

# MSM COMPOSERS' ORCHESTRA

**George Manahan** (BM '73, MM '76), Conductor  
**Glenn Alexander II** and **Danielle Jagelski**,  
Student Conductors

New Works by Student Composers

Friday, April 1, 2022 | 7:30 PM  
Neidorff-Karpati Hall

# MSM COMPOSERS' ORCHESTRA

**George Manahan** (BM '73, MM '76), Conductor  
**Glenn Alexander II** and **Danielle Jagelski**, Student Conductors

## **PROGRAM**

**Tian Qin**                      *Obsessed 2* (2021)

**Shuwen Liao**                      *Elegant Cloud* (云翻) (2022)

**Yule Han**                      *Iceberg* (2022)

## *Intermission*

**Haihui Zhang**                      *Eye Scream* (2021)

**R.S. Stricklin III**                      *Searching for the very souls whom already have been sold*  
(2022)

**Nicolas Farmer**                      *In memoriam Christopher Rouse* (2021)

**Yaxin Liu**                      *Empire* (2021)

Several students in this performance are supported by scholarships provided by the First Initiative Foundation / Michelle Ong, Jim Petercsak, Sabian, David and Susan Rahm / the Allen H. and Selma W. Berkman Charitable Trust, Laurie Sandow, Avedis Zildjian Company, and the estate of Robert Mann.

We are grateful to the generous donors who made these scholarships possible. For information on establishing a named scholarship at Manhattan School of Music, please contact Susan Madden, Vice President for Advancement, at 917-493-4115 or smadden@msmny.edu.

