


**THE PHILHARMONIC  
SOCIETY OF  
ARLINGTON**



**90/91<sup>ST</sup> SEASON  
2024/2025**



|   |  |
|---|--|
|  | <p><b>Philharmonic Society of Arlington</b><br/>The Arlington Philharmonic Orchestra (APO)<br/>The Arlington-Belmont Chorale (ABC)<br/>The Arlington-Belmont Chamber Chorus (ABCC)</p> |
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**THE PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY OF ARLINGTON  
COMPRISES THREE PERFORMING GROUPS:**



The Arlington-Belmont Chorale



The Arlington-Belmont Chamber Chorus



The Arlington Philharmonic Orchestra

**HISTORY OF THE PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY OF ARLINGTON**

Today's Philharmonic Society of Arlington had its beginnings in 1933-35 with a series of concerts involving The Community Symphony, The Arlington Community Chorus, and the Arlington High School Chorus. Members of the Arlington Women's Club provided organizational and financial support to get the group started. They chose the first conductor, Leonard D. Wood, whose 17 years as conductor continue to be recognized in the scholarship for entrants 18 years and under in the Young Artist Competition. Concerts in the early years included several performances of Handel's Messiah, as well as other strictly orchestral works. The first Pops! concert took place in 1936 and included the Arlington Friends of the Drama Chorus.

Following a concert which involved the Community Symphony Orchestra, the Community Chorus, and the Friends of the Drama Chorus in March 1940, the group adopted a new name, passed by-laws, and became officially incorporated as the Philharmonic Society of Arlington (PSA) in 1941. Membership was established on a non-audition basis. A group of conductors, including Leo Litwin, Kalman Novak, and Paul Bauguss led the PSA in regular concerts from 1951 to 1968. At that time John Bavicchi, who was also conductor of the Belmont Community Chorus, became conductor of the PSA as well. Due to his efforts the two community choruses combined in 1974 to become the Arlington-Belmont Chorale. That same year Maestro Bavicchi formed the Arlington-Belmont Chamber Chorus, an auditioned group drawn from the Chorale.

In 1980 the PSA hired Walter Pavasaris to conduct the Arlington Philharmonic Orchestra (APO), allowing John Bavicchi to focus on the Arlington-Belmont Chorale and Arlington-Belmont Chamber Chorus. Barry Singer joined the PSA in 1994 as conductor of the Chamber Chorus. After Maestro Bavicchi's retirement in 2003, Barry Singer became conductor of the Chorale, and he continued as Music Director and Conductor of both choral groups through the 2023 – 24 season.

When Walter Pavasaris retired from the Arlington Philharmonic Orchestra, the PSA hired Joan Landry as conductor of the group. Her successor, and the current Music Director and Conductor of the APO, is Orlando Cela, who joined the PSA in 2016.

**ABOUT THE PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY ORCHESTRA AND CHORALE**

Practically every Wednesday evening from September to June, members of the Arlington Philharmonic Orchestra gather to rehearse for one of the five concerts they perform in each season. On Monday evenings the Arlington-Belmont chorale rehearses for their performances. The players and singers range widely in age and experience, but all have in common the love of making music. New members are welcome, and no audition is necessary to join. Each new season features a sprinkling of new faces ranging from young students to seniors. Many members are loyal veterans – one violinist played with the Orchestra for 70 years, starting shortly after it was established in 1933!

Under the baton of Music Director Orlando Cela, the Orchestra presents its first concert in October. The *Almost-Winter Concert* follows later in December in which the Orchestra and the Arlington-Belmont Chorale combine forces led by Chorale Music Director Barry Singer

and Maestro Cela. In February, the Orchestra performs again, followed by a *Family Concert* in March designed to inspire youngsters of all ages. Also in March, the Chorale and the Chamber Chorus present the *Almost-Spring Concert*. In May, the Orchestra and the Chorale are together again to present the Philharmonic Society's *Sponsors' Concert*. The season concludes with the *POPS! Concert* in June, which features both the Orchestra and the Chorale and is coupled with a delightful pre-concert *Strawberry Festival*.

The Orchestra takes pride in presenting a broad spectrum of the traditional classical repertoire as well as modern works, including local composers. POPS, of course, predominately showcases lighter works taken from the worlds of jazz, show tunes and movie scores. In addition, the instrumental or vocal winner of the Philharmonic's Young Artist Competition performs as a soloist with the Orchestra. The young instrumental soloists span the full range of instruments from piano to violin and never fail to deliver amazing performances. The Chorale similarly presents a wide variety of works, including pieces old and new; those that are multi-movement works and short songs; and pieces that are accompanied by orchestra, small ensemble, piano or a cappella.

