



KIDS 4 HARMONY
SUMMER
GALA CONCERT
AT TANGLEWOOD

JUNE 27, 2023

WITH GUEST ARTIST
EMANUEL AX

Welcome

from the Gala Committee Chairs

On behalf of our Board of Directors, Kids 4 Harmony Advisory Committee, and this year's Gala Committee, welcome to our 2023 Summer Gala Concert celebration honoring these remarkable young musicians. We especially want to thank tonight's honorees, our school superintendents Joseph Curtis in Pittsfield and Barbara Malkas in North Adams, who support the work of our program. The challenges of the last few years have resulted in other organizations deciding to close or reduce programming. Only because of your generosity, Kids 4 Harmony has flourished and expanded in its mission to promote social change through music. Since our 10th anniversary celebration last summer, we've added new cohorts of over two dozen students and hired a full-time Lead String Teacher (our 3rd full-time staff member for the program). None of this could have been accomplished without each and every one of you. As we take pride in the achievements of these dedicated students, we cannot thank you enough for what you have done to make all this possible.

With warmest regards,

Dottie Weber and Ken Stark

Kids 4 Harmony
Gala Committee Co-Chairs



Kids 4 Harmony 2023 Gala Committee

Ken Stark, *Co-Chair*
Dr. Dorothy Altman Weber,
Co-Chair
Ed Bride
Linda G. Conway
Gretchen Court
Elizabeth Selkowitz

Kids 4 Harmony Advisory Committee

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Tonight's Program

Honoring Joseph Curtis, Superintendent of
Pittsfield Public Schools, and Barbara Malkas, Ed.D.,
Superintendent of North Adams Public Schools

North Adams and Pittsfield Advanced String Ensembles and the Elayne P. Bernstein Ensemble

Festival Rondo

Richard Meyer

A Sunday Walk

Eva Belvelin

Welcome from 18 Degrees President & CEO, Stephanie Steed

Kids 4 Harmony Chamber Players

L'estate (Summer) Op. 8 No. 2 in G minor – III: Presto

Antonio Vivaldi

El Último Baile

(dedicated to the 2023 Seniors)

Davis Albayeros,

10th grade K4H Student

Introduction of Seniors by Artistic Director, Sean Elligers

(Geivens '23 and Katerina '23)

Elayne P. Bernstein Ensemble

Danse Negre from African Suite, Op. 35

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

(arr. Daniel Bukin)

Adoration

Florence Price

(arr. James Bergin)

Introduction of Guest Artist Emanuel Ax

Elayne P. Bernstein Ensemble with Emanuel Ax

Piano Concerto No. 3 in C minor, Op. 37 – III: Rondo (Allegro)

Ludwig van Beethoven



PHOTO: NIGEL SPARRY

Guest Artist Emanuel Ax

We once again welcome Emanuel Ax, who has generously been performing with our young musicians since 2016.

Born to Polish parents in what is today Lviv, Ukraine, Emanuel Ax moved to Winnipeg, Canada with his family when he was a young boy. Mr. Ax made his New York debut in the Young Concert Artists Series and in 1974 won

the first Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Competition in Tel Aviv. In 1975, he won the Michaels Award of Young Concert Artists, followed four years later by the Avery Fisher Prize.

In fall 2021, he resumed a post-COVID touring schedule that included concerts with the Colorado, Pacific, Cincinnati and Houston symphonies as well as Minnesota, Los Angeles, New York, Philadelphia, and Cleveland orchestras. 2022-2023 will include a tour with Itzhak Perlman "and friends" and a continuation of the "Beethoven For 3" touring and recording project with partners Leonidas Kavakos and Yo-Yo Ma this year on the west coast.

In recital he can be heard in Palm Beach, Los Angeles, St. Louis, Chicago, Washington DC, Houston, Las Vegas and New York and with orchestras in Atlanta, Detroit, Boston, San Francisco, San Diego, New York, Naples, Portland OR, Toronto, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Cleveland. Touring in Europe in the fall and spring includes concerts in Germany, UK, Switzerland and France.

Mr. Ax has been a Sony Classical exclusive recording artist since 1987 and following the success of the Brahms Trios with Kavakos and Ma, the trio launched an ambitious, multi-year project to record all the Beethoven Trios and Symphonies arranged for trio of which the first two discs have recently been released. He has received GRAMMY® Awards for the second and third volumes of his cycle of Haydn's piano sonatas. He has also made a series of Grammy-winning recordings with cellist Yo-Yo Ma of the Beethoven and Brahms sonatas for cello and piano. In the 2004-2005 season Mr. Ax contributed to an International EMMY® Award-Winning BBC documentary commemorating the Holocaust that aired on the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. In 2013, Mr. Ax's recording Variations received the Echo Klassik Award for Solo Recording of the Year (19th Century Music/Piano).

