

2026 Kids 4 Harmony

SUMMER GALA CONCERT



JUNE 23

**TANGLEWOOD
SEIJI OZAWA HALL
LENOX**

WITH GUEST ARTIST
TED ROSENTHAL
AWARD-WINNING PIANIST

Welcome from our 2026 Gala Committee Co-Chairs

On behalf of the 2026 Gala Committee, welcome to the Kids 4 Harmony Summer Gala Concert. Tonight we celebrate the remarkable achievements of these young musicians. We are grateful for each of you. Your participation is essential to creating opportunities for young people in our community.

We're also proud to recognize Linda Conway and Dottie Weber, whose steadfast dedication has shaped Kids 4 Harmony since its earliest days. Through their generous support, unwavering enthusiasm among friends, and thoughtful guidance, they have helped the program thrive. Their example shows the lasting difference each of us can make.

Tonight, you'll see the Second-Year Students, Advanced String Ensembles, and the Elayne P. Bernstein Ensemble perform side by side. The program will include a piece composed by Nicolina Paredes, a Kids 4 Harmony Senior. Ted Rosenthal will be joining the Elayne P. Bernstein Ensemble to play jazz-infused arrangements of pieces by Chopin, Gershwin, and Tchaikovsky. Ted's roots in jazz bring a vibrant new dimension to an evening that still celebrates the classical music Kids 4 Harmony audiences love.

Your generosity makes nights like this possible. For over 14 years, your support has connected talent with opportunity in Pittsfield and North Adams, allowing 18 Degrees to offer intensive music education at no cost. Tonight's performers show what's possible when a community invests in its young people.

As Gala Co-Chairs this year, we were excited, pleased, and honored to work with an outstanding group of volunteers. We are sure that you will be inspired and uplifted by the performance this evening.

Please join us in celebrating Kids 4 Harmony.

Sincerely,

Nancy McIntire & Julie Quain



2026 Gala Committee

Nancy McIntire
Co-Chair

Julie Quain
Co-Chair

Ed Bride

Linda Conway

Sheila Heffernon

Gretchen Rennell Court

Karen Richards

Laura Rosenthal

Carole Siegel

Ken Stark

Dottie Weber

Kids 4 Harmony Advisory Committee

Linda G. Conway
Co-Chair

Dr. Dorothy Altman Weber
Co-Chair

Edward Bride

Sheila Heffernon

Susan Lombard

Jane Mayer

Philip McKnight

Dr. Carolyn Newberger

Penny Pincus

Elizabeth Selkowitz

Dr. Carole Siegel

Ken Stark

Tonight's Program

Honoring Linda Glick Conway & Dorothy Altman Weber

CONDUCTOR, JORGE SOTO

Second-Year Students, Advanced String Ensembles, and the Elayne P. Bernstein Ensemble

Atoms!

Katie O'Hara LaBrie (b. 1982)

STUDENT WELCOME

El Coquí, Puerto Rican Folk Song

arr. by Di3n Morales (b. 1987)

Advanced String Ensembles and the Elayne P. Bernstein Ensemble *Frostbite*

Erica Donahoe (b. NA)

RECOGNITION OF SENIORS

Jorge Soto, Conductor & Kids 4 Harmony Teaching Artist

Elayne P. Bernstein Ensemble

El Final

Nicolina Paredes (b. 2007)

Serenade for Strings in E Minor, Mvt. I

Edward Elgar (1857–1934)

SPECIAL REMARKS

Stephanie Steed, President & CEO, 18 Degrees

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST ARTIST, Ted Rosenthal

Elayne P. Bernstein Ensemble, with guest artist Ted Rosenthal

Waltz in C# Minor

Chopin (1810–1849)
arr. Rosenthal (b. 1959)

Concerto in F, Mvt. II

George Gershwin (1898–1937)
arr. Jeff Manookian (1953–2021)

Theme from Symphony No. 5

P. Tchaikovsky (1840–1893)
arr. Rosenthal (b. 1959)

Ted Rosenthal

Guest Artist

This year we welcome Ted Rosenthal, internationally acclaimed pianist and composer and winner of the prestigious *Thelonious Monk International Jazz Piano Competition*, as our 2026 Guest Artist.



A celebrated faculty member at Juilliard and the Manhattan School of Music, Ted is recognized not only for his award-winning career, but for his ability to build bridges across musical disciplines, inspiring students to take artistic risks and expand their musical imagination.