The Orchestra rehearses each Wednesday night at 7:30 at the First Parish Unitarian-Universalist Church in Arlington beginning the first Wednesday after Labor Day and continuing into June. For more information, contact the chair of the Orchestra at [orchestra@psarlington.org](mailto:orchestra@psarlington.org).

The Chorale rehearses each Monday night at 7:45 at the Park Avenue Congregational Church in Arlington Heights, beginning the first Monday after Labor Day. For more information, contact the chair of the Chorale at [chorale@psarlington.org](mailto:chorale@psarlington.org).

### THE ARLINGTON-BELMONT CHAMBER CHORUS

Since 1975, the Arlington-Belmont Chamber Chorus, composed of about twenty members auditioned from within the Chorale, has dedicated itself to performing smaller scale choral works than those performed by the Chorale. While continuing full participation in the Chorale, Chamber Chorus singers rehearse regularly in the homes of members and present two concerts annually, as well as part of a joint concert with the Chorale.

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### NEW MUSIC COMMISSIONED AND PREMIERED BY THE ARLINGTON-BELMONT CHAMBER CHORUS

A special tradition of the Arlington-Belmont Chamber Chorus is its annual commissioning and premiere performance of a new choral work by a local, national, or international composer. This practice was initiated by John Bavicchi, the Chamber Chorus's founder, first Conductor, and until his death in 2012, Music Director Emeritus of the Philharmonic Society of Arlington, and continued until the 2023-24 season under the Chamber Chorus's second Conductor, Barry Singer. In 1998, the Philharmonic Society of Arlington established the John Bavicchi Fund to support this extremely valuable enterprise.

New music commissioned and premiered by the Arlington-Belmont Chamber Chorus:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1976 Richard St. Clair: <i>Ascension</i>                      | 2002 Ariel Blumenthal: <i>Peace Poems</i>                       |
| 1977 Peter Hazzard: <i>Te Deum</i>                            | 2003 Rosey Mei-Kuei Lee: <i>Prayer For The Universe</i>         |
| 1981 Ross Lee Finney: <i>Spherical Madrigals</i>              | 2004 Felipe Lara: <i>Requiem</i>                                |
| 1981 Matthew Marvuglio: <i>Songs of Night</i>                 | 2005 Jeffrey Brody: <i>Planetarium</i>                          |
| 1982 Jeffrey Bishop: <i>Summer Nights</i>                     | 2006 Barry Singer: <i>For I Know Well The Spring</i>            |
| 1983 Frank Warren: <i>Missa Brevis</i>                        | 2007 Pasquale Tassone: <i>Choric Sketches</i>                   |
| 1984 Dennis Leclaire: <i>Songs of Diana</i>                   | 2008 Michael Veloso: <i>Executive Orders</i>                    |
| 1985 Pasquale Tassone: <i>Alleluia</i>                        | 2009 Christopher Haynes: <i>Singing in Tongues</i>              |
| 1986 David Owens: <i>The Shores of Peace</i>                  | 2010 Kenneth Seitz: <i>Three Poems of L. M. Montgomery</i>      |
| 1987 David Cleary: <i>Four Clark Coolidge Poems</i>           | 2011 John Kramer: <i>Three Thoughts on Love</i>                 |
| 1988 Alain Caron: <i>A Slice of Cathedral</i>                 | 2012 John Murphree: <i>In The Animals' Court</i>                |
| 1989 Tsuneyuki Ohsaki: <i>A Fragment of Anything You Like</i> | 2013 Malcolm Hawkins: <i>Martha and Lazarus</i>                 |
| 1990 Jeffrey Bishop: <i>More Time For Snoozing</i>            | 2014 James Russell Smith: <i>Fireflies</i>                      |
| 1991 Christophe Chagnard: <i>Le Mystère engendrant</i>        | 2015 Christopher Charig: <i>A June Night</i>                    |
| 1992 Barry Singer: <i>Three Times We Parted</i>               | 2016-17 Pamela Marshall: <i>Songs from a Quaker Heart</i>       |
| 1993 John Bavicchi: <i>Talk To Me, Op. 103</i>                | 2018 Adria Stolk: <i>Voyage</i>                                 |
| 1994 Louis Stewart: <i>Three Landscapes</i>                   | 2019 Barry Singer: <i>Missa brevis naturalis</i>                |
| 1995 Brian Packham: <i>Israfil</i>                            | 2020 Morgan Jackson: <i>Spacetime Synthesis</i>                 |
| 1997 Frank Warren: <i>Missa Brevis No. 2</i>                  | 2021-22 Tamsin Jones: <i>Love Unchanged</i>                     |
| 1998 James Russell Smith: <i>Day Dreamers</i>                 | 2023 Rebecca Sacks: <i>Folk Lullabies from Around the World</i> |
| 1999 Brian Packham: <i>Universe Mirror I</i>                  |   |
| 2000 Christos Koulendros: <i>Insula Felix</i>                 |   |
| 2001 Dwight Mikkelsen: <i>De Profundis</i>                    |   |

## YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION

The Philharmonic Society of Arlington has sponsored its Young Artist Competition for more than 50 years. The half-century-and-still-counting mission of this remarkable competition is to identify and encourage promising young musicians. It is our honor to be able to continue to give these superb young instrumentalists and vocalists the opportunity to audition in front of an adjudication panel and to provide the winners with further public exposure and experience. Any musician aged 29 or under may apply. Up to 30 applicants each year compete for six awards and many past winners have gone on to win national and international acclaim.

Participants aged 19-29 are eligible for the Tannenwald Performance Awards, which are funded through the generosity of the estate of Peter Tannenwald, a long-time member of the Arlington Philharmonic Orchestra and one of the greatest and most dedicated supporters of our Young Artist Competition. The \$1,000 First Place Peter Tannenwald Performance Award includes a solo performance with the PSA. The judges also award Second and Third Place prizes of \$650 and \$350. At their discretion, the judges may grant Honorable Mention Awards of \$100 from a fund established in memory of Penelope Davis Hart, a long time Orchestra member.

The family of Leonard D. Wood, the first conductor of the Arlington Philharmonic Orchestra, provides three additional awards of \$500, \$350, and \$150 given to the top three performers aged 18 or younger. These awards recognize excellence in our younger contestants and encourage them to continue to compete. The first-place winner in this category may also be given the opportunity to perform at a concert. As with the Tannenwald competition, the judges may also award Honorable Mentions.

The 2024 Young Artist Competition continues the format for the past three years. This year competitors in the Tannenwald division are required to submit videos of themselves that are to be pre-judged to pare down the auditioners to the best of the best. These finalists will then be invited to the in-person auditions.. Wood division competitors are not required to submit videos, but will be judged on their in-person auditions.



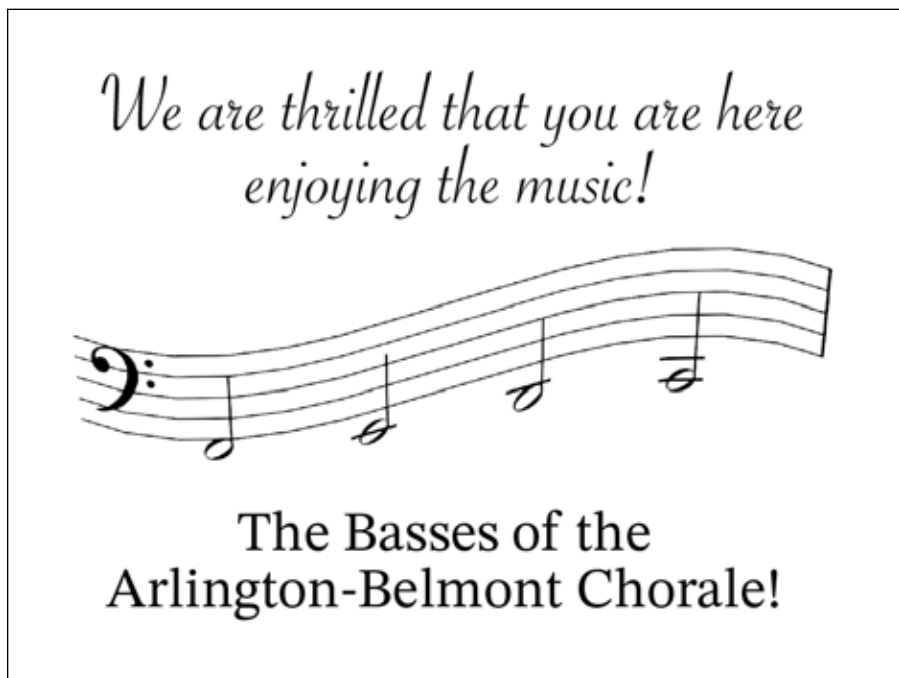
The 2023 Peter Tannenwald First Prize went to Mitsuru Yonezaki, a violinist currently living in the Boston area. Praised for her “tonal threads of pure gold” (*The Boston Musical Intelligencer*), Mitsuru’s “elegant violin playing” (*The Arts Fuse*) has garnered her numerous prizes and led her to perform across the globe. Having earned her previous degrees at The Juilliard School studying with Catherine Cho and Joseph Lin, she continues her graduate studies under the guidance of Donald Weilerstein at the New England Conservatory.

