



Springs

Cameraata

A Premiere Concert

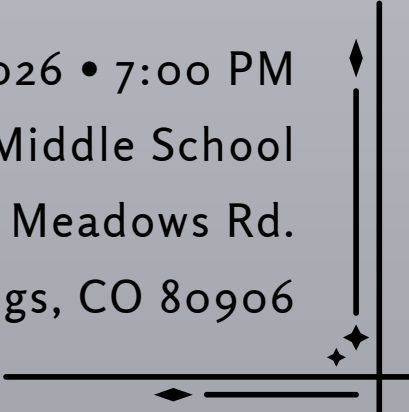


Community.
Connection.
Cameraata.



Saturday, April 4, 2026 • 7:00 PM

Fox Meadow Middle School
1450 Cheyenne Meadows Rd.
Colorado Springs, CO 80906



Mission Statement

Our mission is to create rewarding opportunities for local talent through orchestral, solo, and chamber music performances, while preserving a lasting community.



In Memoriam

THOMAS M. SLEEPER

(February 16, 1956 - October 15, 2022)



Thomas M. Sleeper was an American composer, conductor, and member of the Cherokee Nation.

In 1978, Sleeper was appointed Associate Conductor of the Dallas Civic Symphony. He gave the Chinese premieres of Mahler's Symphony No. 5 in 1992 and Brahms' 2nd Piano Concerto in 1993. Sleeper was the Orchestra Conductor at Stetson University in DeLand, Florida from 1985 to 1993, and Director of Orchestral Activities and Conductor of the University of Miami Frost Symphony Orchestra until his retirement in 2018. He was also the director of the Florida Youth Orchestra from 1993 to 2020. Sleeper composed many pieces of music including operas, concerti, symphonies, solo and chamber music. He leaves a legacy throughout the world, having deeply impacted many conductors, including Cristian Măcelaru, Zoe Zeniodi, Andrés Felipe Jaime, Chung Park, and Alexander Magalong.

Program



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This performance is dedicated in loving memory of
Thomas M. Sleeper.

Gioachino Rossini (1792 - 1868)

L'Italiana in Algeri Overture

Gabriel Fauré (1845 - 1924)

Élégie, Op. 24

Ramona McConkie, cello

Joseph Haydn (1732 - 1809)

Symphony No. 104 in D Major, "London"

I. Adagio - Allegro

II. Andante

III. Minuet. Allegro - Trio

IV. Finale. Spiritoso

Springs Camerata

Dr. Alexander Magalong, Conductor

Flute

Jennifer Apigian*
Cheryl Stauffer

Oboe

Sarah Heitke*
Joyce Hanagan

Clarinet

Adam Heitke
Krista Millard

Bassoon

Greg Brown*
Julia Hayes

Horn

Owen Eichenseer
Teal Low
Eric Guzman

Trumpet

Jonathan Faires
Daniel Carrier

Timpani

Bellamina Krowinski

Violin 1

Brittany Brown
Dr. Michael DiBarry
Ingri Fowler
Sara Miller
Jenna Noble
Cynthia Robinson (CM)

Violin 2

Veena Fleming
Rebecca Harrison
Anita Maresh
Jesse Maurer*
Laney Millard
Jennifer West

Viola

Hilda Bernard
Aaron Herrera
Amanda Hessel*
Joshua Skwarek
Sarah Traff
Alisa Weigel

Cello

Amanda Harris
Presley Johnson
Ramona McConkie*
Faith Rohde
Linda Tennes

Bass

Catherine Camp-
Davidson*



CM = Concertmaster
* = Principal

Musician Biographies



Dr. Alexander Magalong (conductor) has served as Assistant Conductor for the Palm Beach Symphony, Associate Conductor of the Frost Symphony Orchestra, Conductor for the Greater Miami Youth Symphony, and Professor/Director of Orchestral Studies at Florida Atlantic University. He currently conducts the Pueblo Youth Symphony and the Ovation Youth Orchestra with the Colorado Springs Youth Symphony Association. He holds a Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts in Instrumental Conducting from the University of Miami. Dr. Magalong is also an Engineer Officer for the 297th Engineer Construction Company at Fort Richardson, Alaska in the U.S. Army Reserves.

Ramona McConkie (cello soloist) currently performs with the Colorado Springs Philharmonic. She is the mother of 5 children and enjoys chocolate and traveling. She has soloed with the Utah Symphony and was selected to perform at the World Cello Congress. She holds degrees in cello performance and mental health counseling and is a practicing mental health counselor.

