known today for his opera Carmen, one of those most performed. L'Arlésienne (The Girl from Arles) was composed as incidental music to Alphonse Daudat's play of the same name in 1872. The play was unsuccessful but currently the music is frequently performed in the form of two suites.

The Finnish composer **Jean Sibelius** (1865–1957), is best known

for his tone-poem, Finlandia. Originally as a call for independence of Finland from Russian, Finlandia became the Finnish national anthem. His music was influenced by nature and Nordic mythology. In his early music career, he wanted to be a concert violinist, but abandoned this dream because it was too demanding. He was friends with Gustav Mahler and the two of them would compare notes on composing styles.

His Second Symphony (1902), performed today, evokes the forests and wild, natural places of Finland. Of his seven symphonies, the second is the most popular and most frequently performed. The rising three-note theme continues from the start to the last movement.

*Program notes by  
Dan Zelterman*

## Join Us for our 79<sup>th</sup> Concert Season!

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2018 8:00PM

#### **3 Stitches in Time**

Pärt & Beethoven with Francisco Fullana, Violin Soloist  
Sibelius Symphony #5

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2018 8:00PM

#### **Armistice & Triumph\***

Elgar, Poulenc's Organ Concerto with Ned Tipton, Soloist  
Faure's Requiem & songs of Butterworth, Ives, Cohan & Berlin

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2018 5:00PM

#### **Joys of the Season: From Bach to POPS**

Magnificat with Mendelssohn Choir of Connecticut  
Your favorite holiday songs and the Hallelujah Chorus

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2019 8:00PM

#### **West Side Story!**

### SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2019, 3:00PM

#### **Music for All Ages: Peter & the Wolf**

Holsts Jupiter from the Planets  
Young Artists Festival Concerto Competition Winner

### SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2019 8:00PM

#### **Season Finale: Beethoven's Symphony #9**

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Christopher James Hisey,  
Music Director

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\*Unless noted differently

**2018-2019 – Our 16<sup>th</sup> Season**

**Saturday, November 3, 2018**

Bizet – Carmen Fantasy #1  
Schumann - Symphony No. 1-“Spring”  
Collaboration with Fiarfield Ludlowe High School

**Amahl & the Night Visitors – January 5 & 6, 2019**

United Methodist Church  
49 Weston Road, Westport, CT 06880

**10<sup>th</sup> Concerto Competition**

February 23 & 24, 2019

**Saturday, March 2, 2019**

Ravel – Bolero \* Grieg – Holberg Suite  
Bruch – Scottish Fantasy for Violin & Orchestra  
Gary Cappozziello, soloist

**Saturday, June 8, 2019**

Brahms – Academic Festival Overture  
Winners of the Concerto Competition  
Cadwallader – Symphony No. 5 – PREMIERE!

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## Kalena Bovell, *Music Director*

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Praised for her “brilliant conducting skills” (Chicago Tribune) Kalena Bovell was named Music Director of the Civic Orchestra of New Haven and began her tenure for the 2018 – 2019 season. Also, this season, Ms. Bovell will guest conduct the New Britain Symphony in their March concert, “Dance for Joy.” She also returned to conduct two short opera works by Dawn Sonntag for Hartford Opera Theater’s New In November.

Described as a conductor with dynamic presence, confidence and charisma, Ms. Bovell has held conducting fellowships with the Allentown Symphony and the Chicago

Sinfonietta. As a fellow with Sinfonietta, she worked closely with Mei-Ann Chen and was part of Maestro Paul Freeman’s vision of fostering and promoting cultural diversity within classical music. Because of her success in the program, Ms. Bovell was made assistant conductor for the 2016 – 2017 season and made her professional debut with them as part of the MLK Tribute concerts in Chicago’s Symphony Center. Also, that year Ms. Bovell was a Semi Finalist for Marin Alsop’s prestigious Taki Concordia Fellowship. In 2015 she was awarded 3rd place in the American Prize for the college/university division.

Ms. Bovell has been fortunate to work with the Memphis Symphony Orchestra where she assisted Mei-Ann Chen for her final masterworks conducting the off-stage brass in Mahler’s First Symphony. Ms. Bovell has also served as cover conductor to Gemma New, resident conductor of the St. Louis Symphony and to Carolyn Kuan, Music Director of the Hartford Symphony.