Mr. Ax is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and holds honorary doctorates of music from Skidmore College, New England Conservatory of Music, Yale University, and Columbia University.

For more information, please visit emanuelax.com.

Our Honorees



Joseph Curtis Superintendent of Pittsfield Public Schools

Joseph Curtis has been a dedicated member of the Pittsfield Public Schools family since 1994, commencing his journey as an elementary teacher at Conte Community School. Over the years, he has served as a fifth and sixth-grade teacher at

Morningside Community School, a coordinator for technology professional development, vice principal, principal, deputy superintendent, and currently holds the position of superintendent. When reflecting on the program Superintendent Curtis states "With great honor, Carolyn Burns and I initiated the program for Morningside Community School students several years ago. Little did we anticipate the profound impact it would have, as it sparked a transformative journey, cultivating a harmonious environment where students uncover the boundless power of music to ignite inspiration, foster unity, and nurture their personal growth within our district."



Barbara Malkas, Ed.D. Superintendent of North Adams Public Schools

Barbara Malkas has served as an educator for over 35 years in the roles of science teacher, school administrator, district administrator, deputy superintendent, and superintendent. In each of her districts and roles, she has

strived to improve the quality of education for all students, particularly those representing underserved populations. Her own experiences in education contribute to her belief that education is the key to lifelong satisfaction and meaning. Barbara Malkas holds a Bachelor of Sciences in Chemistry from St. Joseph's College of Brooklyn, New York, a Master of Science degree in Science Education from St. John's University, and a doctorate in Educational Leadership from the Sage Colleges of Albany. In 2021, Barbara completed her 200-hour certification as a Breathe for Change Facilitator and Yoga Teacher and completed her additional 300-hour training in the spring of 2023 for her CYT-500 certification.

A Letter from the President & CEO of 18 Degrees

Welcome to the Kids 4 Harmony Summer Gala Concert!

Sharing this festive evening with all of you is truly an honor. As we delight in tonight's music, we see firsthand the positive impact and impressive outcomes that occur when we combine access with opportunities.

For the past eleven years, we have celebrated the achievements of Kids 4 Harmony and its students. The extraordinary musical education provided by our talented teachers, the community connections offered by family liaisons, and the applause given by family and friends, has given students the encouragement to tap into their talents and thrive. From learning to read music to graduating from high school, from casual concerts to participating in musical programs and conferences across the country, our students achieve great things. As they stand proudly on the stage of Ozawa Hall, they remind each of us that music changes lives and creates strong communities.

The opportunity for students in Pittsfield and North Adams to cultivate music and life skills through Kids 4 Harmony is made possible with our community of supporters, our devoted Advisory Committee, the dedicated volunteers, including Gala Co-Chairs Dottie Weber and Ken Stark, all our staff, and each of you! Thank you!

We are so glad to have you here, united through music and community. Your generosity keeps our vision of classical music for social change alive.

With gratitude,

Stephanie Steed



Tonight's Performers

Elayne P. Bernstein Ensemble

**denotes Kids 4 Harmony Chamber Players*

Violin 1

Geivens Dextra, 12th Grade,
Teaching Assistant*
Katerina Livermore, 12th Grade,
Teaching Assistant*
Davis Albayeros, 10th Grade*
Lisa Chen, 10th Grade

Violin 2

Jenny Daley, 10th Grade
Andrew Tullock, 10th Grade*
Kaylee Lescarbeau, 10th Grade
Grace Proskin, 10th Grade
Nicolina Paredes, 9th Grade
Gloria Yankey-Addo, 9th Grade

Viola

Ethan Maisonneuve, 11th Grade*
Tyler Garrett, 11th Grade*
Madalyn Wilson, 10th grade
Mars Burdick, 9th Grade

Cello

Ginamarie Bocchino, 10th Grade*
Zoë-Ruth Brizan, 10th Grade*
Bella Maisonneuve, 10th Grade*
Jason Sosa, 10th Grade
Allison Albayeros, 9th Grade
Sirus Frenkel, 9th Grade