Cynthia Robinson (concertmaster) has been playing in the first violin section of the Colorado Springs Philharmonic since 1980. After teaching for 15 years at Fountain Valley School, the Conservatory, and Pikes Peak Community College, she retired from teaching and is enjoying playing many violin and piano gigs every week. You can hear her 8 CD's on Spotify, Pandora, iTunes, etc. under artist name Cynthia Lynn.

Jennifer Apigian (flute) currently works as a Registered Nurse for Widefield School District. She previously served in the United States Air Force as a flute player in the Air Force Academy Band.

Brittany Brown (violin) is a local violin teacher and performer of many different styles including classical, Celtic, and bluegrass. She received degrees in violin performance from CU Boulder and UMass Amherst and is a Suzuki certified teacher. A Colorado Springs native, she can't imagine a better place to raise her two young children with her husband, Zach.

Greg Brown (bassoon) retired from the Air Force Academy Band and Colorado Springs Philharmonic, performs locally, and keeps an active studio of private students. On the hammered dulcimer he loves collaborating with family and friends on all types of folk music. 7 local grandchildren keep him hopping!

Daniel Carrier (trumpet) has been playing since fifth grade and received a music degree from the University of Northern Colorado. He enjoys playing Classical and Jazz music and teaching private lessons. He has played for the Flying W Wranglers, Little London Winds, and various other groups around Colorado.

Catherine Camp-Davidson (bass) is the Orchestra Teacher at Chinook Trail Middle School. She is a substitute for the Colorado Springs Philharmonic and Chamber Orchestra of the Springs. She enjoys horseback riding and motorcycle riding in her spare time.

Dr. Michael DiBarry (violin/viola) is the Assistant Teaching Professor of Strings at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs where he teaches chamber music, music theory, ear training, ethnomusicology, mariachi, and applied lessons. He is enamored by Persian classical music and mariachi, and he loves to learn languages.

Owen Eichenseer (horn) serves as Assistant Band Director at Mesa Ridge High School as well as Orchestra Director at Grand Mountain School. Owen maintains an active performance life, highlighted by his role in the Colorado Brass. During his spare time, Owen enjoys sports, anything outdoors, and going to see as many new places as possible.

Jonathan Faires (trumpet) has been an Instrumental Music Teacher in the Widefield School District since 2005 and is currently the Band Director at Sproul Junior High. He received his Bachelors degree in Music Education from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington in 1998. In his spare time he enjoys hiking, traveling and spending time with his family.

Veena Fleming (violin), a CSU–Pueblo graduate, is a music educator and performer. She taught music and art for two years in Pueblo District 60, and served one year as Orchestra Director in Widefield District 3. She is the manager/assistant conductor of Pueblo Youth Symphony, performs with Pueblo Symphony, teaches in a homeschool music program, and works Renaissance Faires for fun.

Ingri Fowler (violin) retired as Director of Orchestras at Wichita High School East. She enjoys family, cooking, and gardening.

Eric Guzman (horn) studied music at the University of South Florida and is an Army veteran. He specializes as a Cybersecurity Architect and enjoys video games and learning the cello.

Joyce Hanagan (oboe) plays and teaches music in the Pikes Peak area. She established the St. Andrew's Recital Series, playing as a soloist and welcoming many music ensembles to perform. As a supervisor, she worked with the Colorado College Music Education students.

Amanda Harris (cello) is currently the Orchestra/Assistant Band Director at Air Academy High School. She enjoys exploring different places on hikes and cooking/baking new recipes!

Rebecca Harrison (violin) is a retired music teacher of 32 years in Nebraska and Colorado, having taught at Widefield Elementary and Sproul Junior High. She is thrilled to be playing in an orchestra again after an absence of ten years. She keeps herself busy with weaving, knitting and gardening.

Julia Hayes (bassoon) is the Owner/Operator of Creative Joy Studios, a local music and art studio. She is the Orff Ensemble and Choir instructor at Thrive Homeschool Academy. She pursues an interest learning in gardening and is dedicated to homeschooling her daughter.

Adam Heitke (clarinet) is a former enlisted musician, serving in the Quantico Marine Corps Band from 1999–2004 as a clarinetist, performing across concert band, marching band, and showband ensembles. Music continues to be central to family life, with his wife Sarah performing on double reeds and flute, his daughter Claire studying bassoon performance at the Eastman School of Music, and his sons Noah (cello) and Maximos (oboe) continuing the family's shared commitment to musicianship.

