

The Listen For Life Foundation and the Central Minnesota Youth Orchestra Presents

NOTES
FOR Nourishment



BENEFIT CONCERT

First United Methodist Church, Sartell
Saturday, May 9, 2026 @ 7:00 pm

Michael Zellgert, Artistic Director

Donna Stoering, Piano

Erin Nolan, Viola

Arriana Schwab, Violin

Get to Know CMYO

The Central Minnesota Youth Orchestra is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit founded in 2013. The program prepares students to become passionate leaders in their community by teaching them to be good examples through music preparation, listening to instructions, ensemble awareness, and enhancing their musical knowledge and instrumental skills. CMYO offers four ensembles designed to place students based on similar skill levels. Each ensemble's requirements continue to challenge the students as they progress in their instrumental skills.

Families involved in the Central Minnesota Youth Orchestra participate in a Fair Share program. Rather than paying tuition, families are shown the expenses involved to make the program successful and asked to make a pledge for the year. Advantages of this system include the opportunity for families to pay based on their financial ability without dealing with scholarship applications. No student is turned away for financial reasons.

Get to Know LISTEN FOR LIFE

At Listen For Life, we inspire and empower musicians of all cultures to use their gifts in the service of others. Founded by concert pianist Donna Stoering in 1998, L4L has impacted the lives of over 12 million individuals worldwide. When L4L began, the world was losing music cultures at the rate of five per year. While endeavoring to record or film those cultures and sustain the musicians, we discovered other ways that their music could help heal, educate, and inspire the planet, so we created outreach projects that share their gifts with the world. Projects as diverse as benefit concerts (under L4L's banner of Notes for Nourishment) and scientific research into music's power to heal (L4L's Music for Medicine program) find a home under Listen For Life's broad mission of service.

Listen For Life's U.S. headquarters is now in Minneapolis, and we look forward to creating meaningful new connections within our Minnesota communities. We are excited to launch new outreach projects to nourish MN musicians and music-lovers alike, strengthening our communities through music.

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Program

Symphony No. 25, *Allegro*

W.A. Mozart

Adagio for Strings

Barber

Meditation from *Thais*

Massenet

Piano Concerto No. 12, *Allegro*

W.A. Mozart

Piano Selection

TBA

Viola Concerto

Telemann

Symphony No. 25, *Allegro con Spirito*

W.A. Mozart

Performers

First Violin

Laina Burris+
Hoa Chung
Nina Prout
Paul Sandberg
Arriana Schwab+
Drew Zahasky

Second Violin

Silas Gould*
Kate Harris+
Ahava Lang
Rebecca Schoenhard*
Ofelia Jorgenson
Rhonda Johnson**

Viola

Clara Heintzelman+
John Johnson**
Sophia Kufalk+
Gloria Miller*
Ethan Sunder+
Alex Rodriguez*

Cello/Bass

Sujin Braun
Haley Hennen+
Derrick Johnson+
Kim Van Vooren, bass
Ben Zahasky
Marianne Zitzewitz

Key

* Principal
+ Alumni
** Instructor

Thank you to the College of St Benedict/St. John's University for the use of their rehearsal space, First United Methodist Church for hosting the fundraiser, and Todd Rosso and Andrew Zellgert for coordinating today's live stream.

Donna Stoering, piano



Donna Stoering (DonnaStoering.com) is an internationally renowned recording/concert artist, collaborative pianist, television host/producer, educator, performance coach, liturgical composer, keynote speaker and award-winning social entrepreneur. She has performed public concerts since age five and taught professionally since age ten. While a Marshall Scholar in the UK, Donna was appointed head of the piano department at the University of York and then Artist in Residence at Oxford University. She has also served as an Artistic/Cultural Ambassador for both the UK and USA to countries around the globe.

A longtime student of legendary Chicago Symphony pianist Mary Sauer and a protege of the late Sir Georg Solti, Donna has been a concerto soloist with major orchestras and music festivals worldwide and has given numerous premieres of works created for her. She continues to launch new festivals and tour/record with renowned instrumental soloists, string quartets and chamber ensembles, lieder/art song vocalists, and opera stars of the Met, Bolshoi, La Scala, and Royal Opera.

Donna has adjudicated national and international competitions, and continues to give private lessons, performance coaching and giving masterclasses, which she has done at music schools, universities and major music conservatories worldwide including those in Russia, Italy, HongKong, Republic of Georgia, Turkmenistan, India, the Philippines, South America, the UK, and across the USA.

