

Rachel C. Lauber (conducting) is Adjunct Assistant Professor of Music at the University at Buffalo. She has served as Music Director and Conductor of the Finger Lakes Symphony Orchestra, Livingston Symphony Orchestra and the University of Michigan Campus Symphony, Nazareth College Orchestra and was conductor of the Detroit Symphony Civic Orchestra sharing the podium in concert with Neeme Jarvi, Tom Wilkins and Mark Wigglesworth. She has appeared as guest conductor with the Rochester Philharmonic, the Slee Sinfonietta, Cordancia Chamber Orchestra and the Holland Symphony Orchestra (MI) and has conducted throughout Italy.

Ms. Lauber served as director of the Detroit Symphony's Unmasked Series working to plan camera shots, direct live cameras and collaborate with guest conductors (Nicolas McGegan, Roger Norrington, JoAnn Falletta, John Adams, Hans Graf and Tom Wilkins) on their pre-, post-, and interactive-concert discussions and lectures. She also served as assistant conductor and assistant to the stage director for the Grammy Award winning production of William Bolcom's *Songs of Innocence and of Experience*.

Ms. Lauber has studied with Kenneth Kiesler at the University of Michigan where she received her doctorate in orchestral conducting. Her studies include the Brevard Music Center with Gunther Schuller, the Oregon Bach Festival with Helmuth Rilling, and numerous workshops of the Conductor's Guild and the American Symphony Orchestra League. She has studied in Italy at the Accademia Musicale Chigiana in Siena and the Catania International Conductor's Workshop in Sicily. In 2014 she attended the Conductors Guild Conductor/Composer Training Workshop at the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music with artist faculty Marin Alsop and James Ross.

Ms. Lauber has recently (2014, 2015, 2016) been lecturing at the University of Michigan for the University Musical Society Mellon Institute on Arts-Academic Integration Initiative. The program is made possible through a grant from the The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

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Conductor **Evan Meccarello** is founder and director of the Hochstein Alumni Orchestra. Since 2010, he has led the group in world-premiere performances of Rochester composers and showcased talented musicians in a concert tour of the region. He was a member of the Hochstein Youth Symphony Orchestra in high school, serving as Co-Concertmaster and Apprentice Conductor.

Meccarello currently conducts the Thames Valley Youth Symphony in New London, CT, and the Irondequoit Community Orchestra. He previously served as Conductor of the Nazareth College Chamber Orchestra and assists the Nazareth College Symphony Orchestra. He completed his master's degree in orchestral conducting at Bowling Green State University, where he led performances with their Philharmonia and Choral Society.

In past seasons, he has conducted *The Nutcracker* with the Ithaca Ballet, been guest conductor with the Finger Lakes Symphony Orchestra, and worked with the Brandenburg Symphony Orchestra in Germany, University at Buffalo Symphony Orchestra, Northern Ohio Youth Orchestra, University of Toledo Symphony Orchestra, and the Hochstein Youth Symphony

Orchestra. He is also Vice President of the Keuka Lake Music Festival and a radio host for *Soundspace* on WAYO-LP in Rochester. As a violinist, Meccarello has taught private students from age five to 65. Uptown Tango is his ongoing project playing violin in an Argentine tango duo for dancers and listeners.

Nancy Strelau is an Associate Director of the Nazareth School of Music, as well as Associate in Professional Studies, Director of String Studies, Director of Orchestras and Auditions Coordinator. In addition, Mrs. Strelau is Founder and Conductor of the Greater Rochester Women's Philharmonic.

Mrs. Strelau was a contract violin sub with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra from 1986 to 1997. She was Director of Orchestras and String Coordinator for the Penfield Central School District (NY) from 1986 to 2000, Conductor of the Finger Lakes Symphony Orchestra from 1994 to 2005, Co-Conductor of the Brighton Symphony Orchestra from 1990-1994 and Conductor of the New Horizons Orchestras from 2004 – 2006. Mrs. Strelau was also Founder and Director of the Hochstein Youth Symphony Orchestra from 1992 to 2012 and Founder and Director of the Virtuosi Scholarship Chamber Orchestra from 2002 to present. Mrs. Strelau is a frequent guest conductor of high school orchestra festivals, all-county and all-state orchestras around the country. and Founder and Festival Director of the annual Park Circle Music Fest in Angelica, New York.