Ted is one of the leading jazz pianists/composers of his generation. The New Yorker magazine describes him as *"a musician's musician who balances technique and taste."* The Los Angeles Times calls him *"a pianist of rarest skill."* The New York Times called his playing *"notable both for its flair and languid, sultry expressive gestures."* Rosenthal actively tours worldwide with his trio and as a soloist. He also has performed with many jazz greats, including Gerry Mulligan, Art Farmer, Phil Woods, Bob Brookmeyer, and James Moody. Rosenthal's orchestral performances include solo and featured appearances with The Detroit Symphony, The Phoenix Symphony, The Boston Pops, The Grand Rapids Symphony, The Rochester Philharmonic, The Pittsburgh Symphony and The Fort Worth Symphony. He often adds improvisations to his performances of Gershwin's works for piano and orchestra, adding an extra dimension of vitality and spontaneity to the music.

Ted's past collaborations with K4H have been deeply meaningful, and we are honored to have him join the Elayne P. Bernstein Ensemble on stage this evening for an experience that will uplift our students' talents and accomplishments.



A Letter from Our President

Stephanie Steed, President & CEO of 18 Degrees

Dear Friends,

Tonight is a celebration of what we achieve together as we live our mission: creating access, opportunity, belonging, and well-being so our communities can thrive. Your presence honors the hard work of our students, reflects your support, and affirms our shared belief in music's power to transform lives.

On behalf of the 18 Degrees Board of Directors, staff, and participants, thank you for your presence and commitment to musical excellence, youth well-being and family support.

The story of 18 Degrees is one of renewal and resilience. This year, we welcomed new students and teaching artists. We stand ready to adapt to the changing needs of the communities we serve with an unwavering commitment to our students.

We can look to a bright future because of our strong roots. What began as a small but hopeful idea was championed by tonight's honorees, **Linda Conway** and **Dorothy "Dottie" Weber**, whose extraordinary and enduring contributions helped shape Kids 4 Harmony. Today, our young musicians regularly earn prestigious national and international opportunities, culminating in tonight's spectacular annual concert here at Tanglewood. We are deeply grateful to **Linda** and **Dottie**, and others who have nurtured and sustained this work from the very beginning.

We are thrilled to welcome the acclaimed jazz pianist and composer, **Ted Rosenthal**, to the stage alongside our students. Ted's brilliant creativity and passion perfectly echo the youthful energy inherent to Kids 4 Harmony. We are all incredibly excited to experience the magic they create together.

For our young people, music is more than an art form; it connects cultures, sparks creativity, and helps shape identity. Through music, they build confidence and have a platform to succeed. To our families, friends, and supporters, thank you for believing in our mission. Your unwavering support bridges the gap between talent and opportunity, helping our Kids 4 Harmony participants grow as individuals, musicians, and leaders.

Let us celebrate new beginnings and the boundless opportunities that lie ahead!

With gratitude,

Stephanie Steed

President & CEO, 18 Degrees



Reflections from This Year's Honorees

Linda Glick Conway

Being a friend of Kids 4 Harmony for 14 years has been gratifying beyond belief. At every performance tears come first, and then thoughts of the life-changing opportunities that will come to these young performers — in education, work choices, and lifelong experiences. What can and does happen is truly thrilling.

Experts agree that intensive study of classical music can change lives. Rigor is central to the El Sistema approach — demanding dedication from students who may have never held a violin or cello as they strive to become increasingly skilled ensemble members. This proficiency is nurtured by talented teaching artists, whose rigorous instruction and attention to each student's unique needs help them reach their highest potential. I am deeply grateful to everyone who has been part of the Kids 4 Harmony journey — students, families, staff, and supporters — each playing a vital role in our success. I am especially thankful for my friends and acquaintances in Northern Berkshire County, whose loyal support has meant so much to me and to the program.

Linda

Linda Glick Conway grew up in Cincinnati, graduated from Wells College, and worked in Boston as a book editor and writer. She served on the board of the Longy School of Music in Cambridge. Since moving to Williamstown with her husband, the late James Conway, she has volunteered with many community organizations and received Williamstown's Scarborough Salomon Flynt Community Service Award in 2017. She joined the Kids 4 Harmony Advisory Committee when it was formed in 2012, soon became a member of the 18 Degrees board and is a past president. Since 2016, Linda has co-chaired the Kids 4 Harmony Advisory Committee alongside her fellow honoree, Dottie Weber.