# MSM COMPOSERS' ORCHESTRA

## VIOLIN 1

**Yixiang Wang**,  
concertmaster  
*Shanghai, China*

**Tsun Sze Jess Lo**  
*Hong Kong*

**Adryan Rojas**  
*Delaware, Ohio*

**Jinwoo Jung**  
*Seoul, Korea*

**Oliver Costello**  
*Denver, Colorado*

**Eunyoung Kim**  
*Seongman-Si, Korea*

**Natsuko Kojima**  
*Inagi, Japan*

**Bangjun Xia**  
*Astoria, New York*

**Hajung Cho**  
*Seoul, Korea*

**Messiah Ahmed**  
*Garland, Texas*

**Lumeng Yang**  
*Beijing, China*

**Tzu Tung Liao**  
*Jiaoxi, Taiwan*

## VIOLIN 2

**Yihan Zhu**, principal  
*New York, New York*

**Jinyu Xiong**  
*Shanghai, China*

**Soobine Choi**  
*Seoul, Korea*

**Jennifer Ahn**  
*New York, New York*

**Tsai-Chieh Wang**  
*Taipei, Taiwan*

**Liyan Zhou**  
*Jingzhou, China*

**Charles Yoonsuh Lee**  
*High Prairie, Alberta*

**Alina Hernandez**  
*Temecula, California*

**Guan Gui**  
*Wuban, China*

**Carolyn Carr**  
*Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

## VIOLA

**Kyran Littlejohn**,  
principal  
*Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

**Joseph Rittendale**  
*Kirkwood, Missouri*

**Kunbo Xu**  
*New York, New York*

**Jeong-jae Lee**  
*Gimcheon, Korea*

**Oryann Tsaig**  
*Kadima, Israel*

**Yuchen Tu**  
*Chongqing, China*

**Se Lyin Hong**  
*New York, New York*

**Man Chun Li**  
*Hong Kong*

**Jie Zhu**  
*Ningbo, China*

**Kiley Rowe**  
*Gosben, New York*

## CELLO

**Daniel Lail**, principal  
*Hickory, New York*

**Peng Guan**  
*Nanjing, China*

**Dabin Hwang**  
*Trenton, New Jersey*

**Marcella Kolacki**  
*Kyle, Texas*

**Yu-Sheng Tu**  
*Kaohsiung City, Taiwan*

**Chan Hee Kim**  
*Busan, Korea*

**Mei-chi Wang**  
*Taichung City, Taiwan*

**Wan-ting Shieh**  
*Natick, Massachusetts*

## DOUBLE BASS

**Dylan Holly**, principal  
*Tucson, Arizona*

**Riley Schultz**  
*Bayville, New York*

**Min Kyung Cho**  
*Bucheon-Si, Korea*

**Kyung Won Park**  
*Seoul, Korea*

**Binxuan Yu**  
*Changsha, China*

## FLUTE

**Zofia Los Leznicka**<sup>\*-></sup>  
*Interlochen, Michigan*

**Isabel Serrano**<sup>\*^-</sup>  
*Colton, California*

## PICCOLO

**Blue Shelton**  
*Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

## OBOE

**Seoyoung Hong**<sup>\*-></sup>  
*Plandome, New York*

**Samuel Kunde**<sup>#=-</sup>  
*Colonial Heights, Virginia*

## CLARINET

**Elina Georgiou**<sup>^</sup>  
*Limassol, Cyprus*

**Fang Ling Hsu**  
*Surrey, British Columbia*

**Jue Mei**<sup>^></sup>  
*Lanzhou, China*

## BASS CLARINET

**Elina Georgiou**

## ALTO SAXOPHONE

**Zhongyang Ling**  
*Providence, Rhode Island*

## BASSOON

**Jensen Bocco**<sup>\*#=></sup>  
*Winter Springs, Florida*

**Cyd Scott**<sup>^-</sup>  
*Carmel, New York*

## CONTRABASSOON

**Cyd Scott**

## HORN

**Andrew Angelos**<sup>+</sup>  
*Seattle, Washington*

**Marlena DeStefano**<sup>></sup>  
*Pompano Beach, Florida*

**Liam Lacey**<sup>#=-</sup>  
*Torrance, California*

**Zachary McIntyre**<sup>-</sup>  
*West Milford, New Jersey*

## TRUMPET

**Carolyn Douthat**<sup>\*\*+=</sup>  
*Wayne, New Jersey*

**Kyle Nix**  
*Pontotoc, Mississippi*

**Lindsay Ross**<sup>#-></sup>  
*Footbill Ranch, California*

## TENOR TROMBONE

**Oh Min Gueon**<sup>#+=</sup>  
*Dongjak-Gu, Korea*

**Hans Kang**<sup>\*-></sup>  
*Lawrenceville, Georgia*

## BASS TROMBONE

**Jahi Alexander**  
*New York, New York*

**Jordan Davenport**  
*Highland Village, Texas*

## TUBA

**Fumiya Miyata**  
*Tsurumi-Ku, Osaka-Sbi, Japan*

## TIMPANI

**Tarun Bellur**  
*Plano, Texas*

**Leo Simon**  
*New York, New York*

## PERCUSSION

**William Chinn**  
*Irvine, California*

**Gabriel Costache**  
*Denver, Colorado*

**Zachary Masri**  
*Vancouver, British Columbia*

**Christian Santos**  
*Dumont, New Jersey*

## HARP

**Isabel Cardenes**  
*Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

## KEYBOARD

**Ziqi Tian**

## Brass & Wind Principals

\* QIN

# LIAO

^ HAN

- ZHANG

+ STRICKLIN

= FARMER

> LIU

# PROGRAM NOTES

**Tian Qin**

***Obsessed 2***

My series of works entitled *Obsessed* are based on the theme of celebrating life. In the process of composing *Obsessed 2*, I discovered the dark side of obsession. I wanted to use the music to portray the mental state of people who are so overly passionate about something that they lose their proper balance; yet they still choose to stay inside of their obsession.

