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2024-2025  
SEASON

**Javier Oviedo executive director**  
**Jean-Pierre Schmitt artistic director**



The Inception Orchestra  
Young Composers  
Mentoring Program  
is so grateful to  
the Classical Saxophone Project  
for their continued support and  
partnership.

Congratulations  
Javier & Jean-Pierre  
on all your fabulous work and  
musical inspiration!!!



*A message from our Artistic director*

***Jean-Pierre Schmitt***

It is with great excitement that we welcome you to another season of breathtaking music and artistic exploration. As we step into the 2024-25 season, we are thrilled to continue our mission of bringing the rich, expressive sound of the saxophone to classical music lovers around the world.

This season promises a diverse range of performances, from timeless masterpieces to bold new compositions that push the boundaries of the saxophone's voice. Whether you're a longtime supporter or new to our community, we are so grateful to have you with us. Your passion and enthusiasm inspire us to keep creating and sharing the beauty of this incredible instrument.

Thank you for being a part of our journey. We're so pleased to share this season of music with you!

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'JP Schmitt', written in a fluid, cursive style.



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The 2024-25 concert season is made possible by grants from the New York State Council on the Arts with support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature, the Arts & Letters Foundation, and from individual contributions.



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*A message from our Executive director*

## *Javier Oviedo*

This season, we are proud to present music by two extraordinary composers. We'll showcase the rich, evocative sounds of Parisian composer Sharad Goulam, whose innovative works for saxophone promise to transport you to new musical landscapes. We are also delighted to feature compositions by New York-based composer Catherine Neville, whose music reflects a unique blend of contemporary sensibilities and lyrical beauty.

We are particularly excited to have renowned saxophonist **Paul Haar** joining us for this season. Known for his expressive performances and technical brilliance, Paul will bring these works to life in ways that only he can, delivering an unforgettable concert experience.

Thank you for your continued support of the Classical Saxophone Project. We look forward to sharing these captivating performances with you, and we can't wait to see you at our concerts this season!





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## 10 FOR 10 CAMPAIGN

**CLASSICAL  
SAXOPHONE  
PROJECT**

Over the last ten years, we've commissioned bold new works, spotlighted brilliant composers, and brought the saxophone to concert stages across the country.

Now, we need your help to keep that momentum going. We're launching our '10 for 10' Campaign — **with a goal of raising \$10,000 by December 31st, 2025.**

Your donation helps us fund new performances, world premieres, and opportunities for musicians who are reshaping classical music through the saxophone.

**Whether it's \$10 or \$1,000, you're fueling a future where this instrument and the people who write for it truly shine.**



**DONATE**

Support the sound. Join the celebration. Let's make the next 10 years even more unforgettable!



Tbilisi festival orchestra  
Tbilisi, Georgia

CSP Student Showcase  
NYC

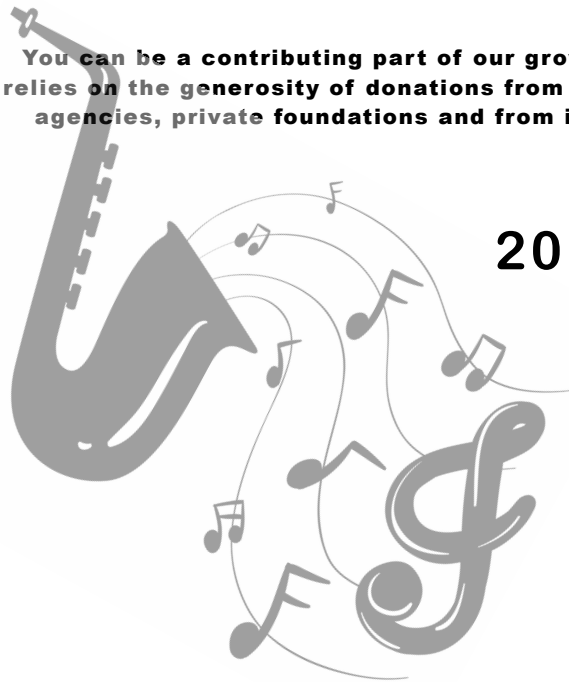
Youth Orchestra of Honduras  
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

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**All contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.**



You can be a contributing part of our growing family!  
CSP relies on the generosity of donations from federal and state  
agencies, private foundations and from individuals.