Dorothy Altman Weber

Watching Kids 4 Harmony grow into what it is today has been one of the most fulfilling chapters of my life. When I first became involved, the program was just beginning its work in Pittsfield, offering opportunities to students and families. It has been exciting to watch the growth, now serving students from 3rd to 12th grade at sites in Pittsfield and North Adams.

Being part of this journey has brought together my professional and personal passions in a way that always felt natural. My hope has always been simple: to help young people find the opportunities, skills, and confidence they need to succeed—in music, in school, and in life. What stays with me most are the moments when children take the stage, especially at Tanglewood, many for the very first time. Witnessing their transformation in that moment is something I will never tire of. At its heart, this program is about access, possibility, and the transformative power of music.

Dottie

Dorothy (Dottie) Altman Weber is an accomplished educator, psychologist, and community leader with a distinguished career spanning education, research, and nonprofit service. A graduate of Jackson College (Tufts University), Dottie earned her M.Ed. in Elementary School Counseling and an Ed.D. in Special Needs (Learning and Emotional Disorders) from Boston University.

In addition to her professional achievements, Dottie has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to community service, serving in board and volunteer roles with organizations such as the Baker Center for Children and Families, Shakespeare & Company, and the Boston Symphony Orchestra. She remains actively engaged with her alma maters. Since 2016, Dottie has co-chaired the Kids 4 Harmony Advisory Committee alongside her fellow honoree, Linda Conway.



Tonight's Performers

Elayne P. Bernstein Ensemble

Remembering the generosity of the late
Elayne P. Bernstein and her family.

★ Kids 4 Harmony Chamber Players

VIOLIN

Nicolina Paredes, Grade 12

Isabella Cortes Mendez, Grade 10 ★

Bailey Manley, Grade 10 ★
2025–2026 Teaching Assistant

Akemi Bonilla Guandinango, Grade 9 ★

Zi'Yana Taliaferro, Grade 9 ★

David Calderon, Grade 8 ★

Shane Chen, Grade 8 ★

Kofi Addo, Grade 7

Emma Babbs, Grade 7

Emma Proskin, Grade 6

VIOLA

Santiago Bedard-Torres, Grade 8 ★

CELLO

Sirus Frenkel, Grade 12

Miguel Henao Calle, Grade 12 ★

Jaden Snow, Grade 8 ★

Kaylani Wells, Grade 8

Alaisia DiSola-Staples, Grade 7

Advanced String Ensembles

VIOLIN

Debora Annor-Baah, Grade 7

Emmanuel Arguelles, Grade 7

Lucas Davis, Grade 7

Celeste Gomez, Grade 7

Maria Lescarbeau, Grade 7

Sofia Martinez, Grade 6

Ramona Miksic, Grade 6

Caitlin Breznick, Grade 5

Oliver Brooks, Grade 5

Juan Gomez, Grade 5

VIOLA

Emma Hall, Grade 7

Isabella Lewis-Sondrini, Grade 7

Annabelle Davis, Grade 6

Amaia Hernandez Cotto, Grade 5

Jadzia Yong, Grade 5

CELLO

Rujo Moore, Grade 7

Melanie Lytle, Grade 5

Second-Year Students

VIOLIN

Helena Sysoumang, Grade 6

Sadie Belanger, Grade 5

Doyan Moore, Grade 5

VIOLA

Freddy Lubin, Grade 4

CELLO

Dannae Luna, Grade 5

Doyan Moore, Grade 5

Michael Passier, Grade 5

Emma Poplaski, Grade 5

Kids 4 Harmony Alumni

Lisa Chen, Viola
Princeton University '29

Jennifer Daley, Violin
UMass Boston '29
Kids 4 Harmony Teaching Artist

Geivens Dextra, Violin
Kids 4 Harmony Teaching Artist

Gerdrose Jean-Louis, Cello
Ithaca College '25
Kids 4 Harmony Teaching Artist

Atlas Lescarbeau, Violin
St. Michael's College '29

Andrew Tullock, Violin
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute '29