**Shuwen Liao**

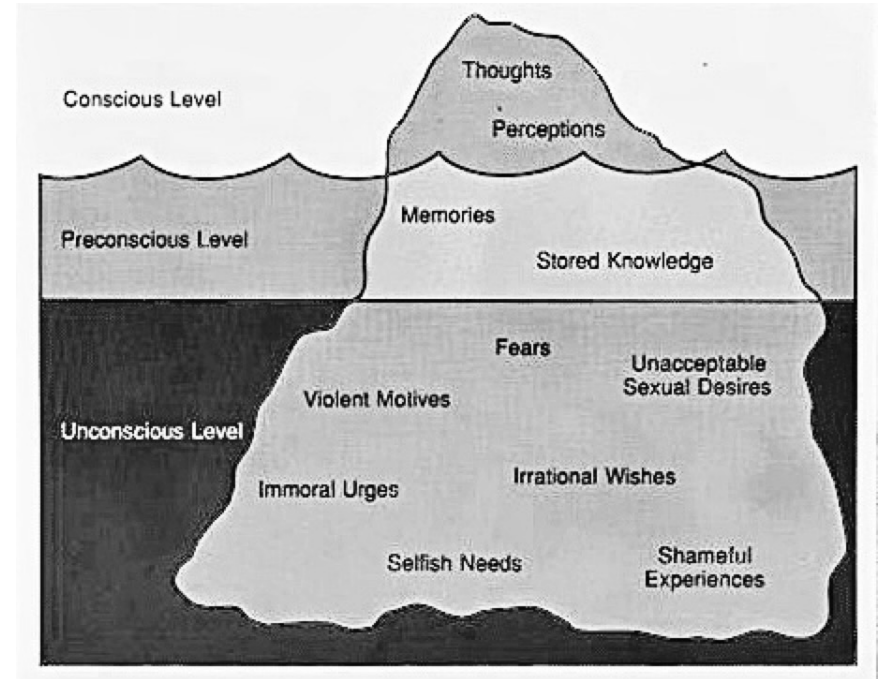
***Elegant Cloud* (云翮)**

Clouds, which follow air currents in a fluid form, are mixtures of floating visible polymers, shaped by the configuration of temperature, humidity, height, and wind in the atmosphere. *Elegant Cloud* reveals these changing masses expressing different moods. The rippling clouds are like water blown by the wind, the linear texture like small ripples in the shape of silk strips, and the scattered dots of material like occasional flashes of light in the clouds. The combination of the two is like a striped curtain of clouds rippling round and round. The clouds in the sky move fast or slow, using short, powerful rhythmic patterns that contrast with long, static notes. These two elements tug, contradict, and talk to each other via different instruments and speeds, so that cloud layers and cloud groups are constantly growing and struggling with these different dynamics. Thick and huge clouds spread throughout the sky and develop vertically, filling physical space. The whole orchestra reflects this thickness in sound, achieving longitudinal and latitudinal richness, a silky luster within an extremely oppressive form. The vertical and horizontal interspersed texture produces a large amount of unstable energy, creating a huge impactful force, like a myriad of emotions constantly overlapping, dedicated, and surging.

After expressing this intensity, returning to my senses, I depict the clouds as soft feathers and uncontrollable gauzes, randomly gathering and dispersing timbres, which resemble the brightness and darkness of clouds, flickering and ringing lightly, in freedom.

**Yule Han**

***Iceberg***



**Haihui Zhang**

***Eye Scream***

Title: "I share my pronunciation with other words. The clues are hidden in the music."

## **Nicolas Farmer**

### ***In memoriam Christopher Rouse***

I admired Christopher Rouse’s captivating music for orchestra, as well as his humility and dry humor, and I was crushed upon hearing of his death in 2019. With this title, which came near the end of composing the piece, I reflect on his legacy and his influence on me, even though I only explicitly reference his music once. Five groups of material cycle in succession, developing and contracting with each appearance, until they collapse.

## **Yaxin Liu**

### ***Empire***

For those days with hope and dreams...

