



SCB

STRINGS CON BRIO

Presents:

*An Evening of
Light Orchestral Music*

August 13, 2026 at 7pm

St. Andrew United Church of Christ

6908 Beneva Road

Sarasota, FL 34238

Maestro Bowermeister, Conductor



Acknowledgements



St. Andrew United Church of Christ Leadership and Staff

Bill Friederich - Kate Eichorst - Bonnie Wolfgram

Strings Con Brio Leadership and Board of Directors

Kenneth Bowermeister - The Sirocchi Family

Orchestra Musicians and Volunteers

Megan Swick and Bernard Scalise - The Lawter Family

Strings Con Brio 2025-2026 Donors

John Jones, Jones in Photo

David Braun, Piano Tuner Sarasota

About Us

Strings Con Brio is a community string orchestra under the artistic direction of Kenneth Bowermeister and management of Monica Sirocchi. The organization engages over 65 musicians from student through the professional level, and operates with volunteer leadership and staff.

The mission of Strings Con Brio is to provide a venue for musicians of varying ages and abilities to share their gifts and love of music with the community, thereby enriching the lives of both performers and audience members alike.

Strings Con Brio was incorporated in 2015, and received 501(c)(3) designation in 2016. The organization, which engages volunteer musicians, began with providing collaborative performances for events in the community, and now performs as a conducted ensemble.

Meet our Founder

Monica Sirocchi is the Founder and Executive Director of Strings Con Brio and a violinist in the ensemble. She holds a Masters of Nonprofit Management, Bachelors of Science in Health Services Administration, and a minor in music. Her work experiences have included roles in healthcare, education, business, and the nonprofit sector. Prior to incorporating Strings Con Brio, Monica coordinated collaborative performances of students and alumni of a local college. She is a Sarasota native, and has served on the board of directors for various nonprofit organizations since 2010.



Meet our Maestro



Mr. Kenneth Bowermeister is the former Music Director and Conductor of The Venice Symphony and the former Conductor of The Pops Orchestra of Sarasota-Manatee. He also served as Conductor of the State College of Florida Chamber Orchestra and the Sarasota Orchestra's Youth Symphony and Symphonic Strings Orchestras. Mr. Bowermeister has appeared several times as a Guest Conductor with the Sarasota Orchestra and with the International Festival Orchestra of Oxford, England.

For 30 years, Mr. Bowermeister was Director of Orchestras at Pine View School for the Gifted in Sarasota County. He developed the award-winning string program that included 350 students in five orchestras. The recipient of many honors, Mr. Bowermeister was selected Teacher the Year at Pine View School on three occasions, was twice voted Sarasota County Music Educator of the Year and in 1998, was chosen Sarasota County Middle School Teacher of the Year. In 1999, he received the Sarasota Arts Council award for Outstanding Educational Leadership in the Arts.

Mr. Bowermeister performed as a violinist and a violist with the Florida West Coast Symphony, now the Sarasota Orchestra, where he served as Assistant Concertmaster for 21 years. He is a pupil of the internationally renowned Hungarian violinist Kato Havas and is a well-known teacher of Ms. Havas' exciting and revolutionary new



approach to string playing. A graduate of New College, the Honors College of the State of Florida, Mr. Bowermeister has been a member of the Florida Music Education Association (FMEA), Florida Orchestra Association (FOA), and the National Association for Music Education (NAfME).

Program



Concerto for String Orchestra.....Telemann, Arr. McCarrick

Air on the G String.....Bach, Arr. Dabczynski

Coronation March from *The Prophet*...Meyerbeer, Arr. Dabczynski

Largo.....Veracini, Arr. Banney
Nancy Eldridge, Violin

Theme from Symphony No. 1, Movement III.....Mahler, Arr. Pfeil
Amanda Bauman, Bass

Fantasia on American Themes.....Trad., Arr. Barnard
My Country Tis of Thee - When Johnny Comes Marching Home
A Shaker Melody - America the Beautiful

Shenandoah.....Trad., Arr. Moore

Stephen Foster Legacy.....Foster, Arr. Bobrowitz and Law
Jennie with the Light Brown Hair - Camptown Races

Selections from *Fiddler on the Roof*.....Harnick and Bock,
Arr. Baumel

Tradition

Nancy Eldridge, Violin I - Jaime Del Castillo, Violin II

If I Were a Rich Man

Matchmaker - Sunrise, Sunset

Kei Sulhi, Soprano

To Life

Pirates of the Caribbean: *The Curse of the Black Pearl*.....Badelt,
Arr. Ricketts

The Medallion Calls - Blood Ritual

Walk the Plank - The Black Pearl

Personnel



Conductor

Kenneth Bowermeister

Violin I

Sumiko Chipman

*Nancy Eldridge

Maria Ginés

Francesca Jourawleff

Margaret Knoblock

Armida Lawter

Arlene Locola

Benjamin Maynard

Danae Tran

George Tapia

Georgene Zechman

Violin II

Henry Abraham

Ava Austin

Sooyun Chun

*Jaime Del Castillo

Nancy Dixon

Renton Grupman

Carol Koehler

Ralph Liebstein

Alexandra Merton

Joan Pollock

Monica Sirocchi

Quincy Tran

Viola

Alexander Austin

*Angela Hartvigsen

Arnold Jochums

Jason Mayden

Susan Oliveri

Claire Stone

Cello

Antonio Austin

Leticia Colomeu

Ann Krause

Elliot Oliveri

Elizabeth Reifsnyder

Paula Rothman

Roberta Simon

+Anne Suda

*Nicholas Ungarelli

Bass

*Amanda Bauman

+Gil Katz

Piano

+Angela Steiner

Soloists

Nancy Eldridge, Violinist

+Kei Sulhi, Vocalist

**Section Leader +Denotes Guest*

**Musician bios have gone digital.
www.stringsconbrio.org/musicians**

Meet our Soloists



Nancy Eldridge, Violinist

Playing a musical instrument has been a lifelong endeavor for violinist Nancy Eldridge. She started lessons in her local Suzuki Violin program at age five. As a career musician she played with the Pacific Symphony in Orange County, CA, taught private violin lessons, and coached young violinists in several youth symphonies. She

joined Strings Con Brio in 2022 after moving to Florida with her family. In her free time, Nancy enjoys hand sewing and bird watching with her husband John.



Kei Sulhi, Vocalist

Kei Sulhi grew up in Sarasota, Florida, graduating from Riverview High School. She attended Florida State University, where she majored in Voice and Music Therapy. While there, Kei traveled to Spoleto, Italy and performed in concerts and opera at the Festival Dei Due Mondi with the FSU chamber singers under the direction of

MGian Carlo Menotti. She later earned her M.A. in Rehabilitation Counseling at the University of South Florida and had a career in various capacities as in-home therapist for at-risk families, and community and residential mental health. She directed programming in child development, parenting training, in-home parenting education, and family therapy. Returning to music, Kei took turns as a soloist for churches and concert groups. In 2011, she founded the A Cappella group, The Friends of Allison, with student singers from New College of Florida. They dedicated performances in memory of her daughter, Allison, and concerts for families who have experienced loss. Presently, she is a Cantorial Soloist at Temple Beth Israel, Longboat Key, where she has served since 1996. She sings under the direction of Ann Stevenson-Moe.



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