## 2024-2025 Season Finale

**Javier Oviedo** *saxophone*

**CSP Orchestra**  
**Jean-Pierre Schmitt** *conductor*

*Guest artist*  
**Cory Woolley** *saxophone*

**[www.classicalsaxproject.org](http://www.classicalsaxproject.org)**

## **PROGRAM**

Paquito d'RIVERA      La Fleur de Cayenne

Heitor VILLA LOBOS      Fantasia for soprano saxophone, strings, and horns

**Cory Woolley** *soprano saxophone*

### **Brief Intermission**

Nicolas J. CHAANINE      Spring Concerto Grosso  
*\*NY premier*

Hélène RASQUIER      Prana for alto and soprano saxophones and strings  
I.      Vif  
II.      Lentement  
III.      Vif

Jean-Baptiste SINGEELE      Duo Concertante for two saxophones  
III.      Risoluto

*Please join us for a Meet the Artists reception*

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Directed by Jeremy Sauber  
Audio by Duff Harris  
Photography by Dan Lance

## **NOTES**

### **La Fleur de Cayenne**

A virtuoso of both classical and jazz traditions, Cuban-born clarinetist and saxophonist Paquito D'Rivera has long been celebrated for his ability to merge diverse musical worlds. *La Fleur de Cayenne*, a work originally for clarinet and piano (or clarinet and ensemble in other versions), exemplifies his signature style: rhythmically vibrant, melodically expressive, and deeply rooted in Afro-Caribbean traditions.

The title, which translates to *The Cayenne Flower*, alludes to the French Guianese city of Cayenne and reflects the cultural richness of the region—an intersection of Latin American, Caribbean, and European influences. The music bursts with rhythmic vitality, drawing upon syncopated dance forms and jazz idioms, while also incorporating lyrical passages that highlight the clarinet's expressive range.

*La Fleur de Cayenne* demands both technical prowess and stylistic sensitivity from its performers. The piece traverses a colorful soundscape: sultry melodic lines contrast with driving Latin grooves, and improvisatory gestures mingle with classical precision. It is at once a celebration of cultural hybridity and a testament to D'Rivera's unique voice as a composer who defies categorization.

### **Fantasia**

Brazilian composer Heitor Villa-Lobos was known for blending Western classical forms with the folk rhythms and melodies of his native Brazil. His *Fantasia for Soprano Saxophone*—originally written for soprano saxophone and orchestra (often performed with piano reduction)—is a vivid example of this fusion.

Composed in 1948, the *Fantasia* is in three connected movements, exploring a range of moods from lyrical introspection to lively, dance-inspired rhythms. The work showcases the soprano saxophone's versatility, combining virtuosic passages with rich melodic writing that reflects the colors and spirit of Brazilian music.

Though written for the French saxophonist Marcel Mule, the piece was initially scored for tenor sax due to range concerns, but today it is most commonly performed on the soprano saxophone, as originally intended.

### **Spring Concerto Grosso Op. 9**

In *Spring Concerto Grosso*, Lebanese composer Nicolas J. Chaanine captures the awakening of nature and spirit that comes with spring. Written in the aftermath of conflict, the work embodies a yearning for renewal and hope for Lebanon's future.

The first movement evokes the industrious dance of bees—restless, vibrant, and vital to the rebirth of nature. The second turns to the ants, scurrying across the earth with mechanical purpose. Yet, as the solo instruments begin to intertwine, a

subtle transformation occurs: the creatures start to contemplate their own existence, as if touched by the quiet poetry of spring.

The final movement is a declaration of hope—a musical blossoming that symbolizes the resilience of life and the possibility of a brighter season ahead.

*Premiered in Lebanon by the Beirut Chamber Orchestra under the baton of Jean-Pierre Schmitt, this concerto stands as Chaaïne's Opus 9.*

## **Prana**

*Prana*, by French composer Hélène Rasquier, is a meditative and expressive work for two saxophones that draws inspiration from the Sanskrit term meaning "life force" or "vital breath." Through flowing lines, intricate interplay, and subtle shifts in texture, Rasquier creates a sound world where breath and rhythm intertwine. The piece explores the intimate connection between the performers, emphasizing balance, energy, and the shared pulse at the heart of the music.

*Prana* invites listeners into a contemplative space, where musical gestures seem to breathe and evolve in real time—a poetic reflection on the power of sound and silence.

## **Duo Concertante**

A key figure in the early history of the saxophone, Belgian composer Jean-Baptiste Singelée was a close friend of Adolphe Sax, the inventor of the instrument. Composed in the mid-19th century, *Duo Concertante* is one of the earliest chamber works written for saxophones, showcasing both their lyrical and virtuosic capabilities.

## **MEET THE ARTISTS**



Cory Woolley is a Senior Music Education major at Western Connecticut State University, studying classical saxophone under Javier Oviedo. Throughout his time at the university, he has Played with the Saxophone Ensemble, Saxophone Quartets, The Symphonic Band, as well as the Wind Ensemble. In the Fall 2024 semester, Cory was a featured soloist with the Wind Ensemble performing "Catch Me If You Can" by John Williams. Cory is also a winner of the 2024 WCSU James Furman Honors Recital Competition. In addition to these school ensembles, Cory was the principal Alto Saxophone in the Eastern Division Intercollegiate Band at the Connecticut Band Directors National Association (CBDNA) Eastern Division Conference which took place at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. He is preparing to enter his first year in the profession of Music Education.