# **ABOUT THE COMPOSERS**

## **Nicolas Farmer**

A native of College Station, Texas, Nicolas Farmer is a composer pursuing his Master of Music degree at Manhattan School of Music after completing his undergraduate studies in composition and horn performance at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. Besides composing, he also has research interests in the study of timbre and orchestration. He gave a presentation titled “Seeing New Colors: Devices of Scriabinian and Post-Scriabinian Orchestration” at the first Analysis, Creation, and Teaching of Orchestration Project conference at IRCAM in July 2019.

## **Yule Han**

Yule Han, a second-year graduate student at MSM, born in 1994, explores unique conceptualizations of a sonic world, confronting what are perceived as conventions. Her music draws inspiration from acoustics, psychoacoustics, literature, science, and nature. Upcoming presentations this spring include two concerts for the Weimar collaboration project, a piece written for second-year MM friends at the 7th Student Composers Concert, and a solo percussion piece at the University of Michigan. Yule is currently studying composition with Reiko Fütting.

## **Shuwen Liao**

Shuwen Liao, born in China, became the first young Chinese composer whose work was included in the New York Philharmonic’s “Very Young Composer Program.” Her work *Shadow of the Wolf* was performed by the New York Philharmonic in Lincoln Center and in the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra concert hall. She later wrote an international music postcard, *The Skeleton Demon*, which was premiered in New York by the New York Philharmonic and subsequently toured around the world. In addition to compositional awards in her native China, Shuwen was the third-place winner of the Manhattan Prize for String Quartet Composition at MSM for her string quartet *Pure Fire*. In her music, Shuwen seeks to create an illusion—something wild and unexpected, but in a subtle way, quietly exciting, full of lightness. Shuwen is currently an undergraduate studying with Susan Botti.

## Yaxin Liu

Yaxin Liu, born in 1997, enrolled in Minzu University of China in 2015 as a composition and composition technique theory major studying with Dr. Yang Yu. As an undergraduate, she had an internship at the Kuwo Company. From her freshmen to junior year, she assisted Professor Yu in operating and maintaining the WeChat account “Yubo Classroom” and was responsible for searching for examples of music to help impart music knowledge to the students. In 2020, she was admitted to Manhattan School of Music to pursue her Master of Music degree in classical composition with Dr. J. Mark Stambaugh. Yaxin Liu is inspired by what she hears and feels in her daily life, by travel, and by books. These are all sources for her compositions.

## Tian Qin

Chinese composer and pianist Tian Qin graduated from the high school affiliated with Shanghai Conservatory and is pursuing her Bachelor’s degree in composition at Manhattan School of Music. She has studied composition with Prof. Ding Ying and Dr. Marjorie Merryman and piano with Xiangjun Yu and Jiayin Li. Tian has composed since the age of 10, writing music that is compelling, humorous, and precise. As a pianist, she has held multiple recitals performing her own music. She has also performed on the International Music Foundation’s Rush Hour Concert Series and the Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concerts. Her compositions have won her multiple prizes and workshop opportunities. Her trio *Obsessed*, for traditional Chinese instruments, won second prize in the Yinzhong China National Composition Competition and was selected to be performed at the 34th Shanghai Spring International Music Festival. During the pandemic, Tian composed a wind quintet called *Songs for Children* for a recording project with the Windscape ensemble. Her music has also been workshopped by the Byrne:Kozar:Duo and the Unheard-of ensemble and performed by the Atlantic Music Festival contemporary ensemble.

## R. S. Stricklin III

R. S. Stricklin III, born in 1994 in Dallas, Texas, has had his music performed across the United States and Europe. He has worked on performances of his music with musicians such as loadbang, Frances-Marie Uitti, and members of the Ostravská Banda and the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. Stricklin graduated with honors in the liberal arts from Southern Methodist University in 2017 with a Bachelor of Music degree in composition, and from Manhattan School of Music in 2020 with a Master of Music degree in composition. He is currently pursuing a DMA in composition with Reiko Fütting at Manhattan School of Music.