Mitsuru enjoys creating opportunities to share music beyond the traditional concert hall and has worked closely with children of underprivileged communities and the elderly in nursing homes. As a Community Fellow at NEC, she has the great privilege of bringing her music to various communities in the Greater Boston area to create personal connections through meaningful interactions.

Second place went to soprano Madison Holtze and Third place went to cellist William Suh. The judges awarded Honorable Mentions to violist Jay Julio, oboist Sojeong Kim, violinist Yeim Lee, and mezzo-soprano Sara Mitnik.

The 2023 Leonard D. Wood First place prize went to cellist Andrew Y. Kim, age 16; Second place prize went to violinist Joylyn Kim, age 17; and Third place prize went to Pei-Shiuan Lin, age 17.





## THE PSA'S ORCHESTRAL AND CHORAL LIBRARIES

Of all the amateur musical organizations in the Boston area, the Philharmonic Society of Arlington is the only one that maintains both Orchestral and Choral libraries. The PSA owns, uses, stores, and lends full sets of more than 970 choral works and the full instrumental parts for over 400 orchestral works. Though maintaining a library is not unusual for orchestras, it is very uncommon for choral groups, which generally require their members to purchase their own music. Having our own libraries helps keep membership costs relatively low for our singers and players, a commitment that, as a community arts organization we work to honor. Our libraries are also a means of community outreach (and a small source of revenue), as the PSA lends music for a small stipend to organizations such as local church choirs, the Masterworks Chorale, the Paul Madore Chorale, and the Powers Music School for summer sings, open readings, etc.

Road Warrior Moving and Storage in Arlington houses both our Orchestral and Choral libraries. The Orchestra and Chorale Librarians are grateful to the owners of Road Warrior for providing a safe and convenient place to preserve our collections for future use.



## SUPPORT FOR THE PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY OF ARLINGTON

The PSA thanks our professional conductors, music directors, accompanists and guest artists for their dedication to the organization. To support them and pay for the myriad expenses of the organization, PSA members raise funds from our concert attendance, our annual Citrus Project and from our generous Sponsors. We are most grateful for this support.

In January 2024 we received welcome news from the Mass Cultural Council that we were awarded a \$750 grant from our local cultural council, the Arlington Commission for Arts and Culture, to support our 2024 PSA Young Artist Competition and Performance.



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**MEMBERSHIP IN THE PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY OF ARLINGTON**

The Philharmonic Society of Arlington is a distinctive community organization consisting of an Orchestra, Chorale, and Chamber Chorus performing concerts for community members in Arlington and its surrounding towns. Membership in the Chorale is open to all singers without an audition. Auditions for membership in the Chamber Chorus are open to members of the Chorale. Membership in the Orchestra is open to all instrumentalists without an audition. Placement is subject to the requirements of the music and the determination of the conductor. Come sing and play with us. The schedule is as follows:

\* Chorale rehearsals: Monday evenings at 7:45 pm at Park Avenue Congregational Church, 50 Paul Revere Road, corner of Park Avenue, Arlington. Contact [chorale@psarlington.org](mailto:chorale@psarlington.org).

\* Orchestra rehearsals: Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm at the First Parish Unitarian-Universalist Church, 630 Massachusetts Ave, in Arlington Center. Contact [orchestra@psarlington.org](mailto:orchestra@psarlington.org).