Flute

Elizabeth Chinery

Oboe

Lyndon Moors

Bassoon

Gerald Lanoue

Harp

Elizabeth Morse

Bass/Piano

Charles Tsui

Violin

Courtney Clark,
Former K4H Artistic Director



North Adams Advanced String Ensemble

Violin

Kaylee Lescarbeau, 10th Grade
Courtney Pontier, 10th Grade
MarlieAnna Auger, 8th Grade
Katie Hall, 8th Grade

Cello

Clara Janis, 8th Grade

Pittsfield Advanced String Ensemble

Violin

Isabella Cortez-Mendez, 7th Grade
Bailey Manley, 7th Grade
Maddie Davis, 6th Grade
Eloise Garzon, 5th Grade
Emma Babbs, 4th Grade

Viola

Sora Knight, 7th Grade

Cello

Jaden Snow, 6th Grade
Anastasia Maguire, 4th Grade

Kids 4 Harmony Returning Alumni

Heather Cruz, Cello
*United World College
East Africa, Moshi '24*

Gerdlie Jean Louis, Viola
*Clark University '25, Music Major
and Philosophy Minor*

Johan Serrano, Viola
*Massachusetts College of Liberal
Arts '23, Arts Management and Music
Major/Music Production Minor*

Kids 4 Harmony Staff

Sean Elligers, Trumpet
*Artistic Director & Music Theory/
Composition Teaching Artist*

Rachel Powers, Violin
*Assistant Artistic Director
& Teaching Artist*

En-Ting Hsu, Viola
Lead String Teaching Artist

Jorge Soto, Violin
Teaching Artist & Conductor

Ignacy Gaydamovich, Cello
Teaching Artist

James Bergin, Violin & Viola
Teaching Artist

Alicia Stevenson, Clarinet
*Pittsfield Advanced String
Ensemble Teaching Artist*

Alumni Updates



Leila Paredes, UMass Amherst '26, Violin

My first year in college was a whirlwind. Meeting new people and figuring out the people in your network is a difficult process. We all have to learn. I'm currently studying music performance in violin. Music has played an extensive role in my life. It has shown me what true passion can look like and has brought me opportunities I may never have been able to take advantage of otherwise. My favorite Kids 4 Harmony memory is catching my friend, Kayden, sneakily eating sugar in the teachers' lounge even though we should have been practicing. I will always remember and cherish the times where K4H helped me with auditions and festivals so that I was able to travel with friends and experience new things.



Kayden Lovallo, College of the Atlantic '26, Violin

My first year at College of the Atlantic was life changing. I'm a science-focused student, yet I crave creativity. I took courses in poetry and painting thinking that it would satisfy my desire to express myself. Yet, by the time the third term rolled around, I still felt as though I was missing something. Eventually, I decided to try a course called Musicianship meant to help students at any level learn and apply techniques to reach a goal. In that first class, we were discussing rhythm. The professor invited us to clap along to "Wild Thing" by the Troggs. After we had gotten a handle on the beat, he asked us to sing along. I was extremely nervous participating, but my excitement for this course and admiration for the professor's energy coaxed me to sing along. As I sang, something clicked! Now I know that no matter what path I choose to take in life, music will always be in the rhythm of my heart. That first began with Kids 4 Harmony and its incredible community, for which I am so thankful.



Johan Serrano, MCLA '23, BA, Arts Management and Fine & Performing Arts, Viola

My favorite K4H memory is my final performance as a student of the program. Now, as an alumnus, I still enjoy being invited to perform because since graduating I now appreciate the art of performance and playing my instrument even more. This is why I studied performing arts at the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts. My time at MCLA was life changing - from all the people I met, to the experiences and knowledge I have gained. The lessons I learned in Kids 4 Harmony are what convinced me to study and take this path.

Meet Our Students



Geivens, Violin, 12th Grade, 11 years in K4H, Teaching Assistant

I listen to Tyler the Creator a lot. I want to be a music producer and film composer someday and make a lot of connections in the music industry. I'm looking forward to attending UMass Amherst's music program next year. It's been a fun opportunity to work for the K4H program as a Teaching Assistant over the last year.



Katerina, Violin, 12th Grade, 4 years in K4H, Teaching Assistant

I've been listening to a lot of classic rock and disco recently. I'd like to tell everyone tonight that although we may be nervous, we need to think about how far we have come! Next year, I will be participating in the Novogratz Bridge Year Program in Bolivia through Princeton University. Although I won't be majoring in music, I want to always have music in my life and continue to perform and teach.



Andrew, Violin, 10th Grade, 2 years in K4H

I'd like to tell my fellow gala performers to have fun tonight and focus on the experience (not just the notes) because that is what music is all about! I hope that music will be a very large part of my life regardless of if I am doing it as a career or not.



