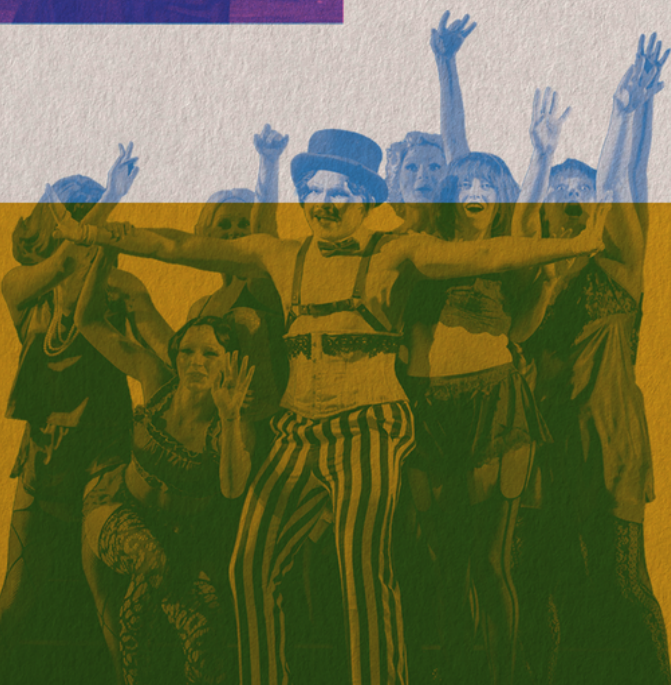




ON STAGE



CHARLOTTE
COLLEGE OF ARTS + ARCHITECTURE

Welcome!

An engaged audience is the most essential level of support we can receive. Thank you for being a part of this performance experience!

Revenue from ticket sales directly supports student scholarships in dance, music and theatre. You can expand opportunities for students with a financial gift to fund scholarships, visiting artists and scholars, master classes, study abroad and more. To make a secure gift online, please visit **giving.charlotte.edu**. Thank you for your support!

About the College of Arts + Architecture

Grounded in a commitment to excellent teaching, the College of Arts + Architecture sparks curiosity, fosters innovative research and anchors collaborative projects that empower and sustain communities.

The College of Arts + Architecture will infuse the university's urban mission with arts and design, creative research and collaborative projects that inspire cultural vibrancy throughout Charlotte, the region and beyond.

Connect with us! We hope you will join us again soon. Stay up to date with our College news and programming on our website at **coaa.charlotte.edu**. Follow us at **[@CLT_COAA](https://www.instagram.com/CLT_COAA)** on Instagram and **[@CLTCOAA](https://www.facebook.com/CLTCOAA)** on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/CLTCOAA) and [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/CLTCOAA).

Program Book Feedback

We welcome your valuable input on digital program books. Please complete [this brief survey](#) to provide your feedback.



The Department of Music presents

UNC Charlotte Orchestra

Alan Yamamoto, conductor

featuring

Christina Pier, soprano

Emily Schmidt, violin

Anne R. Belk Theater
Robinson Hall for the Performing Arts
Tuesday, September 29, 2026 | 7:30 pm
coaa.charlotte.edu

Program

Knoxville: Summer of 1915, Op. 24

Samuel Barber (1910-1981)

Poetry by James Agee

Christina Pier, soprano

Concerto for Violin and Orchestra, No. 1, Op. 26

Max Bruch

(1838-1920)

Allegro moderato

Adagio

Allegro energico-Presto

Emily Schmidt, violin

Program Note

Knoxville: Summer of 1915

We are talking now of summer evenings in Knoxville Tennessee in the time that I lived there so successfully disguised, to myself as a child.

...It has become that time of evening when people sit on their porches, rocking gently and talking gently and watching the street and the standing up into their sphere of possession of the trees, of birds' hung havens, hangars. People go by; things go by. A horse, drawing a buggy, breaking his hollow iron music on the asphalt: a loud auto: a quiet auto: people in pairs, not in a hurry, scuffling, switching their weight of aestival body, talking casually, the taste hovering over them of vanilla, strawberry, pasteboard, and starched milk, the image upon them of lovers and horsemen, squared with clowns in hueless amber. A streetcar raising its iron moan; stopping; belling and starting, stertorous; rousing and raising again its iron increasing moan and swimming its gold windows and straw

seats on past and past and past, the bleak spark crackling and cursing above it like a small malignant spirit set to dog its tracks; the iron whine rises on rising speed; still risen, faints; halts; the faint stinging bell; rises again, still fainter; fainting, lifting, lifts, faints foregone: forgotten. Now is the night one blue dew.