## **MEET THE ARTISTS**



Lebanese composer Nicolas Chaanine started composing at a young age. By the age of 15 he was already writing music for radio and television. Nicolas studied at The Holy Spirit University of Kaslik and the Lebanese National Higher Conser-vatory of Music. His harmony

and composition teachers, soon realized his artistic potential and encouraged him to pursue a career as a composer. Soon Nicolas was approached to com-pose incidental music for films and documentaries. His style can be best defined by his passion for exploring the music of many different cultures. The geographic position of Lebanon, between the western and middle eastern world presented him with an array of different musical traditions. This rich mix of cultures became an inexhaustible source of inspiration, result-ing in a musical style that abolishes all boundaries.

## **CSP ORCHESTRA**

### **VIOLIN I**

Gokce Erem *concertmaster*  
Mioi Takeda  
Yuyu Ikeda  
Roger Mahadeen

### **VIOLIN II**

Ana Milosavljevic  
Jessica Li  
Deborah Nixon  
Sarah Franklin

### **FRENCH HORN**

James Picarello  
Aliyah Danielle  
Ross LaRocca

### **VIOLA**

Joshua Hunton  
João Felipe da Fraga  
Surai Balbesi

### **CELLO**

Jennifer Shaw  
Sonna Kim

### **DOUBLE BASS**

Trifon Dimitrov

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CSPs programs are made possible by the  
**New York State Council on the Arts**  
with the support of the Office of the Governor and the  
New York State Legislature

CSP wished to thank the  
**Arts & Letters Foundation**  
and individual contributors for their continued support.



Saxophonist **Javier Oviedo** stands as one of the brightest soloist performers of the classical saxophone world. Acclaimed for his lustrous tone, passionate musicianship, and formidable technique, he has kept alive the excitement and versatility of his instrument through his tireless efforts and continuous research.

Javier has a big contribution not only in reviving the old compositions but also in commissioning and premiering dozens of new pieces.

His debut recording, **The Classical Saxophone: A French Love Story**, features original music for saxophone and orchestra from the 19th and 20th Centuries. The album garnered tremendous acclaim and appreciation from music critics and the public at large. Since then there is no looking back.

During his journey, he has worked with many renowned music artists including Akira Endo, Zdenek Macal, and Mitch Miller. Javier has performed in many cities across the country and around the world.

In 2014, he released two new recordings. **And So It Begins...**, which highlighted his playing on two tracks and **Lazy Afternoon: Salon Music for Classical Saxophone of Byron Bellows**, recorded with St. Luke's Chamber Ensemble and lead by Maestro Jean-Pierre Schmitt.

In 2019, he recorded *Légende* by Florent Schmitt with the City of Prague Philharmonic, released on MSR Classics.

He has appeared with the New Jersey Symphony, the Austin Symphony, the Chattanooga Symphony, l'Orchestre Lamoureux, l'Orchestre à Cordes d'Ariège in France, and both National Philharmonics of Moldova and Russia in Oryol.

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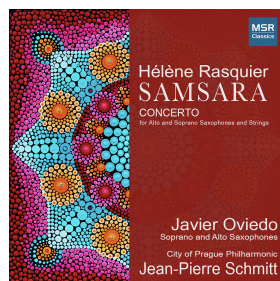
**@classicalsaxchannel**



Our continuing collaboration with the City of Prague Philharmonic has resulted in four new recordings of old classics and new masterworks! We are proud to announce their release on the MSR Classics label.



The premier recording of Lebanese composer Nicolas J. Channine's **TRANSUMANTI** - inspired by a poem by Nada Skaff



CSP is involved in a project to record the major works for saxophone and orchestra as a way to preserve it and introduce new audiences to the beauty of this uniquely versatile instrument.

Since 2018 CSP and the City of Prague Philharmonic have garnered great praise from the print and online media.

We rely on YOU to help continue our endeavors to bring some of the best but virtually unknown music.

Visit [www.classicalsaxproject.org](http://www.classicalsaxproject.org) to find out how you can be a part of this effort.



Praised for his precision and elegance at the podium, conductor **Jean-Pierre Schmitt** was trained in the purest French conducting tradition under the tutelage of his friend and mentor, the late maestro Jean Fournet. In June 2013 he lead the premier of a new work at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall to great applause. Maestro Schmitt is admired by the orchestra members he has conducted and possesses a rare ability to convey his musical insights to the performers.

In France, Mr. Schmitt worked with the Conservatory Paris V youth orchestras and the International Orchestra in Paris. He has since conducted around the world as an invited guest on several occasions to lead both the Chamber Orchestra and the Philharmonic Orchestra of Macedonia, the National Orchestra of Moldova, and the State Philharmonic Orchestra of Oryol in the Russian Federation.

Soon after his arrival in the United States Maestro Schmitt was invited to conduct the Classic Chamber Orchestra of Connecticut and the New York Lawyers' Orchestra. He also lead The Monte Vista Chamber Orchestra in Texas and The Louisiana Chamber Orchestra. Schmitt is the founder of The French-American Chamber Orchestra in New York, performing on New York's finest stages including the United Nations, Lincoln Center, and Carnegie Hall.

Jean-Pierre Schmitt's recordings have been well received by critics and the public alike and his affinity for the art of accompanying a soloist comes through.

