



Marching & Singing Across America

The 2024 Town of Hamden Independence Day Fireworks Concert



Friday, June 28th 2024

7:30 PM

Hamden Town Center Park at Meadowbrook



WWW.HAMDENSYMPHONY.ORG

About HSO

This Fall will mark 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 54 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

Opening Festivities

Remarks by Mayor Lauren Garrett

Lift Every Voice and Sing

J. Rosamand Johnson &
James Weldon Johnson

Andrea Barley, Voice

The Star Spangled Banner

John Stafford Smith & Francis Scott Key

Misha Kummel, Voice

Concert Program

Featured Vocalists

Andrea Barley

Robert Bertekap, Jr.

Haley Stoliker

Karen Kriner

Misha Kummel

Derrick Rolland Harmon

Charlie Shafer & Amy Weiss, Announcers

The Washington Post March

John Philip Sousa

God Bless America

Irving Berlin
arr. Keith Christopher

Raiders March (*from Indiana Jones*)

John Williams

Journey's Greatest Hits

Jonathan Cain, Steve Perry & Neal Schon
arr. Victor Lopez

At Last

Harry Warren & Mack Gordon
arr. Daryl McKenzie

Karen Kriner, Voice

This Land is Your Land

Woodie Guthrie
arr. James Ployhar

Musical Highlights from Rocky

Bill Conti
arr. Bob Lowden

Can't Take My Eyes off You

Bob Crewe & Bob Gaudio
arr. Johann de Meij

Intermission

Battle Hymn of the Republic

William Steffe & Julia Ward Howe
arr. Peter Wilhousky

Star Wars Episode V: *The Empire Strikes Back*

John Williams
arr. John C. Whitney

Firework

Katy Perry
arr. Todd Parish

Armed Forces Salute

Various Artists
arr. Bob Lowden

Sweet Caroline

Neil Diamond
arr. Daryl McKenzie

The Stars & Stripes Forever

John Phillip Sousa

America The Beautiful

Samuel A. Ward & Katharine L. Bates
arr. Carmen Dragon

Musicians of the Orchestra

Violin I

Stacy Shafer '09

Concertmaster

The Ruth T. Brooks Chair

Kimberlee Arnett '23

Ann Clemmons '10

Sabrina Ghadaouia '23

Fred Leng '12

Xiangyu Shi '23

Tim Shizume '23

Amanda Zubek '22

Violin II

Yinchen Hao '23

Joeanna Novak '20

Avinash Veeraghav '23

Eleanor Zagoren '22

Viola

Mandy Sepe '13

Rolland Strasser '17

Anand Veeraghav '23

Anika Veeraghav '24

Cello

Elizabeth Baldwin '17

Dorothy Fang '19

Joe Harrison '23

Ryan Mitten '22

Alyssa Rinaldi '24

Marney Walker '19

Raffaella Zanetti '24

Bass

Andre Cardenas '24

Raymond Quigley '24

Flute

Gianna Gassira '21

Pam Allen Hunter '24

Judith Kramer Koret '08

Mamie Wang '22

Piccolo

Judith Kramer Koret '08

Oboe

Terri Bennett '16

Clara Wang '22

Clarinet

Elizabeth Black '20

Anne Cory '14

Kathy Muench '15

Kimberly Vish '20

Bass Clarinet

Elizabeth Black '20

Bassoon

Sue Lonergan '24

Brenda Tousignant '24

Soprano Saxophone

Brendan Cassidy '23

Alto Saxophone

Alexander Antaya '24

Evann D'Adamo '18

Tenor Saxophone

Nick Gardinier '24

Alex Horvath '21

French Horn

Mitch Dvoracek '23

Evan Gambardella '16

Dani Heller Zero '24

Elizabeth Meller '21

Trumpet

Susan Asch '24

Jennifer Carlson '24

Olivia Enny '22

Jameson Forsythe '20

Steve Moskowitz '23

Trombone

Benjamin Fraser '23

Bill Gambardella '92

Molly Gambardella '11

Ethan Romano '16

Erik Salvati '16

Tuba

Jon Craig '24

Electric Guitar

Douglas Watkins '21

Electric Bass

Andrew Zielinski '24

Keyboard

Braeden Shizume '23

Drums & Percussion

Christopher Bradley '24

David Liskov '10

Mitchell Rogers '22

Braeden Shizume '23

Douglas Watkins '21

Adam Weber '21

Hamden Symphony Orchestra

2024-2025 Concert-Season

Fall Concert - Sunday, November 24th - 3:00 PM

A special performance featuring the organ

Trinity Lutheran Church

292 Orange Street

New Haven, CT 06510

Spring Concert - Sunday, April 27th - 3:00 PM

Featuring the 2025 the Young Musicians Concerto Competition Winners

Hamden Memorial Town Hall

2372 Whitney Avenue

Hamden, CT 06518

Have a wonderful summer!