Now is the night one blue dew, my father has drained, he has coiled the hose. Low on the length of lawns, a frailing of fire who breathes . . . Parents on porches: rock and rock. From damp strings morning glories hang their ancient faces. The dry and exalted noise of the locusts from all the air at once enchants my eardrums.

On the rough wet grass of the back yard my father and mother have spread quilts. We all lie there, my mother, my father, my uncle, my aunt, and I too am lying there.... They are not talking much, and the talk is quiet, of nothing in particular, of nothing at all in particular, of nothing at all. The stars are wide and alive, they seem each like a smile of great sweetness, and they seem very near. All my people are larger bodies than mine...with voices gentle and meaningless like the voices of sleeping birds. One is an artist, he is living at home. One is a musician, she is living at home. One is my mother who is good to me. One is my father who is good to me. By some chance, here they are, all on this earth; and who shall ever tell the sorrow of being on this earth, lying, on quilts, on the grass, in a summer evening, among the sounds of the night. May God bless my people, my uncle, my aunt, my mother, my good father, oh, remember them kindly in their time of trouble; and in the hour of their taking away.

After a little I am taken in and put to bed. Sleep, soft smiling, draws me unto her: and those receive me, who quietly treat me, as one familiar and well-beloved in that home: but will not, oh, will not, not now, not ever; but will not ever tell me who I am.

– James Agee, 1938

UNC Charlotte Orchestra

Violin I

Jacob Bell, Concertmaster*
Jake Pecoraro*
Hadley Melton
Vienna Lee
Tyler Butler-Figueroa

Violin II

Tristan Meyers
Josepp Anderson
Zihui Qiu
Lauren Morgan
Chloe Caldwell
Hanna Laabid
Lex Kaijser Bots
Jennifer Resendiz Antonio
Tyshawn Thompson
Jonathan Mace
Drew Sheef
David Xu

Viola

Eilidh Anderson*
Lauren Wilson
Emilio Pacheco Arroyo
Clara Lee
Ethan Smith
Brandon Stinson

Cello

Lincoln Gaskins*
Kyler May*
John Martin Azolin
Nate Byrd*
Luke Devries
Malik Byrd
Jesper Corwin
Emily Bakker
Amerie Weldon
Christina Brown
Anna Eichenlaub
Cydney Pierce
Jon Allison

Bass

Oliver Newcomb
Ben Johnston
Marc Denton
Will Hack

Flute

Mason Tortorelli
Emily Cordes (+ piccolo)

Oboe

Jonathan Price
Elizabeth Sullivan^

Clarinet

Giana Hasbun
Isaac Benitez Tapia

Bassoon

David Wallace#

Horn

Julien Ritchie
Owen Mach
Sofia Jones

Trumpet

Connor Pacilio
Aidan Stewart
Eric Millard^

Timpani

Eva Schmit

Harp

Christine Leimer
Ikuko Sanada

* Ralph and Robert Grier
Music Scholarship Recipient
^ UNC Charlotte Music Faculty
UNC Charlotte Music Alumni

Biographies

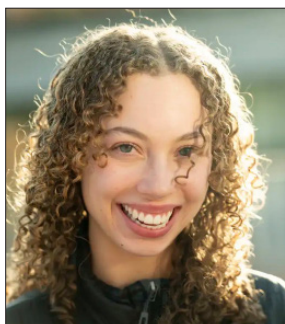


Hailed by *Opera News* for her “big, gleaming soprano and impressive coloratura,” [Christina Pier](#) has established herself as an artist accomplished in navigating an expansive repertoire with technical assuredness and stylistic nuance. From Bach to Wagner, she has earned widespread acclaim from critics and audiences alike. In 2003, Christina Pier gained significant recognition as a Grand Finals Winner

of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. This success, along with honors from the George London and Sullivan Awards, paved the way for a distinguished operatic career. She is noted for her portrayals of Mozart’s Donna Anna, the Countess, and Fiordiligi, as well as Micaëla in *Carmen*, Senta in *Der fliegende Holländer*, and the title role in *Ariadne auf Naxos*. Her successes in these roles include performances on the stages of Santa Fe Opera, Glimmerglass Opera, Florida Grand Opera, Minnesota Opera, Nashville Opera, and Virginia Opera, and Opera Carolina.

A sought-after concert soloist, Ms. Pier has performed with major American ensembles, including the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, and Rochester Philharmonic, as well as the North Carolina, Winston-Salem, and Charlotte Symphonies in her home state. Her international profile includes engagements with the Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional de México, the Calgary Philharmonic, and the World Youth Orchestra, performing in Italy and at the United Nations General Assembly Hall in New York. Discography credits include Vaughan Williams’ *Dona Nobis Pacem* with the BBC Singers on the Naxos label. This summer, she joins the Sun Valley Music Festival as a featured soloist and guest clinician.