Before coming to Rochester in 1986, Mrs. Strelau was a violinist with the Florida Philharmonic and Miami Pops, as well as Assistant Conductor of the Greater Miami Youth Orchestra. Mrs. Strelau has been the recipient of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra Musicians Award for Outstanding Music Educator in String Education, Hochstein Music School Faculty Service Award, Richard Snook Memorial Award from the Monroe County School Music Association and the Nazareth College Faculty Service Award. Mrs. Strelau received music degrees from Syracuse University and the University of Miami (Florida) and has taught in public, private and laboratory schools in Idaho, Utah, North Dakota, Florida and New York. Mrs. Strelau offers in-service residencies in string program development and is Past President of the American String Teachers Association, New York State Chapter.

Mrs. Strelau conducted the Juilliard School of Music Graduate Orchestra in the 1987 world premiere of 'Our Boys' by Cleophas Adderley, the first Bahamian Opera written. She has several orchestral and choral pieces published with Warner Brothers and Southern Music Company. Among noted works is a double bass concerto commissioned by RPO bassist Deborah Dunham. Her Fanfare entitled '325-7760' (melody based on the phone number and busy signal(!)for the ticket office) was featured at the opening ceremonies of the 1995 Ryder Cup International Golf Tournament by the Eastman Wind Ensemble under the baton of Donald Hunsberger. 'Four Miniatures,' a string orchestral suite by Mrs. Strelau is among her more popular works and has been performed by the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra. Mrs. Strelau made her third appearance at Carnegie Hall in 2002 conducting the premiere of her piece for full symphonic orchestra *L'enfant du Soldat*. She has been the recipient of several 'Meet the Composer' grants. Recent commissions include 'The Hunt' written for the Brighton School District (NY) and 'Sam's Magical Musical Adventure' commissioned by the Penfield Commission Project in

Penfield, NY. Mrs. Strelau is also a contractor of non-union musicians for traveling professional shows in the upstate NY region including Trans Siberian Orchestra and Josh Groban.

Mrs. Strelau is an avid rower on the Rochester Boat Club team, advisor to the Nazareth College Crew Team and advisor to the Nazareth College Quittich Team. She lives in Penfield, New York with husband, luthier and double bassist Paul, and their daughter and vocalist, Hadley.

S. Shade Zajac is a freelance conductor, composer and cellist. He is the Principal Conductor and Music Director of both the Genesee Symphony Orchestra and the Finger Lakes Symphony Orchestra. He was appointed to these positions in the Spring of 2016 and 2017, respectively. After guest conducting the Orchard Park Symphony in 2019, Mr. Zajac will return in April 2020 to conduct a program including Tchaikovsky's Symphony no. 6 "Pathetique".

Mr. Zajac has conducted the Nazareth College Chamber Orchestra, Nazareth College Symphony Orchestra and the OpusWerkes No.2 on numerous occasions. He was a student of Professor Nancy Strelau and was a guest conductor of her orchestra, the Greater Rochester Women's Philharmonic. Mr. Zajac was awarded the Paul Vermel 2015-2016 Apprenticeship with the Northwest Symphony Orchestra in Chicago, working with Maestro Kim Diehnelt. He was also accepted as a Fellow in the Baltimore Chamber Orchestra (BCO) December 2015 Workshop under the direction of Maestro Markand Thakar, where he conducted the BCO in selections such as Samuel Barber's "Adagio for Strings". In the spring of 2016, Mr. Zajac was an active participant in the 8th Ithaca International Conducting Master Class with Maestros Donald Schleicher and Dr. Jeffery Meyer. He led the Ithaca College Chamber and Symphony Orchestras in performances of Berio's Folk Songs for Mezzo Soprano and Orchestra, and Mahler's Fourth Symphony. In March 2018, he conducted the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto with the Genesee Symphony Orchestra featuring David Kim, Concertmaster of the Philadelphia Orchestra.

Mr. Zajac is founder of the Seneca Summer Music Festival and Orchestra, providing events that include chamber and orchestral performances. Emphasis is placed on raising funds for charities and offering classical music to surrounding communities in upstate New York. In 2018, the Genesee Symphony Orchestra performed a special concert as part of the festival.

Mr. Zajac is the founding member of the Asteria Quartet, that performs frequently in upstate New York. As an orchestral player, Shade was Principal Cellist of the Nazareth College Chamber and Symphony Orchestras and has sat Principal Cellist in the Roberts Wesleyan College Community Orchestra. He was the winner of the Nazareth College Concerto Competition both in 2012 and 2014 and performs solo and chamber music concerts frequently in the Rochester and Finger Lakes area.

A prolific composer, Mr. Zajac has written a piece for solo cello (commissioned by Professor. Mimi Hwang) as well as a cello sonata, piano concerto, violin concerto, seven string quartets, and pieces for percussion ensemble, chamber groups and orchestra. In April 2016, he completed his first symphony in which he dedicated to his teacher Nancy Strelau, the Greater Rochester Women's Philharmonic, and the Nazareth College Symphony Orchestra.