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

- ♪ Mayor Lauren Garrett & Chief of Staff, Sean Grace.
- ♪ Karen Bivens, Director of Arts, Culture, Recreation & Wellness.
- ♪ Rose Lion, Legislative Council Administrator.
- ♪ Town of Hamden facilities services staff.
- ♪ Jameson Forsythe, substitute rehearsal conductor.
- ♪ Student musicians from Hamden High School, Nathan Hale Ray High School, Central Connecticut State University, Ithaca College & Yale University.
- ♪ Carpool drivers: Olivia Enny, Yinchen Hao & Clara Wang.
- ♪ Amy Jones, Waterbury Symphony Orchestra (Sheet music).
- ♪ Christopher Bradley, Notre Dame High School (Bar Chimes).
- ♪ Our generous financial supporters throughout the year!

About the Performers

Andrea Barley is delighted to be celebrating here with the Hamden Symphony Orchestra. A resident of Cheshire, her lifelong love of music began with the violin - in a house full of musical instruments. (She still loves collecting interesting musical instruments). She's always loved to sing and has performed in a few choruses as an alto and second soprano. Andrea is currently a Soprano 2 Section Leader with Another Octave Connecticut Women's Chorus.

She's also been known to rock a karaoke microphone every now and then. When she's not making a joyful noise, she works for a technology retailer, which still allows her to get creative.

Robert Bertekap, Jr lives in Wallingford and has a life-long love of music. As a child in Fords, NJ, he learned to play several instruments and started singing tenor with his church choir in 1982 and hasn't stopped. After moving to CT to pursue his career as a research scientist at Bristol Myers Squibb and Arvinas, Rob continued singing with his church choirs. He is currently at the Church of the Resurrection where he enjoys both singing as tenor in the choir and ringing bells in the bell choir. While at Resurrection, Rob relished the opportunity to participate in productions of *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Guys and Dolls*. Recently Rob joined the Wallingford Chorus with his wife, fully enjoying the opportunity to expand his horizons to additional styles of music.

When not singing, Rob's interests turn to nearly anything railroading, from building a live steam locomotive to restoring and operating vintage full size rail maintenance motorcars. Rob also volunteers as a Director for NARCOA, a national organization for such enthusiasts.

Derrick Roland Harmon, a resident of Hamden, is a member of the Heritage Chorale of New Haven under the direction of Dr. Jonathan Q. Berryman. He attended Florida A & M University, where he was an active participant in both the Symphonic Band and the University Choir. Derrick has also served in the music ministry at Bethel AME Church in Bridgeport, CT.

A dedicated father, Derrick is proud of his two adult children and cherishes his role as a grandfather. Professionally, he holds the position of Co-President at The Governor's Prevention Partnership, where he continues to strengthen public-private partnerships that support CT's young people through mentoring opportunities and substance abuse prevention.

Karen Kriner, originally from Norfolk, Virginia, moved to Connecticut in June 2013 and has been a Hamden resident ever since. Her lifelong passion has always been music. Raised in a family of musicians, she graduated high school, lettering in Orchestra. Then she spent time in college at VCU Richmond, VA with focus on voice and classical viola performance. After college, she began singing with top-40 cover bands, touring the south-eastern states. Currently, she is a violist and board vice president with the Hamden Symphony Orchestra. She is also a second soprano, board member and publicity coordinator with Another Octave: Connecticut Women's Chorus.

She currently works remotely for a Physical Therapy company based in Texas as a patient account representative. Her professional background is in healthcare insurance billing. She is an advocate for chiropractic and natural healthcare. She is also a DoTERRA essential oil consultant and loves to share her knowledge and experiences with chiropractic and the benefits of using essential oils in her daily life.

Fun fact...she LOVES purple and vibrant hair color experimentation. :)

Misha Kummel has a deep love of making music springing from growing up singing in chapel choirs and playing in bands in her hometown of Colorado Springs, CO. Outside of singing, she also enjoys playing oboe with the Hamden Symphony Orchestra and singing English madrigals with her dear sister Koko. When she is not making music, Misha spends her time doing ecological research, practicing karate, and winning at trivia with her fellow graduate students!

Haley Stoliker has studied voice at the University of Connecticut and has been a part of local companies such as Madison Lyric Opera, Simsbury Light Opera Company, Connecticut Gilbert and Sullivan Society, Connecticut

Lyric Opera, and Modern Vintage Opera. Some of her performances include *Suor Angelica*, *Cendrillon*, *La Boheme*, *HMS Pinafore*, *Trial by Jury* (Angelina), *The Sorcerer* (Constance), *Riders to the Sea*, *Don Giovanni* (Zerlina), *Patience* (Patience), *H.M.S. Pinafore* (Josephine) and *Elektra* (Overseer, Maid two, *Schlepträgerin*) having been described as “Charming and Talented” (Trumpet Bray Review). She recently had her international debut in Italy in 2023 as *Zerlina* in *Don Giovanni* by Mozart.

When she is not involved in shows she is the Cantor at St. Monica’s Episcopal Church in Hartford CT and has held this position for over 4 years. Haley has been studying and or taking voice lessons since the age of 10 and has always enjoyed opera and classical music.

Website:

<https://haleystolikersoprano.godaddysites.com/>

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.

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
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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 2024-2025 concert-season!

Rehearsals are anticipated to begin Thursday evenings in early September. For more information, and for the most up-to-date list of openings, visit:

www.hamdensymphony.org/join