28 years ago, Donna founded the award-winning global nonprofit Listen4Life Foundation (ListenForLife.org) which inspires, empowers and supports musicians of all cultures to use their gifts in the service of others worldwide. Donna moved to the Twin Cities in 2023 and has now established Minnesota as the US headquarters of L4L (musicians of all styles and volunteers with all skill sets welcome!). L4L's first project in MN was "Minnesota Celebrates Flicka!" a tour of concerts with legendary opera star Frederica von Stade, in association with the Schubert Club. L4L's newest project is "MusicMessages from Minnesota", sharing new works created by MN-based musicians specifically intended to comfort, heal and encourage immigrants of all cultures (and in their own languages) at this time.

Erin Nolan, viola



Erin Nolan currently works at NPR's From the Top, America's largest national platform celebrating young classically-trained musicians ages 8-18. She has worked in a variety of roles at From the Top, including as Music Director, but currently holds the immensely fulfilling role of Director of Admissions. This role includes managing the scholarship program which awards twenty scholarships a year to talented and inspiring young musicians with financial

need. The Jack Kent Cooke Young Artist Award allows students to overcome the financial barriers restraining them from achieving their musical goals and it is an honor to be able to support the next generation. Classical Music is in good hands!

Erin received the majority of her training as a musician in Europe, having grown up in Italy and England. Although she traveled to the States for university studies, as a performer, Erin worked primarily as a chamber and orchestral musician in London, England, having performed and toured extensively as a violist in the English Chamber Orchestra, the BBC Symphony Orchestra, and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. As a chamber musician, Erin trained with the Guarneri, Juilliard, and Cleveland String Quartets, and in 2004, performed in four Carnegie Hall performances with Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Project.

Erin's love of joining other musicians, whether through classical music, prayer, or traditional music of other cultures, has led to her performing with diverse groups throughout Europe and the USA, as well as in Lebanon, Panama, Bosnia, and Croatia.



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Arriana Schwab, violin



Arriana Schwab is a violinist from Minnesota, currently pursuing her Bachelor of Music in violin performance. She is passionate about sharing classical music with her communities and beyond, and has participated in several community ensembles in the region, including Heartland Symphony Orchestra and Long Prairie Chamber Orchestra. She is an alumnus of Central Minnesota Youth Orchestra, which she participated in throughout her high school years.

Arriana has enjoyed playing a variety of repertoire at festivals including Lutheran Summer Music Academy & Festival, Lawrence Chamber Music Festival, and Dakota Chamber Music. In 2023, she was soloist with Heartland Symphony Orchestra as a winner of the Echo Kowalzek Youth Concerto Competition, and in 2025, she performed as soloist with St. Cloud Symphony Orchestra as Grand Prize winner of their Young Performer's Competition.

In addition, Arriana serves as Vice Chair for Listen For Life and is helping launch several new projects here in Minnesota.

Michael Zellgert, artistic director



Michael Zellgert attended University of Wisconsin-Superior where he studied violin performance and conducting with Diane Balko and David Scott. In addition, he received mentoring under Markand Thakar (Peabody Institute of The Johns Hopkins University) and Yong-Yan Hu (Rostock Philharmonie & Shanghai Broadcast Symphony).

Zellgert has appeared as a soloist with community and university orchestras throughout Minnesota and part of Wisconsin including Gustavus Adolphus College and University of Wisconsin - Superior. He has served as concertmaster with regional orchestras, and as principal 2nd violin and concertmaster of the St. Cloud Symphony Orchestra along with performing as a violinist with the Minnesota Ballet, the Duluth Festival Opera, and the Lyric Opera of the North.

Michael has served as the music director of several community orchestras and is a guest and cover conductor with regional orchestras including the St. Cloud Symphony Orchestra and Willmar Area Symphonic Orchestra. His interest in music education has led him to clinics for high school orchestras, and has adjudicated auditions for solo/ensembles and camps including Interlochen Camp for the Arts.

Michael maintains a private studio, a member with the Duluth-Superior Symphony Orchestra, a member of the St. Cloud String Quartet, the Islay Trio, and the artistic director/founder of the Central Minnesota Youth Orchestra and the Central Minnesota Community Orchestra.



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