Participation in the PSA is open to people from any community. Members of the PSA come from over 30 neighboring cities and towns to rehearse and perform in Arlington and Belmont! Here are some of the towns where members come from:

|            |               |           |            |            |
|------------|---------------|-----------|------------|------------|
| Arlington  | Brighton      | Hyde Park | Natick     | Watertown  |
| Auburndale | Brookline     | Lexington | Newton     | Westford   |
| Ayer       | Burlington    | Lincoln   | Rochester  | Weston     |
| Bedford    | Cambridge     | Malden    | Somerville | Winchester |
| Belmont    | Chelmsford    | Maynard   | Stoneham   | Woburn     |
| Boston     | Chestnut Hill | Medford   | Waban      |            |
| Bourne     | Concord       | Melrose   | Waltham    |            |



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*The Viola Section thanks the PSA for another season of music and memories.*

## MUSIC DIRECTOR AND CONDUCTOR OF THE ARLINGTON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA



Orlando Cela joined the Arlington Philharmonic Orchestra as conductor and music director in 2016. His experience includes launching the orchestral department at Ningbo University in China and conducting the inaugural concert of the Ningbo City Symphony Orchestra. In the US, his conducting positions include work with orchestras and choruses at Randolph College (VA) and UMass Dartmouth (MA). Guest conducting credits include the London Classical Soloists, (London, UK), Marquette Symphony Orchestra (MI), the Northern Michigan State University Orchestra (MI), the Manchester Symphony Orchestra (CT), and the Brandeis New Music Ensemble (MA).

Besides being the music director of the Arlington Philharmonic, he is also the music director of the Lowell Chamber Orchestra, and the former music director of the North Carolina Governor's School, with which he received two prizes from The American Prize in 2017 - one for Programming and for Conducting - and second place in the Ernst Bacon Memorial Award, for excellence in the performance of American music, for his renditions of music by Charles Ives, Libby Larsen, and John Luther Adams, among others. In January 2017 he won second place in the London Classical Soloists Conducting Competition for his performances of Beethoven's Symphonies 7 and 8, as a guest conductor with this orchestra.

A dedicated music educator, Mr. Cela is known for his dynamic workshops and lecture demonstrations. Popular and effective as a guest lecturer and clinician, he has presented sessions on contemporary music topics at New England Conservatory, Tulane University, Berklee College of Music, and Brandeis University, as well as at the Central Conservatory of Music in China, the Staatliche Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst Stuttgart (Germany), and the Charlotte New Music Festival (NC). Mr. Cela has also lectured on general performance practice issues at flute festivals in Ithaca and Syracuse and at Dulwich College (Beijing) and Shanghai Normal University.

As a flute player, Mr. Cela has performed at venues such as the National Portrait Gallery of the Smithsonian (Washington, DC), the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum (Boston), and the Center for New Music and Technologies at UC Berkeley. His credits abroad include concerts at the Zentrum Danziger (Berlin), the Espace des Femmes (Paris), and at the Central Conservatory of Music (China). As a collaborative artist, Mr. Cela has concertized with flutist Paula Robison, tabla player Samir Chatterjee, harpsichordist John Gibbons, and shen (mouth organ) virtuoso Hu Jianbing. He is currently the flute player of Ensemble Parallax.

Mr. Cela received his undergraduate degree from DePauw University and holds two master's degrees (flute and conducting) from New England Conservatory. Currently, he is faculty at Middlesex Community College, Berklee College of Music, and UMass Lowell.



## MUSIC DIRECTOR AND CONDUCTOR OF THE ARLINGTON-BELMONT CHORALE AND THE ARLINGTON-BELMONT CHAMBER CHORUS



Barry Singer, Choral Music Director for the Philharmonic Society of Arlington, has directed the Arlington-Belmont Chamber Chorus since 1994, and the Arlington-Belmont Chorale since 2004.

In addition to his work with the Philharmonic Society of Arlington, Barry was Chorus Master for Concord's Opera 51 and choral conductor for the Appalachian Mountain Club Mountains and Music program. He has served as interim choir director of the First Parish Church in Needham, Congregation Shalom in Chelmsford, and the Winchester Unitarian Society, and has been a guest conductor for the Carlisle Chamber Orchestra, Paul Madore Chorale Summer Sing Series, and the M.I.T Gilbert and Sullivan Players. Musical

theatre is of particular interest to Barry, and he has been active in this area for many years. Since 2019 he has been music director for the Savoyard Light Opera Company in Carlisle, MA, and has acted as assistant music director for Arlington High School theatre productions since 2016. Other past directorships include the Arlington Friends of the Drama, the Sudbury Savoyards, and Oktoberfest Music Theatre. In addition, he was a founder, arranger, singer, and co-leader of Serious Fun, an award-winning contemporary a cappella group.