Ethan, Viola, 11th Grade, 11 years in K4H

Recently, I've been listening to jazz duo DOMi & JD BECK. Even if I stop playing an instrument in the future, music will always be a part of my life that helps me express emotions that I cannot articulate. My word for K4H is "inspiring."

Meet Our Students



**Tyler, Viola, 11th Grade,
9 years in K4H, Teaching Mentor**

Lately, I've been listening to the band Anthrax. A message for my fellow musicians tonight is to just vibe out! Just relax and feel the music. I'm very interested in music playing a role in my life in the future and I may major in music performance at college. One word to describe K4H is "motivational."



Bella, Cello, 10th Grade, 11 years in K4H

In the future, I'd love to get back into mentoring and start teaching here at K4H while continuing to explore theater. I think there is a place for music in everyone's life! I still have so much to learn. K4H will continue to have an impact on my life. My word for K4H is "inclusive."



**Courtney, Violin, 10th Grade,
7 years in K4H**

Recently, I've been listening to Taylor Swift. Someday, I'd like to become a social worker. Music has been a part of my life for so long and I definitely see that continuing. One word to describe K4H is "opportunity."



Davis, Violin, 10th Grade, 11 years in K4H

Composers I listen to a lot include Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninoff, and Beethoven. I'd like to tell my fellow gala performers that we are going to do great, and I'm really proud of how everyone has progressed. I will continue to compose music and it will always be an important part of my life. My word for K4H is "family."



Ginamarie, Cello, 10th Grade, 8 years in K4H

I've been listening to Japanese composer, Miki Matsubara. I envision myself having a career in Cello as well as learning about history, culture, and journalism. Music will always have a place in my heart. My word to describe K4H is "family."



**Grace, Violin, 10th Grade,
9 years in K4H**

These days I've been listening to Metallica and in the future I'd definitely like music to be in my life and be in a band. My message for my fellow gala musicians is to "try your best!" My word for K4H is "family."



**Jason, Cello, 10th Grade,
10 years in K4H**

I've been listening to the band Summer Salt. I'd like to tell my fellow gala performers that everyone starts somewhere. Progress can be seen over time, and you will see the results! In the future, I see myself helping others by working for a nonprofit someday. My word for K4H is "intriguing."



**Jenny, Violin, 10th Grade,
10 years in K4H**

I'd like to tell my fellow gala performers that you've got this, and you can do it! I envision myself going to college and graduating someday. My word for K4H is "creative."



**Kaylee, Violin, 10th Grade,
7 years in K4H**

Lately, I'm listening to American Violinist Hilary Hahn and rock band Set It Off. Someday, I'd like to attend UMass and study entomology. I may continue to pursue music as a hobby or even as a career. My one word to describe K4H is "connections."



**Lisa, Violin, 10th Grade,
5 years in K4H**

I'd like to tell my fellow gala performers how much I love them! In the future I would like to play music as a hobby and teach children how to play music. My word for K4H is "family."

Meet Our Students



**Mady, Viola, 10th Grade,
1 year in K4H**

I'm currently listening to Lynyrd Skynyrd and Pantera. I want to tell all my fellow gala performers that you're all amazing musicians and you're going to do great! Music will definitely always have a place in my life. My word to describe K4H is "family."



**Zoë, Cello, 10th Grade,
4 years in K4H**

I want to congratulate my fellow gala performers and say, good job! Someday, I'd like to be in international business law.



**Allison, Cello, 9th Grade,
9 years in K4H**

I really like American singer SZA. I'd like to tell my fellow gala performers that Kids 4 Harmony is more than a program. It is a family! I will continue to keep music a part of my day-to-day life.



**Gloria, Violin, 9th Grade,
9 years in K4H**

These days I've been listening to Drake. In the future, I'm interested in becoming a psychiatrist. One word to describe K4H is "laughing."



**Mars, Viola, 9th Grade,
7 years in K4H**

My favorite artists right now are the Decemberists and System of a Down. I want everyone playing tonight to just be confident and do our best! I don't know exactly what I want to do in the future but I think I'd like to work with plants. My word for K4H is "family."



**Nicolina (Nico), Violin, 9th Grade,
10 years in K4H**

I'm enjoying listening to Tyler the Creator. I'd like to tell my fellow gala performers that it's been amazing being in K4H with you all and I cherish how close it has brought everyone together! My word for K4H is "together."



