

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Kids in Concert

Photo by Deborah Hobden



A Kids in Concert music program.

Kids in Concert (KIC) is a free music and youth development program on Washington's Kitsap Peninsula. Modeled after El Sistema, the internationally renowned youth orchestra movement from Venezuela, KIC was founded on the idea that every child should be able to access the benefits of music education with no barriers. The program operates within the Port Madison Reservation of the Suquamish Tribe of Indians, reflecting its commitment to serving Kitsap's Indigenous families. KIC offers an after-school string, percussion and choir program four days per week, as well as a student-led musical theater and chamber music summer camp.

KIC began in 2010 as a partnership between founder and Artistic Director Laura Milleson and the Suquamish Tribe's Early Learning Center. KIC's first year as an after-school program consisted of 11 students playing paper violins. Since then, it has grown into a robust program serving over 70 students, ages 6–18, from diverse communities across north Kitsap County, including Suquamish, Indianola, Kingston, Poulsbo and Bainbridge Island. Over 50 percent of KIC students identify as Black, Indigenous or People of Color (BIPOC). KIC students progress through the program at their own pace and in consultation with their teachers, eventually participating in one of two string and percussion ensembles. As part of its commitment to youth development, KIC trains exceptional high school musicians to become paid teachers in the program.

KIC lives by its mission of "cultivating compassion and developmental well-being of youth through the healing power of music." In addition to encouraging musical excellence, KIC is committed to seeing students through their entire educational journey, providing homework help, assisting with college applications and post-high school plans, leading college tours and even helping families navigate the financial aid process. Middle and high school students become mentors to younger students, creating opportunities for them to develop leadership skills, and to model KIC's values of kindness and compassion to younger students. All students also participate in weekly programming in social and emotional well-being through KIC's Healthy and Whole program, led by qualified mental health professionals.

On KIC's collaboration with the Seattle Symphony, Milleson writes, "When KIC began 10 years ago in a small classroom with 11 students playing paper violins, the opportunity to collaborate with Seattle Symphony musicians on the Benaroya Hall stage was only a dream. Now in the second year of our partnership, we are thrilled to see this dream become a reality. Creating opportunities and possibilities is at the heart of what we do, and we are so grateful to the Seattle Symphony for helping us strengthen our community and for helping us make space for our students to find their voice."

To learn more about Kids in Concert, visit kidsinconcert.org.

Kids in Concert is one of more than 70 partners in the Seattle Symphony's Community Connections program, which provides complimentary tickets to nonprofit organizations across the Puget Sound region.



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FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 2024, AT 7:30PM

Potlatch Symphony 2020

COMMUNITY CONCERTS

Sunny Xia, conductor
 Swil Kanim, violin
 Paul Chiyokten Wagner (Saanish), storyteller & Indigenous flute
 Max Dawes (Suquamish), conductor
 Kids in Concert
 Indigenous Singing Groups
 Seattle Symphony

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| MAX DAWES | <i>Creation</i> KIDS IN CONCERT |
| SWIL KANIM | <i>Father Distant Daughter</i> SWIL KANIM, VIOLIN |
| SERGEY PROKOFIEV /arr. Paul Lavender | <i>Lieutenant Kijé, Op. 60: Troika</i> KIDS IN CONCERT, SEATTLE SYMPHONY |
| ASTOR PIAZZOLLA /arr. James Kazik | <i>Libertango</i> KIDS IN CONCERT, SEATTLE SYMPHONY |
| TRADITIONAL | Introduction Song INDIGENOUS SINGING GROUPS |
| | Welcome by Ken Workman (Duwamish) |
| PAUL CHIYOKTEN WAGNER | <i>Kwaanuk</i> PAUL CHIYOKTEN WAGNER, INDIGENOUS FLUTE |
| JANICE GITECK | <i>Potlatch Symphony 2020</i> <i>Meeting</i> <i>Two Sisters, Part I</i> <i>Two Sisters, Part II</i> SWIL KANIM, VIOLIN PAUL CHIYOKTEN WAGNER, STORYTELLER & INDIGENOUS FLUTE SEATTLE SYMPHONY |
| TRADITIONAL | Closing Song INDIGENOUS SINGING GROUPS |

(The performance is approximately 54 minutes.)

Sunny Xia's position is generously underwritten as the Douglas F. King Associate Conductor.

The Seattle Symphony's Family, School & Community programs are supported by 4Culture, Marco Argenti, ArtsFund, the Merriman-Ross Family, and individual contributions to the Seattle Symphony Annual Fund.

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THANK YOU TO OUR CONCERT SPONSORS!

The Arakawa Foundation proudly supports the Seattle Symphony's Community Partnerships for Youth and Education. Additional support is provided by **Delta Air Lines**.

This concert is presented as part of the Seattle Symphony's New Music WORKS initiative, which is supported in part by a grant from the **National Endowment for the Arts**.

