NPR's From the Top Live with Host Christopher O’Riley

Office of Arts + Cultural Programming
PEAK Performances at Montclair State University

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From the Top Live
with Host Christopher O’Riley

Jenice Cortizo, piano
Audrey Emata, flute
Ryan Ferguson, piano
Chase Park, cello
Jasper Snow, viola
Joanne Robinson, announcer

Guest Artists
Shanghai Quartet
Montclair State Quartet-in-Residence
Weigang Li, violin
Yi-Wen Jiang, violin
Xiaogang Li, viola
Michaolin Tamara, cello

Program

I. Allegro non troppo
Frédéric Chopin (1810–1849)
trans. Heifetz/Rostropovich

II. Allegro appassionato
Franz Schubert (1797–1828)

III. Poco Allegro
Johannes Brahms (1833–1897)

IV. Poco Allegro
François Borne (1840–1920)

The Humiliation of Drupadi
Ananda Sukarlan (b. 1968)

The Life of Clementine Hunter
Montclair State University Alumni Association

Benefactors

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To view our complete season and for more information, visit peakperfs.org.

Dr. Susan A. Cole, President
Daniel Gurskis, Dean, College of the Arts
Jedediah Wheeler, Executive Director, Arts & Cultural Programming

Montclair State’s Office of Arts & Cultural Programming (ACP) produces and presents leading artists of the world in dance, music, theater, and opera. Under its signature series Peak Performances, ACP has produced works such as Zinnias: The Life of Clementine Hunter by Robert Wilson, Bernice Johnson Reagon, Toshi Reagon, and Jacqueline Woodson; Dog Days by David Lang. In addition, ACP has commissioned works by Bill T. Jones, Kinross Quartet, Jon Faber, Liz Lerman, Wayne McGregor, Laurie Anderson, Romeo Castellucci, Richard Alston, Susan Marshall, Fred Hersch, and David Gordon.

The 2014/15 season is made possible in part by funds from:

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
The New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State,
The National Dance Project (NDP) of the New England Foundation for the Arts

Alexander Kasser Theater

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From the Top May be heard locally on WQXR 105.9 FM on Saturdays at 6:00 AM.

This episode will air nationally the week of January 26. From the Top may be heard locally on WQXR 105.9 FM on Saturdays at 6:00 AM.

Check other listings and listen online at fromthetop.org.

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Based in Boston, From the Top is an independent nonprofit organization that celebrates the power of music in the hands of extraordinary young people—thanks to the charitable gifts made by many individuals and institutions each year from the Top’s radio program is made possible in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts, a grant from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, corporate underwriting from U.S. Trust, Bank of America Private Wealth Management, and partnerships with radio stations nationwide. From the Top’s founding partners are New England Conservatory and WGBH. Learn more at fromthetop.org.

Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes, no intermission.

In consideration of both audience and performers, please turn off all electronic devices. The taking of photographs or videos and the use of recording equipment are not permitted. No food or drink is permitted in the theater.
Janice Carissa (piano), 16, and Ryan Ferguson (piano), 18, are siblings from Surabaya, Indonesia. Currently, they live in Philadelphia, PA, where Janice attends the City School Academy and Ryan attends Drexel University. Janice studies with Gary Graffman and Robert McDonald at the Curtis Institute of Music, and Ryan studies with their mother, Sienny Debora. In 2012, they each performed at Carnegie Hall as winners in the American Protégé International Music Talent Competition in New York. Together, they performed at the Sydney Opera House (Australia) for The Fantastic Sound of Two Pianos Concert. Outside of music, Janice enjoys photography, blogging, and editing photos, while Ryan is interested in business and finance.

Audrey Emata (flute), 13, is from Wallfordsford, PA, and currently attends Strath Haven Middle School. She studies with Bradley Garner at the Juilliard Pre-College Division. She has won first prizes at the Mid-Atlantic Flute Fair, the Pocono Flute Festival, the New York Flute Club, and the Philadelphia Flute Society Competitions. In 2013, Audrey was chosen as a winner of the Philadelphia Orchestra’s Albert M. Greenfield Competition and performed as a soloist with the orchestra in Verizon Hall. Outside of music, Audrey enjoys tap dancing, sewing, acting, and reading.

Chase Park (cello), 16, is from Englewood Cliffs, NJ, where he attends Northern Valley High School. He currently studies with Clara Minnaye Kim at the Juilliard Pre-College Division. He is a first-prize winner of the Kaplan JCC on the Palisades Thumsauer School of Music Concerto Competition, the Goldbait String Competition (Junior Division), the New York Music Competition for Cello, and the American String Teachers Association of New Jersey Competition (Early Division). He has studied with Ronald Leonard during the past three summers at the Perlman Music Summer Program. Chase is a fourth-degree black belt in Taekwondo.