**Sirus, Cello, 9th Grade,
4 years in K4H**

Recently, I've been listening to rock band The Neighbourhood. Someday I'd like to create my own business. I'd like to keep playing music for fun. My word for K4H is "interesting."



**Clara, Cello, 8th Grade,
7 years in K4H**

I love to listen to Beyonce and Taylor Swift. I do feel like music will always have a place in my life because it is something I love. My one word to describe K4H would be "supportive."



**Katie, Violin, 8th Grade,
7 years in K4H**

Someday, I'd like to become a police officer. I know there will always be music in my life, I just don't know how or where. I'd like to tell my fellow performers, don't ever give up when things get hard.



**MarlieAnna, Violin, 8th Grade,
7 years in K4H**

These days, I'm listening to American Violinist Lindsey Stirling. In the future, I want to help other students with music. I hope there is always music in my life. One word I would use to describe K4H is "exciting!"

Meet Our Students



**Bailey, Violin, 7th Grade,
4 years in K4H**

For all my fellow Gala musicians, you got this and you're gonna do great! I definitely want to play violin in the future, but I'm also very interested in studying in the medical and health field. I want to be a nurse someday. My word for K4H is "enjoyable."



**Isabella, Violin, 7th Grade,
4 years in K4H**

Right now, I'm listening to Canadian singer/songwriter Lauren Spencer-Smith. In the future, I am hoping to go to Harvard University! Music is technically my life right now and means a lot to me! My word for K4H is "fun."



**Sora, Viola, 7th Grade,
5 years in K4H**

I really enjoy video game music and I look up to game and anime artists that I know. I hope someday I will be composing music for shows and games.



**Jaden, Cello, 6th Grade,
4 years in K4H**

My favorite song from the gala is *Festival Rondo*. There are infinite possibilities in the future for me. I'd like to tell my fellow gala performers that I know tonight will be a successful one!



**Maddie, Violin, 6th Grade,
4 years in K4H**

I listen to Taylor Swift lately. I'd like to say congratulations to all my fellow gala performers – can't believe we made it to Tanglewood! I know there will always be music in my life.



**Eloise, Violin, 5th Grade,
3 years in K4H**

I've been listening to Taylor Swift lately. I'd like to tell my fellow gala performers to do their best! Someday, I want to be an author. My word for K4H is "fun."



**Anastasia, Cello, 4th Grade,
2 years in K4H**

I'd like to tell my fellow gala performers good luck! We can do this! Someday, I want to be a really good cellist. My word for K4H is "amazing."



**Emma B., Violin, 4th Grade,
2 years in K4H**

My favorite artists recently are Arianna Grande and *Festival Rondo's* composer, Richard Meyer. I want to be a professional musician someday. My word for K4H is "amazing."



**Emma P., Violin, 3rd Grade,
3 years in K4H**

My favorite piece that I've played this year was Haydn's *Surprise Symphony* and *Festival Rondo* by Richard Meyer. In the future, I want to be an Irish Dance teacher, a music teacher, and a math teacher.

Our Beginners



Pittsfield Beginners

From Top Left: Tyler (mentor), Lucas (4th grade), Santi (5th grade), Sakora (5th grade), Logan (4th grade), Kaylani (4th grade), Noah (3rd grade), Ms. Rachel; Bottom: Liz (3rd grade), Silas (4th grade), Bethany (4th grade), Debora (4th grade), Gabby (3rd grade), not pictured



North Adams Beginners

From Top Left: Neveah (4th grade), Izzy (4th grade), Annabelle (3rd grade), Emma B. (4th grade), Sophia (4th grade), Isabella (4th grade), Alejandra (3rd grade), Rujo (4th grade); From Bottom Left: Brook (4th grade), Caroline (4th grade), Maria (4th grade), Ramona (3rd grade), Adalie (3rd grade), Nayomi (4th grade)

Staff Profiles

Sean Elligers, Artistic Director and Theory/Composition Teaching Artist, 8 years, MA in Music Education and Trumpet Performance, University of Massachusetts Amherst

It's beyond rewarding to collaborate with incredibly talented and kind staff and volunteers. I love when students come up to me excitedly and ask, "Mr. Sean! Can I show you this new song I just learned?" or "Can you check out this new composition I started?" **K4H in one word:** Belonging

Rachel Powers, Assistant Artistic Director, first year at K4H, BMus in Violin Performance, University of Michigan-Flint; Executive Graduate Certificate, Global Leaders Institute