## Haihui Zhang

Born in Wuhan, China, Haihui Zhang began studying piano and composition with her father at the age of 4. She attended the Music Middle School Affiliated with the Shanghai Conservatory of Music in 2013 and studied composition with Professor Ding Ying. She also studied piano with Professors Wang Qing, Zhou Ting, and Yu Xiangjun. In 2016, she was accepted by Manhattan School of Music to study composition with Dr. Reiko Fütting. Both as a composer and a pianist, Haihui Zhang has received many prizes and scholarships. In 2014, she was in the top ten of the CCTV Piano and Violin Competition for piano in the youth group. In 2015, she won third prize in the China–ASEAN Music Week Art Song Competition and second place in the Advanced Music College’s 9th Chinese Traditional String Quintet Competition. In 2017, she won second prize in the China–ASEAN Music Week Piano Solo Composition and in the same year was commissioned by the International Percussion Education Association. In 2018, she won first prize in the Waldorf 100 International Composition Contest. In 2019, she was commissioned by the Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra. In 2020, her piece *The Hourglass* was premiered at the Hangzhou Contemporary Music Festival and won third prize in the festival’s first Art Creation Awards International Orchestral Composition Competition. In the same year, her orchestral work *A Journey to the West* was premiered during the 28th Autumn in Chengdu International Music Season. Her works have been performed in China, the United States, and Europe.

# ABOUT THE CONDUCTORS

## George Manahan (BM '73, MM '76)

George Manahan is in his 11th season as Director of Orchestral Activities at Manhattan School of Music, as well as Music Director Emeritus of the American Composers Orchestra. He served as Music Director of the New York City Opera for 14 seasons and was hailed for his leadership of the orchestra. He was also Music Director of the Richmond Symphony (VA) for 12 seasons. Recipient of Columbia University's Ditson Conductor's Award, Mr. Manahan was also honored by the American Society of Composers and Publishers (ASCAP) for his "career-long advocacy for American composers and the music of our time." His Carnegie Hall performance of Samuel Barber's *Antony and Cleopatra* was hailed by audiences and critics alike. "The fervent and sensitive performance that Mr. Manahan presided over made the best case for this opera that I have ever encountered," said the *New York Times*.

Mr. Manahan's guest appearances include the Orchestra of St. Luke's, Atlanta, San Francisco, Hollywood Bowl, and New Jersey, where he served as acting Music Director for four seasons. He has been a regular guest with the Curtis Institute and the Aspen Music Festival and has appeared with the opera companies of Seattle, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Chicago, Santa Fe, Paris, Sydney, Bologna, St. Louis, the Bergen Festival (Norway), and the Casals Festival (Puerto Rico). His many appearances on television include productions of *La bohème*, *Lizzie Borden*, and *Tosca* on PBS. The Live from Lincoln Center telecast of New York City Opera's production of *Madama Butterfly*, under his direction, won a 2007 Emmy Award.

George Manahan's wide-ranging recording activities include the premiere recording of Steve Reich's *Tebillim* for ECM; recordings of Edward Thomas's *Desire Under the Elms*, which was nominated for a Grammy; Joe Jackson's *Will Power*; and Tobias Picker's *Emmeline*. He has conducted numerous world premieres, including Charles Wuorinen's *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*, David Lang's *Modern Painters*, Hans Werner Henze's *The English Cat*, Tobias Picker's *Dolores Claiborne*, and Terence Blanchard's *Champion*.

He received his formal musical training at Manhattan School of Music, studying conducting with Anton Coppola and George Schick, and was appointed to the faculty of the school upon his graduation, at which time the Juilliard School awarded him a fellowship as Assistant Conductor with the American Opera Center. Mr. Manahan was chosen as the Exxon Arts Endowment Conductor of the New Jersey Symphony the same year he made his opera debut with the Santa Fe Opera, conducting the American premiere of Arnold Schoenberg's *Von Heute auf Morgen*.

