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*For Immediate Release*

**40 Emerging Young Musicians Selected to Perform in National Pathways Festival Orchestra with Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra**  
*Multi-day Music Intensive Hosted in Partnership with the National Instrumentalist Mentoring & Advancement Network and the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra*

**Cincinnati, OH** (February 13, 2023)—Selected through a competitive audition process, 40 emerging musicians of color will study and perform with renowned professionals at the March 18 & 19 [National Pathways Festival and Annual Convening](#). This multi-day musical intensive is hosted in partnership with the **National Instrumentalist Mentoring and Advancement Network** (NIMAN) and the **Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra** (CSO) at Cincinnati Music Hall.

Launched in January 2021, NIMAN is a national coalition that works to align, promote, and develop equitable opportunities for musicians of color. Two years later, NIMAN is formalizing the [National Pathways Collective](#), a network of partners that provide free and intensive classical music resources to advanced pre-college musicians of color. Musicians selected to join the **National Pathways Festival Orchestra (NPFO)** will travel to Cincinnati to learn from renowned music professionals, perform with orchestral musicians, and network with industry professionals and peers.

The Festival culminates in a side-by-side performance with the NPFO and CSO in a program that features Brian Raphael Nabors' *Pulse* for Orchestra and Dvořák's Symphony No. 9, led by Fort Worth Symphony Principal Guest Conductor **Kevin John Edusei** on March 19 at the Cincinnati Music Hall. Tickets for this program can be found at [cincinnati-symphony.org](http://cincinnati-symphony.org).

The **Annual Convening** takes place concurrently with the Festival and engages NIMAN members, strategic partners, and industry professionals from all stages of musical development in conversations that promote progress toward NIMAN's mission to create a level playing field in

classical music. Interested attendees can register at [niman.org](http://niman.org) and [reserve a hotel room](#) at the Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza for a reduced rate.

The **2023 National Pathways Festival Orchestra** Roster includes:

#### **VIOLIN I**

**Ella Saputra**, Chicago Musical Pathways Initiative  
**Miro Raj**, Philadelphia Music Alliance for Youth  
**Rishab Das**, Philadelphia Music Alliance for Youth  
**Javier Irizarry**, Chicago Musical Pathways Initiative

#### **VIOLIN II**

**Chloe Hyun**, Philadelphia Music Alliance for Youth  
**Samuel Igbo**, Youth Orchestras of San Antonio Rising Stars  
**Adam Elbohy**, Philadelphia Music Alliance for Youth  
**Anthony Holc**, Baltimore-Washington Musical Pathways  
**Patricia Harden**, Primavera Fund

#### **VIOLA**

**Lucas Lauprasert**, Philadelphia Music Alliance for Youth  
**Israel Anselme**, Bridge to Equity and Achievement in Music  
**Dubravko Rodriguez**, Chicago Musical Pathways Initiative

#### **CELLO**

**Brandon Leonard**, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Talent Development Program  
**Alex Aranzabal**, Bridge to Equity and Achievement in Music  
**Emilia Lacy**, Bridge to Equity and Achievement in Music  
**Kwanchi Loo**, Philadelphia Music Alliance for Youth  
**Lucas Das**, Washington Musical Pathways Initiative  
**Xavier Ip**, Project STEP  
**Caleb Graupera**, Project STEP

#### **BASS**

**Anderson Bernal**, Baltimore-Washington Musical Pathways  
**Mateo Estanislao**, Chicago Musical Pathways Initiative  
**Travis Phillips**, Cleveland Institute of Music Musical Pathways Fellowship