A multi-instrumentalist and vocalist since childhood, Barry maintains a very active musical performing career aside from his conducting duties. On the instrumental side, Barry received flute and piano lessons from an early age, and added saxophone, clarinet, and electric bass while in his teens. Currently, Barry is a busy piano accompanist, on staff at the Concord-Carlisle and Arlington Public School systems. Other current performing activities include frequent work on keyboards and woodwinds in the recording studio for local songwriters, and in the orchestra pit of several area theatre groups. He is a freelance jazz pianist, and also works regularly as a piccoloist and sax player with the professional parade band The Boston Windjammers. Barry frequently appears with local bands Becky and the Swinging Bards, and the Compaq Big Band, and for many years he played and sang with the popular Boston-area dance band Firefly.

Barry first began singing in high school, and studied voice while at Berklee College of Music. From 1983-1998 he sang with the Boston Symphony Orchestra's Tanglewood Festival Chorus in numerous performances and recordings with the BSO and Boston Pops Orchestra, and still occasionally appears with area choruses including the New World Chorale and the Highland Glee Club. Barry served for many years as baritone soloist with the Congregation Shirat Hayam of the North Shore and St. Peter's Church in Weston.

Barry received his degree in Music Composition from Berklee College, where he studied composition with John Bavicchi and Jeronimas Kačinskas, and conducting with George Monseur. The PSA has premiered four of his choral compositions: *Three Times We Parted* (1992), *For I Know*

*Well the Spring* (2006), and *Missa brevis naturalis* (2019), written for the Chamber Chorus, and *Lux Aeterna* (2002) for the Chorale and Orchestra. He has arranged and orchestrated popular music for a number of performers, and composed original music for the off-Broadway play *Looking for Billy Haines*, which ran in New York in 2010.

Barry recently retired from the Music Maker School in Acton where he taught piano and flute from 2002-2019, but continues to provide audition coaching as well as music theory coaching at his home studio in Arlington.

Barry will be leaving the Philharmonic Society of Arlington at the conclusion of the 2023-24 season. We wish him well and thank him for his many years of inspiring musical leadership!



### ACCOMPANIST OF THE ARLINGTON-BELMONT CHORALE



Michael Becker has been the Accompanist of the Arlington-Belmont Chorale of the Philharmonic Society of Arlington since January 2007. He is on the piano faculty of the All Newton Music School, and he is also a staff pianist at the Boston Conservatory at Berklee.

Michael has performed and toured throughout the United States and Europe. He has worked as a pianist for the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Boston Pops, Boston University, New England Conservatory, North End Music and Performing Arts Center, Suffolk University, and Wellesley College. Michael has performed and adjudicated at numerous auditions, festivals and competi-

tions, including the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), Bay State Piano Competition, Massachusetts Instrumental and Choral Conductors Association (MICCA), Massachusetts Music Educators Association (MMEA), National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS), and the National Convention of Piano Pedagogy. Michael has served as an education faculty member of the Handel and Haydn Society Youth Choruses, accompanying the Chorus of Sopranos and Altos, as well as the Chamber Choir. He has worked as a faculty member and music director at Riverside Theatre Works. Performing in numerous concerts, Michael has been a pianist for “Urban Voices: A Choral Music Initiative,” an educational outreach program of the Metropolitan Opera Guild of New York.

Michael is a graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music, where he earned a Master of Music degree in Collaborative Piano. He also holds a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Music in Piano Performance from Towson University, with additional studies at the Eastman School of Music and the Longy School of Music Piano Pedagogy Institute.

### ACCOMPANIST OF THE ARLINGTON-BELMONT CHAMBER CHORUS



Ms. Lee is multi-faceted musician, passionate about collaboration, chamber music, and education. Her repertoire ranges from Bach to Martino, to new music collaborations with composers. She has played concerts throughout the Northeast and abroad, with solo performances at the Gardner Museum, New England Conservatory, Harvard University, Bentley University, the Brevard Music Center, chamber music recitals in New York, the UK, as well as the Sheung Wan Civic Center in Hong Kong. She has collaborated with members of the Johnson String Quartet, A Far Cry, the Boston New Music Initiative, composer Tim Dusenbury, and recently performed with The Irish Tenors, MetWinds Symphony,

Philharmonic Society of Arlington, and Symphony NH. She was a Finalist in the 2009 Longy Honors Competition, with her performance of Three Visions by William Grant Still. In 2011, she performed Mozart’s Piano Concerto in d minor with the Longy Chamber Orchestra, self-conducted from the keyboard.