## Glenn Alexander II

A versatile young conductor and pianist whose musicality crosses many genres, Glenn Alexander II is pursuing a Professional Studies Certificate in conducting at Manhattan School of Music under George Manahan. A 2020–21 Project Inclusion Conducting Freeman Fellow with the Chicago Sinfonietta under conductor Mei-Ann Chen, he was concurrently a conducting fellow with the Greater Connecticut Youth Orchestra, as well as a cover conductor at Manhattan School of Music.

His recent collaborations have included Academy Award winning composer Jon Batiste, Waffle House, and Teachers College at Columbia University. Beyond classical music, Mr. Alexander recently co-produced a nationally renowned EP, *KimCruse*. He is also an accomplished gospel musician, having served as a pianist and organist for many congregations.

Glenn Alexander II holds a Master of Music degree in orchestral conducting from the Bard College Conservatory of Music and a Bachelor of Arts in music from Prairie View A&M University. His teachers and mentors include James Bagwell, Damien Sneed, and Dr. Vicki A. Seldon. He is a brother of both Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity of America.

## Danielle Jagelski

Danielle Jagelski, currently Music Director of Renegade Opera and interim conductor of the Norwalk Youth Symphony concert orchestra, is pursuing her study of orchestral conducting with Maestro George Manahan at Manhattan School of Music. She has recently conducted at Bruno Walter Auditorium at Lincoln Center, Hallowed Halls in Portland, Oregon, and the Aquilon Music Festival. She is a lover of collaboration, having premiered nearly 50 newly written works by living composers. Upcoming performances include Elizabeth Raum's *Garden of Alice* with City Lyric Opera in New York and *La clemenza di Tito* at Cermion House in Portland. This summer she will also be assistant to Maestro Timothy Long for Prague Summer Night's production of *Le nozze di Figaro*.

A fierce advocate for equity in musical spaces, Danielle is mentor for Girls Who Conduct, a mentorship program for young women and nonbinary conductors to foster diversity in the classical music world. An enrolled member of the Oneida Nation and Redcliff Band of Ojibwe, she often

collaborates with other Native artists in multidisciplinary projects to sustain and further the visibility of Indigenous peoples in the fine arts. She has presented her research on Indigenous identity and classical music throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Danielle began her musical studies in classical composition at Hamline University with Jannika Vandervelde and her conducting studies at Conservatorium van Amsterdam with Jos Vermunt.

## ABOUT MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Founded as a community music school by Janet Daniels Schenck in 1918, today MSM is recognized for its 985 superbly talented undergraduate and graduate students who come from more than 50 countries and nearly all 50 states; its innovative curricula and world-renowned artist-teacher faculty that includes musicians from the New York Philharmonic, the Met Orchestra, and the top ranks of the jazz and Broadway communities; and a distinguished community of accomplished, award-winning alumni working at the highest levels of the musical, educational, cultural, and professional worlds.

The School is dedicated to the personal, artistic, and intellectual development of aspiring musicians, from its Precollege students through those pursuing doctoral studies. Offering classical, jazz, and musical theatre training, MSM grants a range of undergraduate and graduate degrees. True to MSM's origins as a music school for children, the Precollege Division is a highly competitive and professionally oriented Saturday music program, dedicated to the musical and personal growth of talented young musicians ages 5 to 18. The School also serves some 2,000 New York City schoolchildren through its Arts-in-Education Program, and another 2,000 students through its critically acclaimed Distance Learning Program.

### **Your gift helps a young artist reach for the stars!**

To enable Manhattan School of Music to continue educating and inspiring generations of talented students and audiences alike, please consider making a charitable contribution today.

*Contact the Advancement Office at 917-493-4434 or visit [msmnyc.edu/support](https://msmnyc.edu/support)*

### **Land Acknowledgment**

We want to acknowledge that we gather as Manhattan School of Music on the traditional land of the Lenape and Wappinger past and present, and honor with gratitude the land itself and the people who have stewarded it throughout the generations. This calls us to commit to continuing to learn how to be better stewards of the land we inhabit as well.

📍 MSM.NYC    🐦 MSMNYC    📘 MSMNYC



**M** Manhattan  
School of Music