

CONNECTICUT VIRTUOSI

CONNECTICUT'S PREMIER CHAMBER ORCHESTRA | SINCE 1997 | PRESERVING THE CHAMBER ORCHESTRAL MUSICAL TRADITIONS THROUGH PUBLIC PERFORMANCES, EDUCATION, AND BY SHOWCASING REGIONAL & INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS

Adrian Sylveen, Founding Artistic Director

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Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra to present concert in memory of those lost to COVID-19 in October

Concert will feature the world premiere of Newington Composer Jonathan Kane's commissioned work in honor of COVID-19 victims

HARTFORD, CT - September 24, 2020 - The Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra will present a concert of classic and new work in memory of those who lost their lives to COVID-19 next month. ***COVID Victims Remembrance***, a new work from Newington composer **Jonathan Kane**, will world premiere at the concert. Kane's piece, commissioned by the Virtuosi, is one of the first original orchestral compositions created to honor the nearly one million people worldwide who have died from the virus.

"In the time of COVID-19, we still need to lead as artists. That is our greatest challenge. COVID-19 is about human suffering. We have to recognize the depth of the crisis and try to express the intensity of it in a musical format," said **Adrian Sylveen**, Artistic Director of the Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra. "I consider Jonathan to be a very talented composer and a gifted artist. He is one of these people who can, in very straightforward ways, establish a link between the music and the people. In every previous collaboration, we enjoyed not only the music but the whole process. Jonathan can also be surprising in the ways he finds new techniques and explores new sounds, so there is always a sort of very-welcome mystery to a new piece. We are looking forward to working with him again."

The concert will also include a performance of Béla Bartók's *Divertimento for String Orchestra*, led by Sylveen, who will play the principal violin.

Performances will be held on Sunday, October 11, at Trinity-On-Main in New Britain at 3 p.m. and on Sunday, October 18, at SS Cyril and Methodius Church in Hartford at 2 p.m. While the concert is closed to the public, it will be broadcast, free of charge, on the Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra's [Facebook page](#) and [YouTube Channel](#). Donations are welcome at <http://thevirtuosi.org/donate/>. Performance dates and times are subject to change. For more information, visit <http://thevirtuosi.org/>.

Jonathan Kane is a composer and violist from Newington, Connecticut. He began his musical studies at age seven with violin lessons at the Hartt School Community Division at the University of Hartford. He continued at the Hartt School until graduating high school, also taking lessons in composition, viola, and music theory, as well as playing in the Connecticut Youth Symphony. Kane attended the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, as well as Eastman's "parent" institution, the University of Rochester, getting a Bachelor of Music in Composition and a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics.



Since graduating, Kane has performed with the Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra and taught viola and music theory, as well as continuing to compose, arrange, and perform elsewhere. He is currently pursuing a master's degree in composition at the Boston Conservatory. Kane has written commissioned pieces for the Grammy Award-winning Ying Quartet and for the Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra, which premiered his orchestral work *Shesh* in 2017. His musical style brings together diverse influences, including the music of past composers such as Bach, Debussy, Shostakovich, and Hindemith, but also living composers such as Sofia Gubaidulina.

Adrian Sylveen enjoys a performing career in the United States and in Europe. He serves as Artistic Director of the Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra, Connecticut Lyric Opera, and the Classical Orchestra of Pila in Poland. He is also a frequent guest conductor with several leading Polish orchestras. An active violin soloist, as well as conductor, he has performed concerts and recitals in Poland, Switzerland,



Germany, former Soviet Union, and the United States. Sylveen graduated with distinction from the Paderewski Music Academy in Poznan, Poland, and holds Master and post-Master degrees from the Yale University School of Music. He is a winner of prizes and awards at competitions in Poland and in the United States and has participated in several international Festivals such as Weimar, Lancut and others. Sylveen was awarded several prestigious scholarships and awards, including the “Primus Inter Pares” Award given by the President of the Republic of Poland. He was awarded permanent United States residency for “Extraordinary Abilities in the Arts”.

ABOUT CONNECTICUT VIRTUOSI CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

The Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2017. The state’s premier professional chamber orchestra is dedicated to presenting both traditional and contemporary classical chamber works to the public. The Orchestra, led by Founder and Artistic Director Adrian Sylveen, continues to grow in size and repertoire, presenting approximately 35 times a year in many major performing arts centers throughout Connecticut and New York. The organization consists of 27 professional musicians and an administrative staff of four.

The mission of the Orchestra is to preserve and perpetuate the great traditions of orchestral music through the expansion of its public performance season, its education series, and by showcasing the excellence of regional and international talent. In its choice of repertoire, special attention is given to music from Eastern Europe.

The Orchestra collaborates on many projects with the New Britain Chorale, Central Connecticut State University, Middletown Concert Association, New York’s Chopin Foundation, and others. The Orchestra co-produces fully-staged opera productions with Connecticut Lyric Opera. In addition to performances, the Orchestra enriches the community by providing free tickets to local schools and hosting lectures on orchestral music. A frequent guest at the Kosciusko Foundation’s Chamber Music Series, in 2003 the Orchestra was invited to perform at the Gala Concert celebrating the 25th anniversary of John Paul II’s papacy.

ABOUT CONNECTICUT LYRIC OPERA

Now in its 16th year, Connecticut Lyric Opera (CLO) is the state’s leading opera company, performing to thousands across Connecticut in Hartford, Middletown, New Britain, and New London. CLO has earned the reputation as an innovative company that is renowned for its world-class singers, phenomenal concert-quality orchestra, and programming choices that go beyond the well-loved standards of the repertoire to include lesser-performed yet equally compelling works.

This year, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) awarded CLO with a \$50,000 grant as part

of its Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act allocation. CLO is one of nine arts organizations in Connecticut, and one of only twenty-seven opera companies nationwide, to receive this grant.

Together with its musical partner, the Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra, CLO initiated the Greve Opera Academy and Music Festival in Italy (2015) and the Summer Opera Institute in Farmington. Since its founding, the mission of CLO remains to:

- Inspire: To contribute to the cultural life of Connecticut and beyond with the highest quality operas and concerts from the traditional and contemporary repertoires.
- Involve: To encourage the development of singers, musicians and theatrical artisans through their participation in professional opera and other productions.
- Instill: To present opera to people of all ages in such a way as to foster a love and appreciation of the art form in particular, and classical and vocal music in general.

Singers from CLO's celebrated Young Artist Program have gone on to perform at the Metropolitan Opera, Royal Opera Covent Garden, Deutsche Staatsoper Berlin, the Salzburg Festival and other major companies.

