LIVE FROM HOCHSTEIN

AIKA ITO, violin
KOKI TANAKA, violin
KATIE WORLEY, violin
WILLIE LA FAVOR, piano
GARY PALMER, piano

"Remembering David Hochstein:
A Veterans Day Remembrance"

Wednesday, November 11, 2026 at 12:10 p.m.
Hochstein Performance Hall



HOCHSTEIN
The Hochstein School

PROGRAM

3 Old Viennese Dances — Fritz Kreisler (1875-1962)
II. Liebesleid (Love's Sorrow)

Ballad for Violin and Piano — David Hochstein (1892-1918)

Minuet in Olden Style — Hochstein

Koki Tanaka, violin
Gary Palmer, piano

3 Romanzen, Op. 94 — Robert Schumann (1810-1856)
II. Einfach, innig

Seven Bohemian Dances, Op. 10 — Otakar Ševčík (1852-1934)
V. Břetislav

Aika Ito, violin
Gary Palmer, piano

Waltz in A Major, Op. 29, No. 15 — Johannes Brahms (1833-1897) arr. Hochstein

Concerto No. 2 in D Minor, Op. 44 — Max Bruch (1838-1920)
III. Finale: Allegro molto

Katie Worley, violin
Willie La Favor, piano

ARTIST BIOS

Aika Ito, a native of Tokyo, Japan, joined the first violin section of the RPO in September 2014. Previously, she was a member of the Canton Symphony Orchestra and the Akron Symphony Orchestra. She has participated in several summer festivals, including the Pacific Music Festival, Schleswig Holstein Music Festival, and the Tanglewood Music Festival. She also plays the viola and attended a chamber music festival at the Nebraska Institute of Music as a violist.

Ito began studying the violin at the age of 4. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the Toho School of Music in Tokyo, where she studied with Tsugio Tokunaga, former concertmaster of the NHK Symphony Orchestra. She earned an artist diploma at the Cleveland Institute of Music with Stephen Rose, principal second violinist of The Cleveland Orchestra. During her education, she also studied with Mayumi Ohira, Kumi Iguchi, Akihiro Miura, and Asako Urushihara.

Determined to engage and inspire the audience, **Dr. Koki Tanaka** made his debut at age 18 at Benaroya Hall, performing the rarely heard Conus *Violin Concerto in E minor* with Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra under conductor Stephen Rogers Radcliffe; also, with the Bellevue Philharmonic at Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue, Washington, under conductor Fusao Kajima.

Tanaka studied with Mikhail Kopelman, Renée Jolles, and Lynn Blakeslee at Eastman School of Music, where he served as a Teaching Assistant. At the University of Washington, he studied with Ronald Patterson.

Tanaka has given solo recitals at Eastman School of Music, SUNY Brockport, George Eastman House, Wilmot Recital Hall, and Beston Hall at Nazareth University, as well as performing at Esber Recital Hall at Penn State University. During the summer, Tanaka performs frequently at the Interlochen Center for the Arts as a part of faculty recitals.

Tanaka's other passion has been teaching, and he has taught on many occasions, from local elementary school to middle school music classes, as well as privately. He teaches Aural Skills and Fundamental Theory courses at Nazareth University, Chamber Music at Roberts Wesleyan University, and violin at The Hochstein School, Eastman Community Music School, and Roberts Wesleyan Community Music School in Rochester, NY. Tanaka also teaches at Interlochen Center for the Arts Summer Arts Camp as a Faculty Fellow.

Tanaka holds Doctor of Musical Arts and Master of Music degrees from Eastman School of Music and received his Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Washington.

Katie Worley, originally from Texas, began violin studies at the age of 4 as a Suzuki student. She moved to Rochester at the age of 18 to study violin performance at the Eastman School of Music. She studied with professors Catherine Tait and Charles Castleman, earning both B.M. (1999) and M.M. (2001) degrees. Ms. Worley joined Hochstein faculty in 2000 and teaches both Suzuki and traditional violin students full time.