Kids 4 Harmony Teaching Artists

Beth Daunis, Violin

Jennifer Daley, Violin
K4H Alumni

Geivens Dextra, Violin
K4H Alumni

Benjamin Dement, Cello
Artistic Program Manager

Dorian Jackman, Bass

Gerdrose Jean-Louis, Cello
K4H Alumni

Austin McCann, Cello

Donald Padrick, Viola

Rachel Powers, Violin
Assistant Artistic Director

Emily Scicchitano-Kim, Violin

Jorge Soto, Violin & Conductor

Alicia Stevenson, Violin

Guest Musicians

TED ROSENTHAL TRIO

Ted Rosenthal, Piano

Mary Ann McSweeney, Bass

Conor Meehan, Drums

PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT

Charles Tsui



Meet Our Alumni & Students



Lisa Chen, Viola

Princeton University '29

This past school year I had my freshman year at Princeton University. I am studying to get a degree with a major in psychology with a double minor in Chinese and Statistics and Machine Learning (SML). To stay connected with music, I performed with the Princeton Sinfonia and the Princeton Camerata (a chamber ensemble).



Jennifer Daley, K4H Teaching Artist, Violin

University of Massachusetts Boston '29

After studying for a year at Berkshire Community College, this fall, I'll be attending UMass Boston, where I'll study music with a concentration in music education. After many years as a student at Kids 4 Harmony, I've become a teacher in the program, which has given me a new perspective and shown me how much I enjoy working with younger musicians. That experience played a big role in helping me realize that music education is the path I want to pursue.



Geivens Dextra, K4H Teaching Artist, Violin

Having been a former student at the program, it has made being a teacher here such an amazing experience. When trying to find new and unique ways to make music more engaging for the students of the program today, I'm always reflecting on what I've learned as a student and how it helped me find my passion for music. I always remember the moments leading up to a concert, just like this year's Kids 4 Harmony Annual Gala, when we get to build both our instrumental skills and the community of the program. I believe it is through the moments made today that help the students of Kids 4 Harmony discover their joy and passion for music.



Gerdrose Jean-Louis, K4H Teaching Artist, Cello

Ithaca College '25

As an alum of the program, the transition from being a student to becoming a teacher has been really rewarding. Throughout the year, I've had opportunities to learn both inside and outside of the classroom, and I've grown to see how cultural understanding can help students feel emotionally supported in their learning experiences. One of my favorite parts of being a teacher is getting to learn new things about each student and seeing how they learn and interact with the music and the environment around them.



Atlas Lescarbeau, Violin

St. Michael's College '29

I just completed my freshman year at Saint Michael's College pursuing my Bachelor's in Theatre, with a minor in Environmental Studies. During the spring semester, I participated in the Burlington Civic Symphony Orchestra, which allowed me to continue building community through music.



Andrew Tullock, Violin

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute '29

I'm currently studying mechanical engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY. I've been planning numerous engineering and research projects alongside my studies, and I find myself utilizing the skills and values K4H taught me nearly every day, especially in such a collaborative discipline. I've also been playing in RPI's symphony orchestra and working on developing my composition skills.



Miguel, Cello, Grade 12

Plans for Next Fall: Berkshire Community College

Outside of Kids 4 Harmony, I love skateboarding. Looking back throughout my time, my favorite memory is playing *Suite for Strings* with everyone. If I had to sum up Kids 4 Harmony in one word, it would be *energetic*.



Nicolina, Violin, Grade 12

Plans for Next Fall: Paul Mitchell Beauty School & Training

I love playing sports. I have been in Kids 4 Harmony so long when I think of one word to describe it, it's *childhood*. I think my favorite memory and proudest achievement has been composing a piece that is going to be featured at the gala!



Sirus, Cello, Grade 12

Plans for Next Fall: UMass, Amherst Isenberg School of Management

Outside of K4H, you will most likely find me at the gym. My favorite memory during my time would be performing at the gala. And if I had to sum up what this program means to me in one word — *opportunity*.



Bailey, Violin, Grade 10

I like to read. My favorite memory at K4H is being selected to participate in the Ravinia Festival, a national festival for El Sistema USA programs outside of Chicago, Illinois. I would use the word *inspirational* to describe the program.



Isabella, Violin, Grade 10

When I'm not playing the violin, I like playing volleyball. My favorite memory at K4H is getting accepted into the El Sistema USA Youth Ambassador Program, where I got to work with and perform with other El Sistema USA students from around the country. What this program means to me in one word is *friendship*.