Sarah Heitke (oboe) is a former oboist with the United States Marine Corps Band (Quantico, VA). She worked in the DoD for the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence for many years, and then began homeschooling four children, who are also very musical. Currently in a certificate program for Byzantine Iconography, she assists with church painting and accepts commissions for religious icons. She also enjoys being in the mountains with her family and dog, and assisting as Parent Manager for the Ovation orchestra in the Colorado Springs Youth Symphony.

Amanda Hessel (viola) is a freelance music educator working with all age and ability levels in a variety of settings around Colorado Springs. She fills her days with music, teaching, being mom to her six children (ages 2-12) and wife to her husband of 15 years.

Teal Low (horn) is a Colorado native and began playing the horn in 2006. After graduating from CSU-Pueblo in 2021 with a Bachelor of Music Education, she held the position of Director of Music at various Southern Colorado schools. She is currently the Director of Instrumental Music at Banning Lewis Preparatory Academy.

Anita Maresh (violin/viola) is a retired systems analyst. She enjoys playing chamber music, taking road trips, travelling abroad, and spending time with her three grandchildren.

Jesse Maurer (violin) is the Orchestra Director at Russell Middle School in District 11. He also serves as Conductor of the Allegro String Orchestra with the Colorado Springs Youth Symphony Association. Outside of teaching and performing, he enjoys spending time outdoors, especially fishing and playing disc golf.

Krista Millard (clarinet) has been teaching music for 22 years and currently teaches band at Fox Meadow Middle School in Colorado Springs. In her free time, she enjoys quilting and sewing, and playing video games with her kids.

Laney Millard (violin) is a student at Cheyenne Mountain High School. When she is not playing her violin, she can be found with a pencil and a sketch book, immersed in an artistic flow state.

Sara Miller (violin) is Director of Orchestras at Widefield High School, where she has taught since 2014. She conducts multiple ensembles and leads the musical pit orchestra, emphasizing pedagogy, musicianship, and mentorship. She holds degrees from the University of Northern Colorado and Washington State University and performs locally as a violinist.

Jenna Noble (violin) is currently the Orchestra Director at Palmer High School in Colorado Springs District 11. She previously was a director through the Colorado Springs Youth Symphony Association, as well as Mesa Ridge High School. She also has taught private violin and viola lessons for over 10 years and subs as a violinist with the Chamber Orchestra of the Springs. She has a 1 year old daughter and a husband in the Space Force (currently deployed).

Joshua Skwarek (viola) earned a BA in viola performance in 2023. He plays with Pueblo Symphony Orchestra and assists as a string coach in Pueblo Youth Symphony. He enjoys cooking, arranging, dance, and engine building when time allows.

Linda Tennies (cello) is a longtime string and voice educator and cellist who now focuses on contemporary Christian worship. She and her husband have three grown sons, a daughter-in-law, and are expecting their first grandbaby in 2026. Together they support entrepreneurs through their company, Tennies International.

Jennifer West (violin/bass) teaches orchestra at Holmes Middle School and Coronado High School and conducts the Amadeus ensemble of the Colorado Springs Youth Symphony. She performs as a bassist with the Chamber Orchestra of the Springs and the Colorado Philharmonic. Jennifer also enjoys playing many styles of music and also plays in the band Patchwork Jack.

**Springs Camerata is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization
dedicated to the community and our wonderful musicians.**

If you would like to help sustain our orchestra
with the purchase of music, programs, and fees,
your donation is deeply appreciated.

Please scan the QR code below to contribute.
Thank you for your generosity!



Acknowledgements

- **To the Springs Camerata musicians**, for your time and talent and for sharing our vision.
- **To the Fox Meadow MS administration**, for welcoming us to rehearse and perform in your building.
- **To Mitch Rulloda**, for his professional photography services.
- **To Cynthia Robinson, Anita Maresh, Sara Miller, Jennifer West, Jenna Noble, and Amanda Hessel**, for advising throughout the organizational process so this orchestra could become a reality.
- **To Krista Millard**, for offering her space and equipment to rehearse.
- **To Laney Millard**, for her exceptional talent in designing the Springs Camerata logo and artwork.
- **To Eric Guzman**, for his expertise in developing our website and his invaluable assistance in the production of this program.
- **To each of our audience members, friends, and family**, thank you for being here and supporting us!

For more information, visit us at our website:

www.springscamerata.org