She was a member of the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra from 2001-2003. She has played as a substitute violinist with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra (2002-2007), as well as serving as concertmaster of orchestras traveling to Heidelberg, Germany, and the Bahamas.

Ms. Worley has completed Suzuki teacher training at Ithaca Suzuki Institute, Suzuki Institute of Southern Ontario, and Suzuki institute of the Palouse in Pullman, Washington. She served as co-chair of the Hochstein String Department from 2008-2013 and was the recipient of Hochstein's 2015 Faculty Service Award.

She also enjoys caring for her two rabbits, guinea pig, rat, two birds, and three cats, and being "Aunt Katie" for her goddaughter, Melody.

Pianist **Willie La Favor,** a native of Georgia, earned the Bachelor of Music from Jacksonville University, the Master of Music degree at the New England Conservatory and the Doctor of Music degree from Indiana University. He is a former faculty member of Indiana Wesleyan University and the Young Pianist's Program at Indiana University, where he was also an Associate Instructor. He has been a staff accompanist at Butler University and DePauw University and has performed extensively as a recital accompanist, including as a guest artist in Chautauqua's Lenna Hall, live on WXXI public radio, and on Hochstein's Spotlight on Faculty recital series.

Currently, he is Director of Music at Messiah Lutheran Church in Greece, teaches piano and accompanies soloists at the Hochstein School, accompanies choirs at The Harley School, and accompanies soloists at Nazareth College. Among his many awards are First Place in the 1988 National Beethoven Piano Sonata Festival, and, in 1990 together with his wife, clarinetist Debbie Grohman, Runner-up in the MTNA National Collegiate Artists Chamber Music Competition.

Dr. Gary Palmer received his Ph.D. in Music Education and his M.M. in Piano Performance and Literature from the Eastman School of Music, and his Bachelor's from Nazareth College. His Ph.D. dissertation topic was the history of The Hochstein School, focusing on mission and vision.

Palmer is a former faculty member of the Eastman Community Music School, where he was awarded the Jack L. Frank Community Service Award. Palmer's performance career includes appearances as a soloist with Greece Symphony Orchestra, Greater Rochester Women's Philharmonic, and Elmira Symphony, as well as at various college campuses throughout New York State. He was the recipient of the 2008 Hochstein Faculty Service Award and was awarded the National Citation from the Points of Light Foundation in 1991.

Dr. Palmer also received a 2015 Special Citation from New York State Music Teachers Association in recognition of his contributions to NYSMTA, his achievements as a performer, teacher, and administrator, and his dedication to the music community. His annual Night of Encores concerts at Eastman and Hochstein from 1990-2009 raised more than $75,000 to support Lupus research and awareness.

AUDIENCE REMINDERS

- Please enter and exit the hall only during applause.
- Food and beverages are not allowed in the hall.
- Please turn off cell phones and other devices that may sound or light up during the performance.
- Restrooms are located downstairs and can be accessed from the back of the Performance Hall. Please ask an usher for directions to accessible and gender neutral restrooms.
- Fire exits are located along the sides and rear of the hall.

UPCOMING EVENTS

WXXI Classical kicks off fall with a few new series added to Saturday's schedule including "Classical for Kids" on Saturdays at 9 a.m., "Classical Music Happy Hour with Emanuel Ax" at 6 p .m., and "Press A to Play" at 7 p.m. Scan the QR code to check out the full schedule.

For more information on Hochstein concerts and events, scan this code to visit our online calendar.

Hochstein programs are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature. Hochstein programs are also made possible by the Monroe County Legislature; Adam Bello, Monroe County Executive.

The Hochstein School is grateful to Sidney & Barbara Sobel for generously providing continuous underwriting support for Live from Hochstein since 1993.

Today's performance is broadcast live and in stereo on WXXI Classical *FM 91.5 with host Mona Seghatoleslami.*