#### **OBOE**

**Zachary Allen**, Chicago Musical Pathways Initiative  
**Giovanni Sanchez**, Bridge to Equity and Achievement in Music

#### **FLUTE**

**Alliese Bonner**, Nashville Symphony Accelerando  
**Aarushi Kumar**, Nashville Symphony Accelerando

## **CLARINET**

**Nicholas Garrett**, Cleveland Institute of Music Musical Pathways Fellowship

## **BASSOON**

**Jackson Bernal**, Washington Musical Pathways Initiative

**Jin Zhang**, Philadelphia Music Alliance for Youth

## **HORN**

**Derek Woods**, Nashville Symphony Accelerando

**Austin Adaranijo**, Washington Musical Pathways Initiative

**Aryana Rodriguez**, Youth Orchestras of San Antonio Rising Stars

## **TRUMPET**

**Alexander Vinson**, Nashville Symphony Accelerando

**Ricardo Lazaro**, Youth Orchestras of San Antonio Rising Stars

## **TROMBONE**

**Orlandis Maise**, Nashville Symphony Accelerando

**Dayla Spencer**, Nashville Symphony Accelerando

**Jonathan Martinez**, Chicago Musical Pathways Initiative

## **TUBA**

**Cameron Hall**, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Talent Development Program

## **PERCUSSION**

**Wanye Williams**, Chicago Musical Pathways Initiative

**Raymond Macias**, Youth Orchestras of San Antonio Rising Stars

**Media wishing access or interviews should contact Magee Capsouto, NIMAN General Manager at [magee@niman.org](mailto:magee@niman.org) or Felecia Tchen Kanney, CSO Vice President of Communications at [fkanney@cincinnati-symphony.org](mailto:fkanney@cincinnati-symphony.org).**

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## **About National Instrumentalist Mentoring and Advancement Network**

The National Instrumentalist Mentoring and Advancement Network (NIMAN) is the result of years of planning—led by Stanford Thompson, Howard Herring, and Walter Bitner—and culminating in a multi-day convening in the fall of 2019. The association, in partnership with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, officially launched in January 2021 and confirmed its inaugural Board of Directors later that spring.

By creating revolutionary programs that close equity gaps in the field, NIMAN strengthens the trajectory of classical instrumentalists of color throughout the United States. NIMAN's goal is to achieve racial equity in the field of classical music by addressing challenges at every stage of the [Bridge Matrix](#): Entry & Early Years, High School & Pre-College, College & Conservatory, Pre-Professional, and Young Professional.

In 2023, NIMAN developed the [National Pathways Collective](#), an initiative that provides a nucleus for Pathways Programs across the United States. Pathways Programs offer free, intensive musical training and mentorship that prepares pre-college musicians of color to enter prestigious collegiate music institutions. The National Pathways Festival is an annual opportunity for select fellows in the National Pathways Collective to convene in a central location for a multi-day musical intensive, working alongside professional orchestral musicians and forming the National Pathways Festival Orchestra.

### **About Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra**

With a legacy dating back 128 years, the **Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra (CSO)** is considered one of America's finest and most versatile ensembles. Led by Louis Langrée since 2013, the CSO's distinguished roster of past music directors includes Leopold Stokowski, Eugène Ysaÿe, Fritz Reiner, Max Rudolf, Jesús López Cobos and Paavo Järvi. Matthias Pintscher is the Orchestra's Creative Partner, and previous artistic partners have included Lang Lang, Philip Glass, Branford Marsalis and Jennifer Higdon. The Orchestra also performs as the Cincinnati Pops, founded by Erich Kunzel in 1977 and currently led by John Morris Russell with Damon Gupton serving as Principal Guest Conductor. The CSO further elevates the city's vibrant arts scene by serving as the official orchestra for the Cincinnati May Festival, Cincinnati Opera and Cincinnati Ballet.

Deeply committed to inclusion, relevance, and enhancing and expanding opportunities for the children of Greater Cincinnati, the Orchestra works to bring music education, in its many different forms, to as broad a public as possible. In 2020, the CSO was one of the first American orchestras to create a Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer position to ensure the absorption of best DE&I practices into every facet of the organization. The CSO/CCM Diversity Fellowship, a nationally recognized program in partnership with the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, provides a graduate degree-level education with performance and professional development opportunities for extraordinary young string players from populations historically underrepresented in American orchestras. The CSO is also an incubator for and partner to NIMAN, a consortium of American orchestras, professional musicians and educators established to address the lack of racial equity in the classical music field by aligning resources and collaborating to strengthen the trajectory of classical instrumentalists of color at all stages of their pre-careers.