University of North Texas College of Music

Ensemble Concert | Friday, October 30, 2026 | 8:00 p.m. |
Margot and Bill Winspear Hall - Murchison Performing Arts Center

Symphony Orchestra

The Music of John Williams

David Itkin, conductor and Student Conductors
Simón Gollo, violin

Raiders March (1981) ..... John Williams (b. 1932)

David Itkin, conductor

Close Encounters of the Third Kind (1977) ..... John Williams (b. 1932)

Nathan Howard, conductor

Star Wars Suite (1977) ..... John Williams (b. 1932)
III. Imperial March

Alexandra Kovatch, conductor

Star Wars Suite (1977) ..... John Williams (b. 1932)
I. Leah's theme

Kahee Cho, conductor

The Chairman's Waltz from Memoirs of a Geisha (2005) ..... John Williams (b. 1932)

Ko-Te Chen, conductor

Program one hundred twenty-four of the 2026–2027 season
Photography and videography are prohibited

Theme from Jurassic Park (1993) ..... John Williams
(b. 1932)

David Itkin, conductor

- INTERMISSION -

ET Adventures on Earth (1982) ..... John Williams
(b. 1932)

Christine Le, conductor

Theme from Schindler's List (1993) ..... John Williams
(b. 1932)

David Itkin, conductor
Simón Gollo, violin

Suite from Jaws (1975) ..... John Williams
(b. 1932)

Mingtong Xie, conductor

Star Wars Suite (1977) ..... John Williams
IV. Yoda's theme (b. 1932)

Sol Yoon, conductor

Star Wars Suite (1977) ..... John Williams
I. Main title (b. 1932)

David Itkin, conductor

Program one hundred twenty-nine of the 2026–2027 season
Photography and videography are prohibited

Biographies

The 2026–2027 season marks Maestro **David Itkin**'s 22nd season as Music Director and Conductor of the Abilene Philharmonic and his 19th year serving as Professor of Music and Director of Orchestral Studies at the University of North Texas College of Music, where his recent performances have included Mahler's Symphony No. 6, Verdi's Requiem, Beethoven's Symphony No. 9, Puccini's *Turandot*, Verdi's *Otello*, Puccini's *Tosca*, and Janáček's *The Cunning Little Vixen*.

Following a distinguished 17-year tenure, Maestro Itkin was named Conductor Laureate of the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra in July 2010. Previously, Mr. Itkin served as Music Director and Conductor of the Las Vegas Philharmonic, Artistic Director and Conductor of the McCall Summerfest in McCall, Idaho, and Music Director of the Lake Forest Symphony in Chicago, the Kingsport Symphony, the Birmingham Opera Theatre, and the Lucius Woods Music Festival in Wisconsin.

During past seasons, Maestro Itkin's career has taken him to 45 U.S. states and 15 countries across Europe, the Middle East, and Asia, including concerts and recordings with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, the Transylvania State Philharmonic, the Slovenska Filharmonija, the San Diego Symphony, and the Seoul Philharmonic. Other guest conducting appearances include concerts with the Colorado Philharmonic, the Annapolis Symphony, the National Repertory Orchestra, the Fort Worth Symphony, the Illinois Symphony, the Delaware Symphony, the New Hampshire Symphony, the Cheyenne Symphony, and the Indianapolis, Baltimore, and Reno Chamber Orchestras. During the summer of 2006, Maestro Itkin appeared once again with the Slovenska Filharmonija in Ljubljana, Slovenia, conducting the opening concert of the 14th World Saxophone Congress.

His books, *The Conductor's Craft* (2021) and *Conducting Concerti* (2014), have received wide acclaim. Leonard Slatkin "highly recommended" *Conducting Concerti* as "a valuable textbook for the aspiring Maestro," and Samuel Adler wrote of *The Conductor's Craft*, "a real breakthrough aid for anyone studying or teaching conducting at any level." Mr. Itkin's third book, *Right Back Where I Started*, was published in spring 2025.

Simón Gollo is recognized as a versatile and charismatic musician, enjoying a thriving international career spanning chamber music, teaching, solo performances and conducting. Additionally, he is a recording artist with the global label IBS Classical and is represented by HALAC Artists and Meluk Kultur Management together with the Reverón Piano Trio.