Some of my favorite moments in K4H are when an idea or new technique clicks in a kid's head, and you can see their excitement and pride in themselves even when they're trying to seem cool or disinterested. **K4H in one word:** Whole

En-Ting Hsu, Lead String Teaching Artist, first year at K4H, MM Viola Performance and Performer Diploma, Indiana University Bloomington

I love having the opportunities to work with students ranging from beginners to budding professional musicians! Also, my co-workers are AMAZING. I love the supportive role I'm playing for our students and watching them grow. **K4H in one word:** Profound

Alicia Stevenson, Teaching Artist, Former Artistic Director, 11 years, MA in Music Education, Longy School of Music

Some memorable moments: pre-dawn bus rides to Boston, hiking up Mt Greylock, pool noodle tag, playing with Manny Ax, casual concerts, proud families, life-long friendships. **K4H in one word:** Community

Jorge Soto, Violin Teaching Artist and Conductor, 10 years, MM in Conducting, New England Conservatory; Principal Conductor of New Philharmonia Orchestra, Newton, MA

My favorite aspect of working with K4H is the high level of commitment from everyone. It's what makes this program unique and one of the best of its kind in the world. **K4H in one word:** Resilience

Ignacy Gaydamovich, Cello Teaching Artist, 7 years, Faculty at the Hartt School Community Division; DMA, University of Hartford

Seeing the kids light up for a musical reason is always the highlight of my day! **K4H in one word:** Inspiring

Staff Profiles

James Bergin, Violin/Viola Teaching Artist, 7 years, BA in Music Theory, New England Conservatory of Music; Berkshire Symphony member

I admire the students so much for persevering. I'm excited about our students collaborating with other groups more and more. **K4H in one word:** Bracing

Monroe Randall, Cello Teaching Artist, first year at K4H, BA Music; BA Social Thought & Political Economy, University of Massachusetts Amherst

I talk with the cello students a lot about an exercise called "sticky bow." After seeing me play, some students said, "I can see why you love sticky bow, and the benefits of it to your playing." It's incredibly rewarding when you can embody what you are trying to teach. **K4H in one word:** Foundational

Arianna Suarez, Cello Teaching Artist, Williams College '25, first year at K4H

My favorite moment is when we all come together to play after individual lessons and hear the difference and change in their confidence. **K4H in one word:** Patience

Susan Eiffert, Pittsfield Family Liaison, 4 years, LICSW, Medical and Clinical Social Work, Intellectual and Physical Disabilities

When COVID hit, a hardworking beginner student who experienced some anxieties dropped out of K4H. The next year, they asked to return and really applied themselves, quickly catching up to their classmates in the advanced group. This student is an example of the impact K4H can make! **K4H in one word:** Self-discovery

Kathy Quinn, North Adams Family Liaison, 8 years, Dual Certification in General and Special Education; NAMI Advocate and Community Organizer

I LOVE working behind the scenes connecting with amazing families, developing a social-emotional curriculum for our blossoming musicians, and strategizing with a diverse, gifted and compassionate team of staff who create opportunities for all to shine. **K4H in one word:** Transformative

Thank You So Much to Our Volunteers and Student Teaching Assistants!

Ria Kedia, Williams College Student, Violin

Polly Kurasch, 18 Degrees

Audrey Shadle, Williams College Student, Violin

Ray Wang, Williams College Student, Viola

Geivens Dextra, 12th Grade, Teaching Assistant, Violin

Katerina Livermore, 12th Grade, Teaching Assistant, Violin

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Leaders continued on page 20

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Please look for our full list of supporters since July 1, 2022,
in our Annual Report coming in October.**

Who We Are

18 Degrees is where the sun stands just below the horizon at daybreak. It's more dark than light in that moment, and hard to see the way forward. At 18 Degrees – formerly Berkshire Children and Families – it's our mission and privilege to meet people at that point, with the promise that for them, for all of us, the light will grow from the start of each new day.

18 Degrees promotes the well-being and strengths of children, youth, and families to build better communities in Western Massachusetts. We provide education, parenting skills and support, prevention and intervention, advocacy, and life skills across a spectrum of programs serving children, young people, individuals and families in four areas: early education and care; foster care and adoption; child and family well-being; youth and community development.

Our approach with folks is to start with questions about their goals – their dreams. Our work is to guide them to the resources, skills, and support that will help them reach their goals. This is not a typical conversation for social service agencies, but it is one that is central to our mission: "Every child in a family. Every family in a community." Focusing on hopes and dreams helps those we serve to see that new beginnings are possible.

www.18degreesma.org

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