An active participant in workshops and festivals both stateside and abroad, Ms. Bovell has worked with renowned conductors such as Larry Rachleff, Donald Schleicher, Johannes Schlaefli, Diane Wittry and Kenneth Kiesler. She has received coachings from Michael Morgan, Rossen Milanov, Gerard Schwarz and Bill Eddins.

Currently the Orchestra Director at the Loomis Chaffee School, Ms. Bovell received a Masters of Music Degree and Graduate Professional Diploma in instrumental conducting from The Hartt School, where she was a student of Edward Cumming.



# Civic Orchestra of New Haven

**Kalena Bovell, Music Director**

## **VIOLIN I**

Dan Fecteau,  
Concertmaster  
Kate Altman ≠  
Ciara Cohen  
Amy S. Ferris ≠  
Stephen Grodzinsky  
Sue Prasad  
Lauren Winkler

## **VIOLIN II**

Sarah Roman \*  
Jerry Anne Dickel  
Alaina Fagan  
Caroline Henry  
Lore Higgins  
Catherine Miller  
Lawrence Zukof

## **VIOLA**

Margaret Liddell \*  
Ron Moore  
Laurie Ongley  
Marta Lambert  
Bethany Hargreaves

## **CELLO**

Cheryl Martin \*  
Jillian Emerson  
Jane Farrell

## **CELLO (cont)**

Meg Myers  
Gary Orlofsky  
Alayna Overly  
Jill Polisson  
Susan Solomon ≠

## **BASS**

Andrew Martin \*  
Sooo-z Mastropietro  
Andrew Muench

## **FLUTE/PICCOLO**

Libby Seidner \*  
Suzanne Herlihy ≠  
Judith Kramer Koret  
Cora Megan

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Paul Defrances  
Ben Heller

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Rebecca Bernardo \*  
Don Harvey  
Mike Nicholson

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\* principal  
≠ on leave



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**The Civic Orchestra of New Haven is looking for talented musicians to join our well established group. If you or someone you know is interested in auditioning, please email us at [conhcivic@gmail.com](mailto:conhcivic@gmail.com)**

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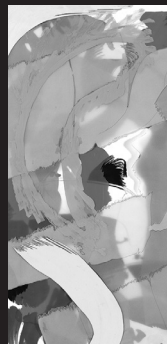
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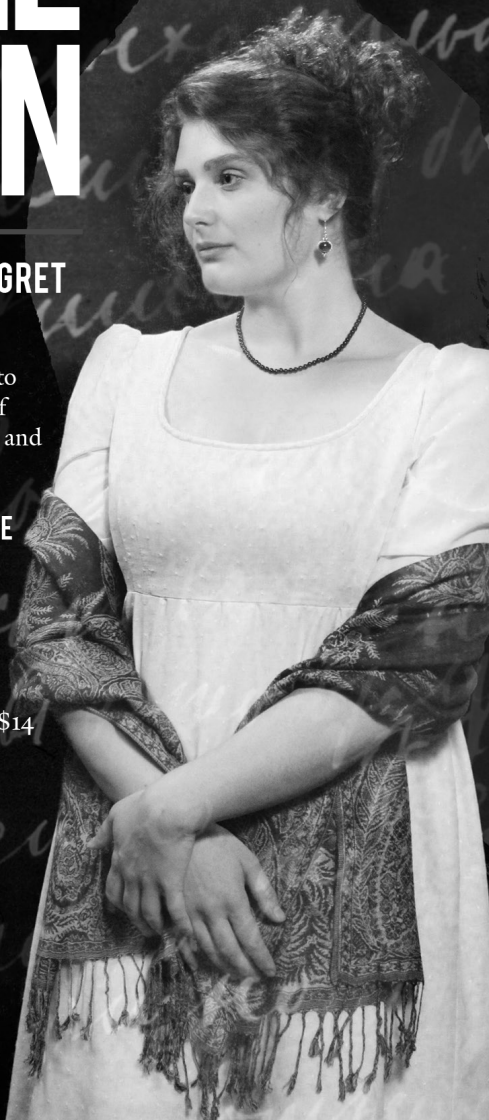
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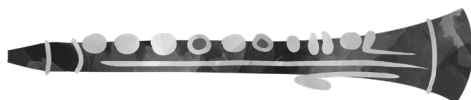
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