Akemi, Violin, Grade 9

Besides playing violin, I love cooking and trying new recipes. Kids 4 Harmony is "extraordinary" in my eyes. Playing in Gala at Tanglewood is my favorite memory.



Jaden, Cello, Grade 9

I like playing different sports with friends and family. I am thankful for the teachers in the program, even when they move on, they come back to cheer us on, like Mr. Sean. If I had to describe Kids 4 Harmony in one word, it would be *family*.



Zi'Yana, Violin, Grade 9

I like playing PS5 games in my free time. I think my favorite memories are the collaborations with other groups like Ensemble W from Williams College and the Borromeo String Quartet organized through the Birch Festival. *Opportunity* is a word I think of when I think about Kids 4 Harmony.



David, Violin, Grade 8

Apart from playing music, I like to watch Formula 1 car races and read. My favorite memory at K4H is being with my friends. What this program means to me in one word is *harmony*.



Kaylani, Cello, Grade 8

My hobby outside K4H is drawing. My favorite memory at K4H is playing at my first gala. What this program means to me in one word is *fun*.



Santi, Viola, Grade 8

My favorite memory at K4H is playing in Longy and riding on the bus with my friends to Boston. I like working on my music.



Shane, Violin, Grade 8

My hobby outside K4H is robotics. My favorite memory at K4H is performing at Albany Side-by-Side. What this program means to me in one word is *helpful*.



Alaisia, Cello, Grade 7

One thing about me is that I love to draw. My favorite memory is when we all played soccer last year. And to me, this program is one thing. Fun.



Celeste, Violin, Grade 7

I like watching BMX and competitive bike racing. My favorite memory at K4H is playing *Polar Vortex* by [Katie O'Hara Labrie]. If I had one word for K4H, I would say *relaxing*.



Debora, Violin, Grade 7

I like to play Roblox games in my free time. My favorite memory at K4H was hanging out at Pittsfield High School with Ms. Jahna. What this program means to me in one word is *freedom*.



Emma B., Violin, Grade 7

I crochet outside of K4H. My favorite memory is the Halloween concert. More than anything, this program has been helpful to me.



Emma H., Viola, Grade 7

Outside of Kids 4 Harmony, I like to cheer and play volleyball. My favorite memory of Kids 4 Harmony is being there with friends and having fun. My favorite artists are Rod Wave and Kevin Gates. One word to describe what Kids 4 Harmony means to me is the word *challenging*.



Emmanuel, Violin, Grade 7

When I'm not at K4H, I'm building Legos. My favorite memory here is probably playing soccer with the older kids during break.



Isabella (Bella), Viola, Grade 7

When I am not at Kids 4 Harmony I like to hang out with my friends. My favorite memory is when I would come to program and hang with my friend Brooke. I don't really have any favorite music, but I like all different kinds of music. One word to describe what Kids 4 Harmony means to me is the word *music*.



Kofi, Violin, Grade 7

In my free time, I like to play soccer. My favorite team is FC Barcelona. My favorite part of K4H is playing tough pieces and challenging myself to play them.



Lucas, Violin, Grade 7

One of my other hobbies is I act in theater. My favorite memory at K4H is playing in the gala. When I think of Kids 4 Harmony I think of community.



Maria, Violin, Grade 7

When I am not at Kids 4 Harmony, I enjoy reading. My favorite memory of Kids 4 Harmony is when we learned new songs, like *Polar Vortex*, *Perpetual Motion*, and *Pieces of Eight*. I really liked learning those songs. One word to describe what Kids 4 Harmony means to me would be *commitment*.



Rujo, Cello, Grade 7

When I am not at Kids 4 Harmony, I like to play video games. My favorite memory is when I played at the gala. Right now, my favorite artist is Eminem.



Annabelle, Violin, Grade 6

When I am not at Kids 4 Harmony, I like to play softball and dance. My favorite memory is when we got to eat cheese and grapes after one of the concerts. Music I like to listen to is pop, rap, and old jazz. It is hard to choose one single artist. A word I would choose to describe Kids 4 Harmony and what it means to me would be *fun*.



Emma P., Violin, Grade 6

My hobby outside K4H is dancing. I do ballet, point, jazz, Irish, and lyrical dance. My favorite memory of Kids 4 Harmony is the gala. What this program means to me in one word is *fun*.



