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

Office of Arts + Cultural Programming

PEAK Performances at Montclair State University

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.montclair.edu/peak-performances-2014-2015

Part of the Theatre and Performance Studies Commons

Recommended Citation

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the PEAK Performances Programming History at Montclair State University Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in 2014-2015 Discover the Heartbeat of Creative Life by an authorized administrator of Montclair State University Digital Commons. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@montclair.edu.
**From the Top Live**

with Host Christopher O’Riley

---

**Staff**

**Office of Arts & Cultural Programming**

Executive Director: Jedediah Wheeler
Executive Producer: Ali DiMuro
Producer: Jessica Wasielewski
Production/Facility Manager: J. Ryan Grimes
Cultural Engagement Director: Carrie Urbanic
Media and Marketing Specialist: AmyEstes
Director of Audience Services: Robert Hermita
Lighting Supervisor: Chris Holland
Audio Visual Engineer: Erik Treater
Cultural Engagement Assistant: Hannah Ruffels
Production Associate: Gillian P. Holmes
Film Project Coordinator: Dianalice Akibayeni
Box Office Manager: Priyanka Van Raalte
House Manager: Maureen Grimaldi
Marketing/PR Assistant: Thomas Beeler
Graphics/Video/Photo: design
Press: Ellen Jacobs Associates

Program Producer: Dan Case

**College of the Arts**

Dean: Dan Donahue
Associate Dean: Ronald L. Sharpe

**From the Top’s founding partners are New England Conservatory and WGBH. Learn more at fromthetop.org.**

---

**From the Top Live**

December 13, 2014 • 8:00pm

**Alexander Kasser Theater**

Montclair State’s Office of Arts & Cultural Programming (ACP) presents and produces 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, Benise, Johnson Reagin, Tashi Reagin, and Jacqueline Woodson; Dog Days by David T. Little and Royce Vavrek; Harry Partch’s Oedipus; Montclair State’s The Difficulty of Crossing a Field by David T. Little; and Ridge Theater’s The Difficulty of Crossing a Field by David Lang. In addition, ACP has commissioned works by Bill T. Jones, Kinross Quartet, Job Faber, Liz Lerman, Wayne McGregor, Laurie Anderson, Romeo Castellucci, Richard Alston, Susan Marshall, Fred Hersch, and David Gordon.

---

**Major Donors**

Alexander Kasser Theater
Founders

Mary Mochary
S. Michael Kasser

Benefactors

Alfred Aines
Bank of America
John and Cynthia Barnes
Grant-Lynn Concialdi
Jean Hall
The Hillier Group
Audrey Y. Lam
The Prudential Insurance Company of America
Schenker-Plough Research Institute
Wachovia Bank
John and Judy Weston

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, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts
Discover Jersey Arts
National Dance Project (NDP) of the New England Foundation for the Arts
Alison and James T. Chema
Robert and Holly Gregory
The Honorable Mary Mochary

To view our complete season and for more information, visit peakperfs.org.
Audrey Emata (flute), 13, is from Wallf ording, PA, and currently attends Strat 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 Minhye Kim at the Juilliard Pre-College Division. He is a first-prize winner of the Kaplan JCC on the Palisades Thurnauer School of Music Concerto Competition, the Goldblatt String Competition (Junior Division), the New York Music Teachers Association of New Jersey Competition for Cello, and the American String Teachers Association (Junior Division). He has performed 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, he 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 re-imaginings of Radiohead songs, as well as the music of singer/songwriter Nick Drake and a tribute to Elliott Smith. In 2009, he drew from the works of Ninova, 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 Shuff le 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 latest, released in 2013, he dives 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.

Jodi Bezam ska (piano), 16, and Ryan Ferguson (piano), 18, are siblings from Sundays, Indonesia. Currently, they live in Philadelphia, PA, where Janice attends the City School Academy and Ryan attends Drew University. Janice studies with Gary Graff man and Robert McDonald at the Curtis Institute of Music, and Ryan studies with their mother, Sienny Debra. In 2012, they each performed at Carnegie Hall as winners in the American Prolég 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.

Shanghai Quartet (guitarists) 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, innovative 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 and toured 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.

About 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 19th season, From the Top is heard on more than 240 radio stations and recorded before live audiences across the country,单元ing 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 every community they 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 you can support our young musicians at fromthetop.org.

From the Top Staff

Co-CEO & Executive Producer Jennifer Hurley-Wales Co-CEO & Executive Producer Gerald Slavet Chairman, Board of Co-CEOs Cullen Bouvier Producer Tom Voegeli Director of Content & Production Tim Banker Music Director Tom Vignieri Production Manager Elizabeth DeVore Director of Admissions & Alumni Relations Tim Liehnard Admissions Manager & Assistant Music Producer Erin Nolan Scholarship & Admissions Coordinator Claire Shepro Recruitment & Alumni Relations Coordinator Mark Williams Recruitment & Alumni Relations Assistant Janet Fagan Director of Education & Community Partnerships Linda Gerstle Program Manager, National Tour Michael Duson Program Manager, Greater Boston Shea Mavros Education Coordinator Katie Piselli