



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INTEMPO and Orchestra Lumos Present New Artist-in-Residence Concert Series Featuring Emerging Violin Virtuosos

Finalists' and Winner's Recitals in Stamford will showcase artists competing for a two-year residency and the exclusive use of a historic 1883 Sgarbi violin

STAMFORD, CT (May 15, 2026) – INTEMPO, in partnership with Orchestra Lumos, proudly announces two special concerts celebrating the launch of its groundbreaking new Artist-in-Residence program for emerging violinists: the Finalists' Recital on May 23 and the Winner's Recital on June 10.

As INTEMPO celebrates its 15th anniversary, the award-winning multicultural music education nonprofit is investing in the next generation of musical talent through an innovative two-year residency program designed to support exceptional young violinists at a pivotal moment in their careers.

The selected artist will receive the exclusive use of the historic 1883 "INTEMPO" Giuseppe Sgarbi & Antonio Sgarbi violin, generously donated by an anonymous supporter. Appraised at nearly \$100,000, the rare instrument represents a transformative career opportunity for an emerging artist. In addition to the violin loan, the artist will receive a \$10,000 annual stipend, teaching and performance opportunities with INTEMPO, an annual commissioned work, and concerto appearances with Orchestra Lumos under the direction of their acclaimed Music Director Michael Stern.

FINALISTS' RECITAL

Saturday, May 23 | 7:00 PM

Emerson Hall Foundation



20 Forest St, Stamford, CT

The two finalists competing to become INTEMPO's inaugural Artist-in-Residence are:

Daniel Rafimayeri — 2025 Laureate of the Washington International Strings Competition and Gold Medalist of the Stulberg International String Competition. A graduate of The Juilliard School, Daniel is currently pursuing further studies at the Yale School of Music.

Ashley Yoon — Winner of the American Protégé International Competition of Romantic Music and past fellow at the Bowdoin and Norfolk Chamber Music Festivals. A graduate of The Juilliard School, Ashley is currently pursuing her Master's degree at the Yale School of Music.

The final-round jury will be chaired by INTEMPO CEO Lou Chen and include Orchestra Lumos Music Director Michael Stern, Lumos concertmaster Deborah Buck, INTEMPO director of development Robbin Juris, INTEMPO lead teaching artist Geo Suquillo, and multi-instrumentalist Dave Edwards.

Admission: Free for youth; \$15 general admission.

To purchase tickets in advance, please click [HERE](#) or visit www.intempo.org.

WINNER'S RECITAL

Wednesday, June 10 | 7:30 PM

Kweskin Theatre

1349 Newfield Ave, Stamford, CT

The selected artist will present a curated solo program and perform Bach's Double Violin Concerto alongside INTEMPO students and teaching artists — on the Sgarbi violin.

Admission: \$15 for youth; \$35 general admission.

To purchase tickets in advance, please click [HERE](#) or visit www.intempo.org.

Press passes are available to qualified members of the media who are interested in covering these events.



Sponsorship Opportunities Available:

INTEMPO is also seeking sponsorships for the Winner's Recital. Sponsorships start at \$150. For more information on sponsorship opportunities, please click [HERE](#) or email info@intempo.org.

The INTEMPO Artist-in-Residency is made possible by the generous support of the Alphadyne Foundation, The First Bank of Greenwich, Steinway & Sons Greenwich, Jay Dweck, Ronald Guartatanga, Kenny Joseph & Elyse Seidner-Joseph, Virginia Kamsky, Bruce & Linda Koe, Lillian E. Kraemer, Bill & Cate Leach, and Karthik Venkataraman.

About INTEMPO

INTEMPO was founded in 2011 on a simple belief: that all children deserve access to high-quality music education, regardless of where they come from or how much their family earns. Today, INTEMPO serves over 600 children each year through afterschool, summer, and partnership programs. Most of our students come from lower-income households, including many from immigrant families — communities that have long faced financial, cultural, and language barriers to accessing music education.

INTEMPO is changing that. Our mission is to empower young people, regardless of their life circumstances, to thrive through instruction in multicultural and classical music, the development of life skills, and the fostering of community. Our work has drawn national recognition, with major support from Carnegie Hall, the National Association of Latino Arts and Culture, and the National Endowment for the Arts. INTEMPO is also the only music education organization in Connecticut to have received the Lewis Prize for Music Accelerator Award. For more information, please visit: www.intempo.org.