SUNNY XIA
Conductor



Recognized for her innate musicality, compelling presence and technical precision, conductor Sunny Xia's ability to forge an immediate and captivating connection with orchestras and

audiences alike has led to engagements around the country. Appointed Douglas F. King Assistant Conductor of the Seattle Symphony in September 2022, she begins her position as the Associate Conductor with the Symphony in the 2023/2024 season.

In the 2021/2022 season, Xia was selected as Conducting Fellow at the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music, where she made her festival debut leading the world premiere of Marc Migó Cortés' *Dumka* in July 2022. She led a production of *La bohème* with the Chandler Opera Company to great success and served as Assistant Conductor of the Phoenix Youth Symphony Orchestra. A dynamic advocate for contemporary music, Xia led the Seattle Symphony in works by composers Katy Abbott, Chen Yi, Quinn Mason, Angélique Poteat, Gabriella Smith and Tan Dun in the 2022/2023 season.

SWIL KANIM
Violin



U.S. Army Veteran, classically trained violinist, Native storyteller and actor Swil Kanim has a unique ability to inspire audiences to express themselves honorably, and is a

sought-after keynote speaker for conferences, workshops, school assemblies and rehabilitation centers. He travels extensively throughout the U.S., enchanting audiences with his original compositions and native storytelling. His workshops, The Elements of Honor, are attended by people from all walks of life.

Swil Kanim considers himself and his music to be the product of a well-supported public school music program. Music and the performance of music helped him to process the traumas associated with his early placement into the foster care system. Swil Kanim's compositions incorporate classical influences as well as musical interpretations of his journey from depression and despair to spiritual and emotional freedom. The music and stories that emerge from his experiences have been transforming people's lives for decades.

PAUL CHIYOTKEN WAGNER
Storyteller & Indigenous Flute



Paul Chiyokten ("Che oke ten") Wagner is an internationally performing presenter of traditional songs and stories of his Coast Salish tribal ancestors. Chiyokten is a member of the Wsaanich

(Saanich) Tribe of southern Vancouver Island, British Columbia. An award-winning Native American flutist, his songs have come to him with visions of healing and prayer for all relations (tree people, animal people and human people). In addition to his performing and recording work, he teaches workshops on drum making and flute playing. He also makes Coast Salish-form wood carvings, and is a videographer and photographer of Nature's phenomenal spiritual gifts.

Nature is where his art comes from — the deep silence and spirit that lives in the ancient waters and forests of the Salish Sea bioregion are a gift directly from Spirit "to help us heal on this path we walk through life. Chiyokten's art allows us to better understand and realize the ancient Coast Salish belief that we are a part of the Nature that Spirit placed on the lands and waters. We are helped to remember that we have come to this place, Mother Earth, to heal and to bring reciprocal relationships with all things around us. Letting this ancient wisdom enter the intelligence of our hearts will place us inside the circle of life, to create long-lasting innate harmony and peace around us and within us.

MAX DAWES

Composer



Maxwell Dawes is a musician and composer from the Suquamish tribe. He is interested in the sounds of the Pacific Northwest and representing them musically. He takes great inspiration from

culture, nature, and play. He is currently studying composition at Cornish College of the Arts and intends to make a life out of creating music full time.

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Gordon and Mary Starkebaum have a shared love of music and are excited to be a part of the Symphony as subscribers, donors and members of the Benaroya Legacy Circle. Together they've treasured moments like the world premiere of John Luther Adams' *Become Ocean* and the U.S. orchestral debut of cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason. Gordon and Mary are proud to help share memorable concert experiences with their community.

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JANICE GITECK

Composer

Courtesy photo



Janice Giteck is a composer of music for concert, multi-media, dance and theater. Her work is most celebrated for its visceral connection to social issues and is inspired by a variety of musical traditions. Giteck's original *Potlatch Symphony* was commissioned by the Seattle Symphony and is the result of a two-year residency with the Symphony and Native American Tribes in the greater Seattle area (2013–2015). She was the first woman commissioned by the San Francisco Symphony, with then-conductor Edo de Waart, for 1981's *TREE*. She held a Meet the Composer residency (1998–2000) in Seattle that produced two major works: *Tikkun-Mending* for tenor and orchestra; and *Navigating the Light* for soprano, jazz alto and chamber orchestra.

Among her other concert music commissions: 2004's *Ishi* (Yahi for 'man'), premiered by the Seattle Chamber Players; 2005's *She Who Dances Through the Sky*, premiered by the Esoterics, an a cappella ensemble; *Snow Mandala* for Jane Harty in 2007; and *Where Can One Live Safely, Then? In Surrender* and *Ricercare (Dream Upon Arrival)* for the Saint Helens String Quartet, in 2004 and 2012, respectively. Giteck has also scored the music for six award-winning feature documentaries, including Emiko Omori's *Rabbit in the Moon* and Katie Jennings's *Teachings of the Tree People*.



Photo: Brandon Patoc

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