Amy is a graduate of the Longy School of Music, where she studied with Randall Hodgkinson. Amy was previously on the faculty at the Indian Hill Music School, where she served as the co-chair of the Piano Department and founded the Chamber Music Intensive program. She has served as the accompanist for the Arlington Belmont Chamber Chorus since 2019.

Aside from being a musician, she also enjoys photography, baking, Third-wave coffee, learning the cello, and playing with her dog.

### ARLINGTON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA CONCERTMASTER



Originally from Minnesota, Nicole Parks is a Boston based violinist and pedagogue. With a particular passion for contemporary music, she collaborates with a diverse group of performers and active composers to bring new music to a wide range of audiences. Nicole has performed with many ensembles throughout New England and the Midwest. She is a violinist and co-founder of the Semiosis Quartet, a group of four friends who strive to perform exclusively 20th/21st century music with the passion and dedication that it deserves. She was the founder and original artistic director/conductor of The Lirica Chamber Ensemble; an ensemble created to play rarely heard and new works for chamber orchestra. Nicole is currently concertmaster of the Arlington Philharmonic and East

Coast Scoring and has held a concertmaster and soloist position with The Linden Hills Chamber Orchestra. She plays regularly with Boston Modern Orchestra Project, and previous performed with the Cape Ann Symphony, The Metropolitan Symphony and The Northern Symphony Orchestra among others.

Nicole is a member of the American String Teacher’s Association and serves on the MA-AS-TA board as Secretary. She has held a violin faculty position at The Community Music Center of Boston since 2010, where she teaches violin, viola, and cello, directs the Junior String Ensemble, is assistant conductor of the Chamber Orchestra, and has spearheaded the Beginning Strings program, which offers small group classes to 4-6 year olds. Summer performance and education workshops where she has taught include BIMA at Brandeis University, Minnesota All-State Festival, and the chamber music festival, Stringwood. Nicole holds a BM in violin performance from St. Olaf College, and MM and PSC degrees from The Boston Conservatory where she studied violin performance and pedagogy with Sharan Leventhal.

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## VOLUNTEER ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The running of an organization such as the PSA has many moving parts: the officers of the PSA, who have agreed to take on leadership roles and the attendant duties, are named on the first page of this book, and we are grateful for all that they do. But there are many more jobs that need doing, some of which may not be apparent to the audience or even to other members of the group. Here are some of the many functions performed behind-the-scenes, along with the PSA members who took responsibility for them in recent years. Many thanks to these volunteers!

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| Set-up crew- APO . . . . .                   | Jen Lauer, Larry Kyrala  |
| Riser crew- ABC and ABCC . . . . .           | George Silvis, Jean-Francois Louis, Jim Hall,<br>Tim Shepard   |
| Riser Rental . . . . .                       | Judy Tesnow  |
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| Photographers . . . . .                      | Hana Asazuma-Cheng, Charles Miller   |
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## RECOGNIZING A TRULY FINE CONDUCTOR

Barry Singer began his 35-year involvement with the PSA in the spring of 1989, as a volunteer ringer for John Bavicchi and the Arlington Belmont Chamber Chorus. Barry substituted for Walter Pavasaris a few times over the next few years, wrote a commissioned piece in 1994, and became conductor of the Chamber Chorus in September 1994. When John Bavicchi retired ten years later, he handed over his baton and Barry assumed the leadership of the Chorale as well. That was now 20 years ago! At the end of the 2023-24 season, Barry is leaving the PSA and moving on to other pursuits.

During all this time he has inspired and educated us with his strong command of music theory, interpretation, and technique. His ear for music is remarkable. It is amazing how attentive he is, being aware of each singer individually, and quickly identifying and correcting whatever issue it is – pitch, tempo, vowel sound, final consonant cut-off, dynamic level, whatever – that needs attention in order to deliver the emotional depth and meaning of the music. Along the way, we've worked on music old and new, and even had the privilege of learning and performing some of Barry's own compositions.