About Orchestra Lumos

Based in Stamford, Connecticut, Orchestra Lumos is the preeminent orchestra serving Fairfield County and representing the region beyond its borders. Led by Music Director Michael Stern, the Orchestra presents exceptional musical experiences, from awe-inspiring concerts with world-renowned soloists to family-friendly programs that captivate all ages. The Orchestra performs five main-stage subscription concerts annually at its home base, the historic Palace Theatre, and reaches audiences through dozens of intimate performances in smaller spaces and hands-on education programs in venues from Rye, New York to Bridgeport, Connecticut, including local libraries, schools, museums,



breweries, places of worship, and community centers. Visit www.orchestralumos.org to learn more, or follow on social media: @orchestralumos

About Daniel Rafimayeri

American violinist Daniel Rafimayeri is a 2025 Laureate of the Washington International Strings Competition and winner of its Overall Audience Prize. He is also the 2019 Burdick-Thorne Gold Medalist of the Stulberg International String Competition, where he additionally received the award for Best Performance of Bach.

Highlights of his recent solo engagements include performances of Bruch's Concerto with The Baltimore Chamber Symphony, The Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra, and The York Symphony Orchestra. At Juilliard, Daniel was selected to perform solo Bach with the 2023 Spring Dances and, most recently in 2025, the solo violin part in Jessie Montgomery's new composition Concerto Grosso. He was awarded the 2023 Salon de Virtuosi Career Grant, is a featured artist with the French Consulate in New York City, and has appeared on the stages of Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center, SummerStage, Miller Auditorium, the Kosciuszko Foundation, Harris Concert Hall at the Aspen Music Festival, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

A dedicated chamber musician, Daniel has performed in multiple showcases with The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, and his pre-college chamber group won the Manhattan School of Music Chamber Competition. He has participated in the Wu Han/David Finckel Chamber Program at the Aspen Music Festival, the Heifetz International Music Institute, the Young Artists Program in Ottawa, Keshet Eilon Music Center, Music Academy of the West, Fontainebleau School of Fine Arts and Greenwood Chamber Music Camp in Massachusetts.

Daniel was born and raised in New York City, where he attended Hunter College Elementary and High School and the Manhattan School of Music Pre-College Program. An alum of NPR's From the Top, he won the NYYS Concerto Competition and appeared as soloist with the Manhattan School of Music Philharmonic. He holds both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Violin Performance from The Juilliard School, where he studied with Catherine Cho, Li Lin, and Ronald Copes. He is currently pursuing further studies at the Yale School of Music with Tai Murray. His previous teachers also include Patinka Kopec and Shmuel Ashkenasi.



About Ashley Yoon

Ashley Yoon is a 22-year-old violinist and a passionate chamber musician from Charleston, South Carolina. She is a recent graduate of The Juilliard School, studying with Joseph Lin for her bachelor's degree, as a recipient of the C.V. Starr and Malino Scholarships. She is currently studying with Soovin Kim at the Yale School of Music for her master's degree.

Ashley was recently a fellow for the Bowdoin International Music Festival's Fellowship Program in 2025. She has been a fellow at the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival during the summers of 2024 and 2023. She is currently an active member of Charles Neidich's WA Sinfonietta chamber orchestra as part of the Artena Foundation. She has recently served as the concertmaster of the Shepherd School Symphony, conducted by Jerry Hou, and for Yale's Chorale Week. Her sextet had the honor of performing Brahms' Sextet multiple times at the MET Museum through Juilliard. She won the American Protégé International Competition of Romantic Music and was invited to play at Carnegie Hall in December 2019. Ashley is also a winner of the DSO Concerto Competition and has had the opportunity to perform the Saint-Saëns Violin Concerto with the Dekalb Symphony Orchestra.

Ashley has studied with Juliette Kang, Younguk Kim, Hye-Jin Kim, Ara Gregorian, and Yuriy Bekker. Her dear mentors are the members of the Brentano Quartet. She has recently collaborated with members of the Brentano Quartet, Steve Tenebom, and Raman Ramakrishnan. She attended the Taos School of Music in 2022, the Young Artists Program at Yellowbarn and Four Seasons Chamber Music Festival, Orford, Music@Pyeongchang (Great Mountains Festival in South Korea), Morningside Music Bridge, and the Meadowmount School of Music in 2017.

Ashley has won multiple scholarships and the Barry Goldsmith Award from the Charleston Scholarship Orchestra League. She has performed for Marth Rivers Ingram at the Founders Awards, and also given solo performances for the Piccolo Spoleto Rising Young Stars program. She has played Vivaldi's Concerto for Four Violins with the Charleston Symphony Orchestra. The Charleston Music Club also awarded her the King-Lancaster Orchestral Award, the Hiram Curry Award, and the Donald Shelter Award.

Outside of performing, Ashley has a deep interest in human rights, law, and writing, and hopes to curate a melding of these worlds. During her time at Juilliard, she served as the group leader for both



the Gluck Community Engagement Fellowship and Hire Juilliard Performers, engaging with underserved communities in New York City and with clients such as Rémy Martin Cognac, and a Grammy-award-winning artist.

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