

Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Masuk High School

7:30 PM



# HOLIDAY LIGHTS

***SPECIAL WINTER EDITION***

with remarks by

**Kurt Anderson**

<https://www.monroectorchestra.org/>

Avinash Veeraraghav  
Co-Chairman

Anthony Granata  
Music Director

Anand Veeraraghav  
Co-Chairman

## Remarks on tonight's concert from the chairmen:



Good evening, everyone, and thank you all for coming! We are so pleased to be able to give this special concert here at Masuk High School tonight.

A few things happened to make this work. First and foremost, the overwhelming majority of the MSO musicians who played at the *Humble Beginnings* concert in July were enthusiastic about performing a special concert for the winter holidays. Second, all of you - the family and friends who support this orchestra and the musicians in it - showed how much you wanted another show! So many of you came to us after that concert and asked if we would have any performances before next July. So, by popular demand, here we are! In addition to both of those things, we are grateful to our rehearsal hosts at Masuk - in particular Principal Swenson, Mr. Ances, and Mrs. Homann - for providing us with the assistance that we needed to get this concert rolling.

We hope that you all enjoy this special concert. It isn't every day when a composer's child comes to talk about the works of their famous parent, is it? We ask that you continue to support the Monroe Summer Orchestra as it grows - we now have more than 50 musicians! - and that you come back for our next concert here on July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Thank you all!

-Avinash V. Veeraraghav & Anand V. Veeraraghav  
Co-Chairmen of the Monroe Summer Orchestra

### ***Monroe Summer Orchestra Leadership***

Avinash Veeraraghav  
Co-Chairman

Anthony Granata  
Music Director

Anand Veeraraghav  
Co-Chairman

Sarah St. Pierre  
Financial Consultant

Tracy Bosley  
Secretary

Robin Rockwell  
Librarian

Amritha Chivukula  
Elective Director

Monroe Summer Orchestra  
Anthony Granata, Music Director

*~Concert Program~*

A Christmas Festival Leroy Anderson  
(1908 - 1975)

Ding Dong Merrily on High Thoinot Arbeau, George R. Woodward  
(1520 - 1595, 1848 - 1934)

Parade of the Tin Soldiers Leon Jessel  
(1871 - 1942)

Music from Home Alone John Williams  
(1932 - )  
*arr. James Kazik*

A Hanukkah Festival *arr. Chris Bernotas*  
(1969 - )

Carol of the Bells Mykola Leontovych  
(1877 - 1921)  
*arr. Steve Winstead*

The Nutcracker Suite, Op. 71a Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky  
III. Waltz of the Flowers (1840 - 1893)  
*arr. Charles J. Roberts*

*Remarks delivered by  
Kurt Anderson*

Sleigh Ride Leroy Anderson  
(1908 - 1975)

# Orchestra Personnel

Anthony Granata, Music Director

## **Violin I**

Kevin Tran,  
Concertmaster  
Kyle Berkoski  
Amritha Chivukula  
Cristian Rodriguez  
SiYi Robifker  
Daniel Wilenski  
Ryan Panella

## **Violin II**

Avinash Veeraraghav  
Sarah St. Pierre  
Veronika Rodriguez  
Audrey Chang  
Aryan Ramnaress  
Victor Gloria

## **Viola**

Anand Veeraraghav  
Gabriel Castro  
Tamanna Aravind  
Lexa Dizon  
Betty Glus  
Manuel Muriel  
Lucas Lopez  
Janvi Vijay

## **Cello**

Tracy Bosley  
Ava O'Leary  
Emma Dunham  
Patrick Korczeniewski  
Emelyn Jackson  
A. Santarsiero

## **Double Bass**

Victor Ramirez

## **Piano**

Thomas Clark

^also plays Trumpet parts

## **Flute**

Lisa Pinney  
Sienna Jones  
Emily Simpkins  
Sarah Block  
Jessica Peterson  
Lohita Katta

## **Oboe**

Hilda Ramirez

## **Clarinet**

Martine Shanchuk  
Matthew Colberg

## **Bass Clarinet**

Emma Troesser

## **Bassoon**

Robin Rockwell

## **Saxophone**

Lauren Pavia Cacace  
Abigail Troesser^  
Ari Ashe^

## **French Horn**

Bryan Kupferman

## **Trumpet**

Michael Ances  
Robert Delagrance

## **Trombone**

Aiden El-Sahragty  
Peter Holmes

## **Tuba**

Charles Mann

## **Percussion**

Timothy Leonard  
Adam Muralles

## Meet our Music Director!



Anthony Granata is an orchestra teacher living in Fairfield County, Connecticut. After graduating from Western Connecticut State University, he began teaching and has taught at the high school, elementary, and middle school levels, including beginning band, chorus, elementary music and orchestra. As a published composer for Alfred Music, Anthony also enjoys writing music to help teach challenging concepts to younger string players.

An advocate for public school music programs, Anthony Granata received his entire preliminary string education during his years in the Norwalk Public School's music program, and currently teaches elementary and middle school orchestra in Fairfield, Connecticut. He is an accomplished violist and still performs regularly, and he holds advanced degrees in Special Education from Fairfield University and School Administration from Sacred Heart University. A Monroe resident, Anthony Granata is excited to be a part of the Monroe Summer Orchestra and give back to his home community.