Barry can combine taking the music seriously with a friendly and relaxed attitude toward the singers. This balance enables him to demand the best from us (who are, after all, a motley crew of un-auditioned amateur singers!) while keeping the atmosphere fun and light. We have certainly tested his patience at times, but Barry is gentle in his reproof, and his use of humor has ushered us through many a thorny passage when all else failed. We chuckle and move on. Ultimately, we are proud when we rise to musical challenges and are happy that Barry has gotten us there.

For 30 years the Philharmonic Society of Arlington has been fortunate to have had, in Barry, a fine choral director for its two choruses. With good grace, he has introduced us to a wide variety of musical genres and has developed our understanding and appreciation of the choral repertoire. In so doing, he has built a community which otherwise would not have existed, and our lives are better for it. We will remember and be grateful for a long time to come.

Good luck, Barry. We will miss you.



## ONE REMARKABLE ACCOMPANIST

One day at rehearsal:

“How’s that for mindreading!” remarked Barry. “And the next time I make that gesture, it will mean something else, and Michael will know exactly what I mean by it then as well!”

High but totally deserved praise, Mr. Michael Becker!

This is Michael’s last season with the Arlington-Belmont Chorale (ABC). He has been the accompanist for the ABC for 17 years.

He bolsters the efforts of the chorale, not only with his professional art and talent detailed in his extensive biography, but with his unfailingly genuine, understated and generous presence. He is always there with humor and kindness, helping hardworking amateurs to make music. He can anticipate Barry’s next step and our needs for assistance. He hears us and helps us, adjusting to what we need, throwing us a lifeline. His support is so seamless that we barely feel the music foundation he provides rising beneath our song. He is our champion, our rock, the floor beneath our feet.

It is cliché, but authentic too, to say he will be missed - missed immeasurably much, both for his professional and his personal presence. We sincerely wish him well and hope that he will not be gone entirely from our lives.



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The Arlington Philharmonic Orchestra's **FALL CONCERT**  
First Parish Unitarian-Universalist Church, Arlington

Saturday, December 7, 2024, 8:00 pm  
The Arlington-Belmont Chamber Chorus's **NOT-QUITE-WINTER CONCERT**  
Payson Park Congregational Church, Belmont

Sunday, December 16, 2024, 3:00 pm  
The Philharmonic Society's **HOLIDAY CONCERT**  
First Parish Unitarian-Universalist Church, Arlington

Saturday February 15, 2025, 7:30 pm  
The Arlington Philharmonic Orchestra's **MID-WINTER CONCERT**  
First Parish Unitarian-Universalist Church, Arlington

Sunday, March 9, 2025, 3:00 pm  
The Arlington-Belmont Chorale & Chamber Chorus's **ALMOST SPRING CONCERT**  
First Parish Unitarian-Universalist Church, Arlington

Sunday, March 16, 2025, 3:00 pm  
The Arlington Philharmonic Orchestra's **FAMILY CONCERT**  
First Parish Unitarian-Universalist Church, Arlington

Sunday, May 4, 2024, 3:00 pm  
The Philharmonic Society's **SPONSORS' CONCERT**  
First Parish Unitarian-Universalist Church, Arlington

Friday, May 16, 2025, 8:00 pm  
The Arlington-Belmont Chamber Chorus's **MUSIC FOR A SPRING EVENING**  
First Parish Unitarian-Universalist Church, Arlington

Friday, June 13, 2025 7:00 pm  
The Philharmonic Society's **STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL AND POPS! CONCERT**  
Arlington Town Hall, Arlington

These dates are subject to change.  
Refer to our website, [PSARLINGTON.ORG](http://PSARLINGTON.ORG), for current dates.

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Schramm - La Balena  
Mozart - Violin Concerto No. 3  
Korngold - Much Ado About Nothing

Fri.  
Sept. 6  
2024

## In the Classical Tradition

Boulogne - Symphony No. 1 in G major  
Haigh - Grin  
Haydn - Symphony No. 83 "The Hen"

Sat.  
Nov. 23  
2024

## The People in the Back

Amis - Islero  
Weill - Violin Concerto  
Dvořák - Serenade for Winds

Sat.  
Feb. 1  
2025

## Voices Near and Far

Respighi - Antiche Arie e Danze, Suite 3  
Andrews - Till Voices Wakes Us  
Stravinsky - Pulcinella Suite

Sat.  
April 26  
2025

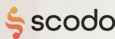
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