He has graced countless stages across Europe and the American continent from Canada to Chile.

continued on following page

His extensive career has led him to perform at prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall (New York), Cadogan Hall (London), the 92nd Street Y's Kaufmann Concert Hall (New York), the National Gallery of Art (Washington, DC), Bolívar Hall (London), Teatro Teresa Carreño (Caracas), Auditorio Blas Galindo (Mexico City), Auditorio Manuel de Falla (Granada), and Teatro Mayor (Bogotá), for renowned organizations including the BBC Proms Festival, the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society and the Chamber Music Society of Detroit. He has collaborated with international figures such as Alessio Bax, Ricardo Morales, Dmitri Berlinsky, Monique Duphil, Edicson Ruiz, Paul Rosenthal, John Novacek, Alissa Margulis, Jakob Koranyi, Miguel da Silva (Ysaÿe Quartet), Richard Young (Vermeer Quartet), Ori Kam (Jerusalem Quartet), Randolph Kelly, and the Cuarteto Latinoamericano, among many others.

His journey as a chamber musician encompasses solo performances of Beethoven's Triple Concerto, Brahms' Double Concerto, Bottesini's Double Bass Concerto, and Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante, collaborating with prestigious orchestras including the "Orquesta Sinfónica de Venezuela", "Filarmónica de Bogotá", "Orquesta Sinfónica de Salta" (Argentina), Central Ohio Symphony (USA), Chamber Orchestra of San Antonio (USA), and "Orquesta de Caxias do Sul" (Brazil), among others. These collaborations have been conducted under the baton of renowned conductors such as Conrad van Alphen, Theodore Kuchar, and Carlos Izcaray. In 2020, his album "CHAUSSON," alongside pianist John Novacek, garnered widespread critical acclaim from prestigious magazines such as Scherzo, Melómano, Mundo Clásico, El Diario de Sevilla and Fanfare. Furthermore, his most recent album, created in collaboration with the Reverón Piano Trio, received the Melómano de Oro award from a leading classical music magazine in 2023.

As an orchestra conductor, he has built a career directing orchestras such as the Simón Bolívar Chamber Orchestra and is set to make his debut with the National Symphony Orchestra of Cuba. He is consistently invited to conduct various youth and professional orchestras throughout North and Latin America. In January 2023, Gollo was appointed Artistic Director and Conductor of the Carolina Youth Symphony, an institution with more than 60 years of history. Additionally, since January 2022, he has served as the artistic director at the New England Music Camp.

Gollo has solidified his national reputation as a distinguished violin instructor during his tenure at both NMSU and Furman University from 2015 to 2024. His students consistently achieve remarkable success, winning concerto competitions, gaining admission to renowned music festivals, and excelling in orchestra auditions nationwide. Now, poised to embark on a new chapter, Simon Gollo ascends to the esteemed position of Associate Professor of Violin at the prestigious University of North Texas, further cementing his legacy as a violin teacher.

Personnel List

Violin 1
Lucas Furtado ‡
Ming-Wei Hsieh
Cijing Zuo
Marlon Barrios
Patis Intaramaha
Sara Lam
Ava Cossé
Arthur Busby
Pablo Cerdas
Annie Barnette
Andrew Trevino
Klaudia Cop-Akin
Brandie Phillips

Violin 2
Seokhwan Choi †
Ethan Dunn
Sophie Thiessen
Ronnamarie Jensen
Mitchelle Cabrera
Jason Pooler
Kewei Xu
Hallie Michaels
Oscar Morales
Nicole Paglialonga
Elijah Evans

Viola
John Sharp †
Madilynn Price
Juan Mendoza
Ziyan Zeng
Aiden Shannon
Qianqian Fu
Joab Chan
Kseniya Klyukina
Thomas Yupeng Cai

Cello
Shae Cliften †
Emiko Wong
Ren-Jer Jong
Madeline Dykhouse
Griffin Jones
Michael Tynes
Claire Cabral
Xinran Zhang

Bass
Ruben Rodriguez Borges †
Xuan Xu
Sarah Nell Chase
Catherine Willis
Joseph La Marca

Flute
Anna Johnson
Kaitlyn Maresca
Kaitlyn Ritter *(Piccolo)*

Oboe
Madeline Aranki *(English horn)*
Brett Boyer
Alex Kang *(English horn)*

Clarinet
Julia Daniels
Amber Lo
Jakob Lumadue *(Bass clarinet)*
Riley Mazziotta *(Bass clarinet)*
Leah Price

Bassoon
Grace Moon
Landon Murr
Donovan Neal
(Contrabassoon)

Horn
Justin Beyer
Sarah Gamble
Eva Gomez
Caleb Harold
Jasmine Perry-Grice

Trumpet
Ryn Jenkins
Esther Jo
Nicholas Moglia
Annalise Rosati
Connor Williams

Trombone
Christian Estades
Britton Fugazzi
Ethan Scranton
Joseph Viviano

Tuba
Loghan Runnakko

Harp
IsabellaGrace Ebo

Keyboard
Jiaxin Ou

Timpani
Moses Ortiz

Percussion
Rune Hale
William De Martini
Harris Garner
Jonathan Williams
Molly Rivera
Smith Humphrey

‡ Concertmaster
† Principal