Helena, Violin, Grade 6

When I am not at Kids 4 Harmony, I like to play softball. My favorite memory is when I had my first Kids 4 Harmony concert. The music that I am listening to right now is Lofi. One word to describe what Kids 4 Harmony means to me would be *friendship*.



Ramona, Violin, Grade 6

In my free time I like to play piano. My favorite memory of Kids 4 Harmony is going to Longy and I can't wait to go back. My favorite music is by Weezer. What this program means to me in one word is *violin*.



Sofia, Violin, Grade 6

Outside of Kids 4 Harmony, I like to play soccer. I play on several teams. One of my favorite memories is when I got invited to Longy. I hope to have a chance to go again. My favorite artists are Bad Bunny and Frank Ocean. If I had to describe in one word what Kids 4 Harmony means to me, it would be the word *work*.



Amaia, Viola, Grade 5

I really like to play soccer in my free time. My favorite memory at K4H is playing at gala last year. It was exciting to be on stage at Ozawa Hall playing for my family.



Caitlin, Violin, Grade 5

I like to watch dirt car racing. My favorite memory at K4H is the gala. What this program means to me in one word is *wonderful!*



Dannae, Cello, Grade 5

When I am not at Kids 4 Harmony, I like to draw and listen to music. My favorite memory is when we play outside together during break. Right now, my favorite artists are Michael Jackson, José José, and Luis Miguel. One word to describe Kids 4 Harmony and what it means to me would be *music*.



Doyan, Violin, Grade 5

In my free time I like to play video games and read. When thinking about my two years with Kids 4 Harmony, my least favorite memory was when I had to miss my first Kids 4 Harmony concert because I was sick, but doing the interview with Mr. Sean was my favorite memory. Right now, I like to listen to Black Violin. They are my absolute favorite! I was introduced to them through tickets Kids 4 Harmony gave me. When I think about what Kids 4 Harmony means to me, it's lots of things; it drives me, it's fun, and important.



Emma P., Cello, Grade 5

Outside of Kids 4 Harmony, I like to make kandi bracelets. My favorite memory is when we used to do drum circles. Those were a lot of fun! Right now, I like to listen to Nirvana and Conan Gray. If I had to choose one word to describe what Kids 4 Harmony means to me, it would be the word *friendship*.



Jadzia, Viola, Grade 5

Outside of K4H, I love to draw. My favorite memory is probably... snack time. And to me, this program means one thing — sound!



Juan, Violin, Grade 5

I love playing the violin but I also love playing soccer. My favorite memory is meeting [fellow K4H student] Oliver.



Mel, Cello, Grade 5

My hobby outside K4H is drawing and painting. So far my favorite memory at K4H is my first gala last year. What this program means to me in one word is *memories*.



Michael, Cello, Grade 5

When I am not at Kids 4 Harmony, I like to build things and I build all sorts of things. A favorite memory of being in Kids 4 Harmony is when I get to work with Mr. Austin. He likes to talk about things that interest me and he also teaches. I like to listen to country music.



Oliver, Violin, Grade 5

I like to read and play soccer. My favorite memory at K4H is definitely last year's gala. I think this program is really exciting.



Sadie, Violin, Grade 5

Outside of Kids 4 Harmony, I like to read. A favorite memory is when I did summer camp with Kids 4 Harmony. It was fun. Right now, I am listening to My Chemical Romance and Nirvana. One word to describe Kids 4 Harmony and what it means to me would be *cool*.



Freddy, Viola, Grade 4

When I am not at Kids 4 Harmony, I play a lot of basketball. It is my favorite sport. A favorite memory I have of Kids 4 Harmony is when I first joined. Right now, my favorite artist is NLE Choppa. One word I would use to describe what Kids 4 Harmony means to me would be the word *happy*.

Our Beginners



Front, left to right: Evelyn, Luna, Ewurakua, Luciana, Gabriel, Martin, Sara
Back, left to right: Zoelle, Ja'liyah, Victoria, Nate, Berwendjina, Sidney



The Kids 4 Harmony Team

Rachel Powers, Violin

Assistant Artistic Director

4th year with K4H. Rachel holds a BM in Violin Performance from the University of Michigan-Flint and an Executive Graduate Certificate from the Global Leaders Institute.