Jasper Snow (viola), 18, is from Houston, TX, and currently attends the Juilliard School in New York City where he studies with Misha Amory and Heidi Castellan. Prior to attending Juilliard, he attended the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts (HSPVA) and studied with James Dunham. He has attended the Aspen Music Festival and School and the Interlochen Arts Camp. In Houston he performed with the Houston Youth Symphony and the HSPVA Symphony Orchestra. Outside of music, Jasper enjoys playing with his dog, spending time with family, cooking, and feeding and watching his fish.

Shanghai Quartet (guest artists) currently serves as Quartet-In-Residence at the John J. Cali School of Music at Montclair State University. Ensemble-in-Residence with the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra, and visiting guest professors of the Shanghai Conservatory and the Central Conservatory in Beijing. Renowned for its passionate musicality, impressive technique, and multicultural innovations, the Shanghai Quartet has become one of the world’s foremost chamber ensembles. Formed at the Shanghai Conservatory in 1983, the Quartet has worked with the world’s most distinguished artists and regularly tours the major music centers of Europe, North America, and Asia.

Joanne Robinson (announcer) has a broad arts and communications background. She has performed a tour with several children’s theater companies and worked on production teams of two children’s television programs. In addition to being from the Top’s announcer, she serves as From the Top’s senior designer. You can follow her adventures on tour with the show at our Green Room blog at greenroom.fromthetop.org.

Christopher O’Riley (host/piano) has redefined the possibilities of classical music through media, contemporary music, and innovative programming. In addition to hosting From the Top’s radio and television programs and appearing with top orchestras and festivals around the world, O’Riley is also an interpreter of some of the most important contemporary popular music of our time. He lives by the Duke Ellington adage, “There are only two kinds of music, good music and bad.” O’Riley has performed two-piano arrangements of Astor Piazzolla’s tangos with Argentine pianist Pablo Ziegler and collaborated with choreographer Martha Clarke in a work that sets the staged stories of Anton Chekhov to the piano works of Alexander Scriabin. He has recorded two discs of his own imaginings of Radiohead songs, as well as the music of singer/songwriter Nick Drake a tribute to Elliot Smith. In 2009, he drew from the works of Nirvana, REM, Radiohead, Pink Floyd, Tori Amos, The Smiths, Cocteau Twins, and Portishead, among others, in Out Of My Hands. In 2011, O’Riley teamed up with cellist Matt Haimovitz on Shuffle Play Listen, a collaboration that plumbs the virtuosic possibilities of their instruments and blurs the boundaries between classical and pop music. In O’Riley’s last, released in 2013, he drives into the transcriptions of Franz Liszt, adding his own touches and insight to the music of Mozart, Wagner, Berlioz, Schubert, and Schumann. O’Riley is a recipient of top prizes and awards from the Van Cliburn Competition and the Avery Fisher Career Grants. He is a graduate of the New England Conservatory in Boston.

About From the Top

Based in Boston, From the Top is America’s premier national platform celebrating the stories, talents, and character of classically trained young musicians. Our live events and innovative media, scholarship, and leadership programs empower these extraordinary young people to engage and inspire music lovers of all ages.

Programs

Our signature media program, From the Top with Host Christopher O’Riley, is the most popular weekly one-hour classical music program on public radio. Now in its 15th season, From the Top is heard on more than 249 radio stations and recorded before live audiences across the country, uniting communities around the joy and promise of great young talent. Our YouTube channel features dozens of videos showcasing the best our young musicians have to offer, both in performance and in their inspiring work to bring music into their communities.

Our Education and Outreach programs empower young musicians to reach new audiences and create positive change through music. Every musician who appears on From the Top receives intensive leadership training, exploring their own unique leadership paths and the skills needed to take music beyond the concert hall. They then apply this training by creating and performing customized outreach activities in their community we visit.

Drawing on the energy of one of America’s most vibrant music communities, our Center for the Development of Arts Leaders in Boston engages Greater Boston’s young musicians as performers, teachers, and leaders, working with Boston’s educational and service organizations to share the power of music.

Scholarships

Since 2005, From the Top and the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation have awarded more than $2 million in scholarships to over 200 exceptional young musicians with financial need. In addition to providing these young artists with an opportunity to perform on From the Top’s national broadcasts, recipients are awarded up to $10,000 to support their musical studies.

Learn more about how you can support our young musicians at fromthetop.org.

About the Artists

Jodi Beznoska (piano), 16, is from Englewood Cliffs, NJ, where he attends Northern Valley High School. He currently studies with Clara Minnaye Kim at the Juilliard Pre-College Division. He is a first-prize winner of the Kaplan JCC on the Palisades Thumsauer School of Music Concerto Competition, the Goldbait String Competition (Junior Division), the New York Music Competition for Cello, and the American String Teachers Association of New Jersey Competition (Early Division). He has studied with Ronald Leonard during the past three summers at the Perlman Music Summer Program. Chase is a fourth-degree black belt in Taekwondo.

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