*Maestro Granata leads the orchestra through concerts.*

## Featured in this Concert



**Kurt Anderson** is WMNR Fine Arts Radio's General Manager and is the host of the station's program *Sunday Evening Classics*. Kurt joined WMNR in 1982. He has often discussed his father's career and has conducted works by his father on numerous occasions. In 1999, he produced and hosted a one-hour radio program on Leroy Anderson that was heard on National Public Radio stations from coast to coast.

On his father, Kurt has noted that "Leroy Anderson's place in musical history is special. His music is spirited and manages to capture a liveliness that many people enjoy but is not found in all music. This aspect of composing requires not just musical skills but a creative genius. His kind of creativity did not earn him a place in the annals of serious music but it accomplished something far more elusive. The music of Leroy Anderson is enjoyed by millions of people, over many generations, throughout the world. Most people are used to serious music that accomplishes this important task in our lives and in our civilization. What some people miss is the ability of light-hearted music, like the music of Leroy Anderson, to fulfill this role. There are some significant obvious events and people that make this world a special place, but there are far more events and people that in a quiet and modest way add to the fabric of life and enhance our appreciation of it. I am proud to say that my father's music is one of them."

# How to Support Us

As a volunteer-based community orchestra, we are always looking for ways to grow. We are an orchestra composed of the community, done by the community, and for the community. We also are an orchestra that works with the community. As we hope to extend our reach and expand our capabilities, there are plenty of ways that you, the community members, can help.

First, please continue to support us by coming to our concerts and spreading the word about this ensemble. The most basic thing that can help is increased name recognition. This will allow us to recruit more musicians, complete our instrumentation, and reach new heights.

Other ways you can help include the following:

- **Purchasing an ad** in our summer concert programs.
- **Donating** to the orchestra.
- **Sponsoring** a concert.
- Participating in our **chair endowment** campaign.
- **Donating items** to be auctioned at our concerts.
- **Volunteering** at our concerts.

Your support will make a difference. Monetary donations are be tax-deductible. Information can be found on our website.

Finally, there is one more thing: remember to support music programs and music education in your towns and cities. To paraphrase the former Director of Orchestral Studies at the University of Connecticut, maestro Harvey Felder III, "a good arts program is a strong indicator of a town that takes care of its people." Musicians are not created in a vacuum. All of us here today stand on the shoulders of those who have supported or continue to support our music education. For many of us, it took years and years of training to become as skilled as we are. For others, it will continue to take years and years of training to become even more skilled and be able to give the community shows like this.

THANK YOU!

*The Monroe Summer Orchestra would like to thank media partners in WMNR and the Monroe Sun for their free promotion of this concert.*



# Acknowledgements

The Monroe Summer Orchestra would like to thank the following individuals for all they have done to make this concert possible:

- Rehearsal hosts at Masuk High School, in particular Principal **Steven Swenson**.
- Monroe Public Schools Music Program teachers: **Michael Ances** and **Lisa Homann**.
- Monroe Public Schools Superintendent: **Joseph Kobza**.
- Concert hosts at Masuk High School: **Margaret Woznick, Barbara Soper, and Steven Swenson**.
- Rehearsal hosts at the Monroe Congregational Church: **Jennifer Gingras, Will Duchon, Mark Barnhart**.
- Rehearsal hosts at the Newtown Community Center: **Jennifer Cebry**.
- WMNR free publicity: **Will Duchon**.
- Monroe Sun promotional piece: **Bill Bittar**.
- Concert volunteers: **Kathie Loehr, Greg Loehr, Bev Doyle, Cathy Kohut, Hailey Cacace**.
- Concert volunteer photography: **Rahul Srinivasan**.
- Additional thanks to **Elina Stelman**.
- Special thanks to **Michael Ances**.
- All of the individual MSO musicians: thank you so much!

Additionally, thanks go out to all the following people for their donations (received through December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025):

- The Block Family
- Octavia & Florin Catana
- Emmanuel Chang
- Brenna Corrigan
- Bev Doyle
- Anthony & Diana Granata
- Susan & Jay Greenberg
- Raj & Vishwanath Honnaya
- Susan Koneff
- David Liskov
- Kathie & Greg Loehr
- Ian Lowell
- Dee Dee & Fred Martin
- Raghu Ramamurthy & Family
- Tim & Bonnie Shizume (in honor of Braeden Shizume)
- Sarah & Joseph St. Pierre
- The Stillway Family
- Debbie Strumpf
- Barb Traggianese
- Sandy Troesser
- Sudha & Ravi Veeraraghav
- Anand Veeraraghav
- Avinash Veeraraghav
- Marian & Ray Villaflor

***Please scan this QR code to donate to the MSO!***







Thank you all for attending our special bonus concert!

Do you play an instrument? Do you want to play in a classical music concert in the summer?

Details for our summer concert cycle will be posted on our website in the new year!

Rehearsals will begin on Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup> for a concert on Sunday, July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026!

**JOIN US!**