Benjamin Dement, Cello

Artistic Program Manager

First year with K4H. Ben earned his BM in Composition from California Polytechnic State University, Pomona, and his MM in Composition from the University of Redlands. Prior to joining K4H, he served as Head Teacher & Program Coordinator for MUSICA! String Academy, an El Sistema-inspired program on the West Coast.

Jorge Soto

Conductor & Teaching Artist

14th year with K4H. Jorge holds an MM in Conducting from the New England Conservatory. He currently serves as Principal Conductor of the United Nations Festival Orchestra for Hope and the New Philharmonia Orchestra in Newton, MA. Originally from Barquisimeto, Venezuela, Jorge is a proud product of El Sistema and remains deeply engaged with the movement through his work with K4H and ongoing projects in Venezuela.

Beth Daunis, Violin

Teaching Artist

First year with K4H. Beth studied violin, composition, improvisation, and holistic healing at Bennington College. After 15 years of touring and recording, she returned to Western Massachusetts, where she continues to use music as a vehicle for healing.

Jenny Daley, Violin

Teaching Artist

First year as a Teaching Artist. Jenny is a K4H Alumni ('25) and former Teaching Assistant with the program. She continues to teach and mentor students while pursuing her degree in music education, having completed her freshman year at Berkshire Community College before transferring to UMass, Boston.

Geivens Dextra, Violin

Teaching Artist

2nd year as K4H Staff. Geivens is a K4H Alumni ('23) who continues to grow as an educator and mentor within the organization. He also regularly performs solo concerts and with the Pluto Sting Ensemble, a quartet comprised of K4H Alumni and friends.

Dorian Jackman

Teaching Artist

3rd year with K4H. Dorian holds a BM in Double Bass Performance from Illinois State University, as well as MM and DM degrees in Double Bass Performance from Indiana University-Bloomington. He is a member of the Berkshire Symphony.

Gerdrose Jean-Louis

Teaching Artist

First year as K4H Staff. Gerdrose is a K4H Alumni ('21) and holds a BM in Cello Performance from Ithaca College. She brings a long history with the program and her education at Ithaca to support the program and also performs with the Pluto String Ensemble.

Austin McCann

Lead Teaching Artist

2nd year with K4H. Austin holds a BM in Cello Performance from the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam and an MM in Cello Performance from UMass Amherst.

Donald Padrick

Teaching Artist

3rd year with K4H. Don specializes in violin and viola, and brings an extensive background in team building and coaching, integrating his musical skills with the program's focus on social-emotional learning.

Emily Scicchitano-Kim

Lead Teaching Artist

First year at K4H. Emily holds a BM in Violin Performance from Ithaca College and an MM in Violin Performance from Boston Conservatory at Berklee. She is a Section Violinist of the Berkshire Symphony and a Substitute Section Violinist of the Vista Philharmonic Orchestra.

Alicia Stevenson

Teaching Artist & Former Artistic Director

15th year with K4H. Alicia holds an MA in Music Education from the Longy School of Music.

Lis Salerno

North Adams Family Liaison

First year with K4H. Lis earned her MSW from National University and has extensive experience working with children of all ages and abilities, with a focus on emotional regulation, confidence-building, and positive communication.

Shawo Lhabdon

Pittsfield Family Liaison

First year with K4H. Shawo earned her BS in Psychology with a minor in Neuroethics from Emory University.



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Our printed program reflects gifts received as of June 12, 2026.



**EVERY GIFT.
 EVERY DOLLAR.
 TODAY.**



The music doesn't stop when the evening ends.

Now through June 30th, we're aiming to raise \$25,000 to support Kids 4 Harmony — for the students, the program, and the music that make it all possible.

Will you help us get there?

Make your check payable to 18 Degrees and mail to 480 West St, Pittsfield, MA 01201, call us at (413) 448-8281 ext. 236, or use the QR code or text info to make your gift online before June 30th.



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Who We Are

18 Degrees is where the sun stands just below the horizon at daybreak, signaling the hope of a new day. At 18 Degrees, it's our privilege to meet people where they are and walk beside them along the journey to new beginnings.

Our Mission: We champion access, opportunity, belonging, and well-being for all people on their journey, helping to build thriving communities.

Our Vision: In our new day, opportunities outshine barriers, and all people feel a sense of community and belonging.

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 & Care
- Foster Care & Adoption
- Child & Family Well-being
- Youth & Community Development
(including Kids 4 Harmony)

Visit us at 18degreesma.org to learn more.

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