Originally from Flagstaff, Arizona, Ms. Pier earned her degrees from Indiana University, where she studied with the legendary Virginia Zeani. As an educator with over 20 years of experience, she shares her love for the artistic process as a guest clinician and through faculty positions at UNC Charlotte and Davidson College.



Emily Schmidt began Suzuki violin lessons at the age of three with her mother, Georgia. As a child, she played with the Triangle Youth Symphony, the NC Chamber Music Institute, and the Triangle Youth Philharmonic on both violin and viola. She earned the President's Cup from the National Federation of Music Clubs in her senior year. She has enjoyed playing gigs and teaching violin for many years. During her time at UNC Charlotte, Emily has served as the

Concertmaster for the UNC Charlotte Orchestra, and has played bass and snare drum in the Pride of Niner Nation Marching Band. She has studied violin with David Russell. Following her graduation this December, she hopes to attend dental school and become a pediatric dentist. She is so excited for this opportunity to play for you today! For more about Emily: <https://coaa.charlotte.edu/how-music-makes-a-better-dentist/>



Dr. Alan Yamamoto is the Visiting Director of Orchestras at UNC Charlotte. From 2011 to 2022 he was the conductor of the Central Piedmont Opera Theater Orchestra and a full-time faculty member at the college for nine years. In 2021 Dr. Yamamoto founded the new Queens Chamber Orchestra. His current community collaborative project, Orchestra Mosaic, pulls together students from partner

university orchestras, community youth orchestras, and high school string ensembles using university faculty and area professionals as player coaches to provide an exceptional learning environment for students. Dr. Yamamoto came to Charlotte in 2003 as the Resident Conductor of the Charlotte Symphony, and was prior to that time the Resident Conductor of the Colorado Music Festival in Boulder.

About the Ralph and Robert Grier Scholarship

The Ralph and Robert Grier Scholarship is awarded to UNC Charlotte Orchestra members who demonstrate exceptional academic achievement. By supporting both music and non-music majors, the scholarship fosters a community of talent and encourages students to continue their dedication to orchestral performance.

Support the Department of Music

The Music Department's Chair's Excellence Fund supports student welfare, class supplies, scholarship assistance, recruiting, lecture series, school-wide events, promotion, and related needs. To make a gift and impact our students, [please visit this link](#). Thank you for your support!

CoA+A Production Arts and Operations

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Hali Hutchison-Houk, Production Manager

Liz Paradis, Director of Audience Services

Beth Rucker, Business Services Coordinator

Liz Wooley, Performing Arts Operations Manager

Christina Beam, Costume Lab Manager

Meena Carr, Assistant Technical Director

Rachel Engstrom, Senior Lecturer, Costume Lab Supervisor / Designer

Matthew B. Fraiser, Senior Lecturer, Technical Director

Rick Moll, Senior Lecturer, Production Electrician

Gordon W. Olson, Senior Lecturer, Lighting Designer

Benjamin G. Stickels, Senior Lecturer, Audio Engineer, Asst. Production Manager

Rachel Swenson Flaherty, Senior Lecturer, Stage Management

Dan Mulder, Technology Engineer

Hazel Doherty, Chloe Shade, & Noah Tepper, Music Stage Managers

Tammy McNamara, House Management Supervisor

Alyssa Barry, House Manager

Patron Services Representatives

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Gabriel Tewell

Robinson Hall Technicians

Olivia Bader, Ethan Barros, Caleb Basham, Jaleel Eddie, Daniel Gaddy,

Alex McLellan, Teddy Rayworth, Veronica Salas, Naomi Wilson



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NINER NATION WEEK

College of Arts + Architecture

Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER

[Symphonic Band & Wind Ensemble](#)

Wed Sep 30 | 7:30 pm
Anne R. Belk Theater

OCTOBER

[Jazz Combo & Ensemble](#)

Thu Oct 1 | 7:30 pm
Anne R. Belk Theater

[Charlotte Strings Collective](#)

Faculty & Friends Concert Series

Tue Oct 6 | 7:30 pm
Rowe Recital Hall

[Fall Dance Concert: SHIFT](#)

Thu Oct 22- Sat Oct 24 | 7:30 pm
Sun Oct 25 | 2:00 pm
Anne R. Belk Theater

NOVEMBER

[Eric Millard, trumpet](#)

Faculty & Friends Concert Series

Tue Nov 3 | 7:30 pm
Rowe Recital Hall

Please join us for our next
[Orchestra](#) concert!

Thursday, November 19, 2026 | 7:30 pm
Anne R. Belk Theater

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in the CoA+A!

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