

ALEXANDER “SASHA” YAKUB, violinist (*1997)

P. D. P. L. in Violin Performance, Mannes School of Music, Class of 2024

M. M. in Violin Performance, Mannes School of Music, Class of 2022

A. B. in Music, Harvard University, Class of 2020

Teachers:

2022-present: Leila Josefowicz; **2020-2022:** Miranda Cuckson; **2018-2020:** Lynn Chang;

2016-2018: James Buswell; **2010-2016:** Giovina Sessions, Joanna Kurkowicz

Competitions, prizes, scholarships:

3rd prize, Lowell Chamber Orchestra Concerto Competition (Massachusetts), **2026**;
Quarter-finalist, Mozarteum International Mozart Competition (Salzburg), **2026**; 2nd prize,
Mannes School of Music Concerto Competition, **2024**; Mannes School of Music President's
Scholarship¹, **2020-22** and non-titled full scholarship **2022-24**; Harvard University Robert Levin
Prize in Musical Performance², **2020**; honorable mention, Yamaha Young Performing Artists
Competition, **2020**; Jack Kent Cooke Young Artist Award³ on National Public Radio's *From the
Top*, **2016**

Orchestras (all on rotating system of seating except NYSS; * = concertmaster, ** = pr. 2nd):

*Davos Festival Camerata and Ostrava New Orchestra, **2025**; *New England Repertory
Orchestra, **2024-present**; *Mannes Orchestra, *Mannes American Composers Ensemble and
*New York Session Symphony, **2021-2024**; **Lucerne Festival Contemporary Orchestra
(formerly Lucerne Academy Orchestra), **2022-2024**; *Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra,
2017-2019

Ensembles: S. E. M. Ensemble, **2025-present**; O/Modernt (*substitute list*), **2025-present**;

*BeComEnsemble, **2023-present**; Duo 404, **2015-present**; keyboards/violin duo specializing in
music of the 20th/21st centuries (resident ensemble at St. John's in the Village, NYC, **2021-2022**);
The Goat Exchange, **2018-present**—interdisciplinary experimental theater company; *Brattle
Street Chamber Players, **2016-2018**

Festivals/institutes/programs († indicates chamber music):

2026 (all upcoming): †Windwood Festival Residency (Alberta, Canada); *†Davos Festival
Camerata (Davos, Switzerland); Texas Music Festival (Houston, Texas)

2025: *†Davos Festival Camerata and residency at the Ostrava New Music Days (Ostrava,
Czechia)

¹ Full scholarship (USD \$95,000), awarded to one matriculating student in the conservatory each year

² Awarded to one performing musician in the graduating class

³ USD \$10,000

2024: **Lucerne Festival (Lucerne, Switzerland)

2023: Lucerne Festival

2022: Lucerne Festival

2021: †Bang On a Can Summer Festival @ Mass MoCA (Massachusetts)

2020: 1:2:1 (online new music intensive led by founding Eighth Blackbird cellist Nick Photinos)

2019: †International Musicians Seminar Prussia Cove, class of Thomas Adès (Cornwall, UK); Vienna Summer Music Festival (Vienna, Austria); Tanglewood Music Center, guest artist (Massachusetts)

2017-2018: *†Tanglewood Music Center, Violin Fellowship

Appearances on recordings: served as concertmaster for the **2018** Myrios recording (B088BBKF44) of “In Seven Days” by Thomas Adès (Kirill Gerstein, soloist; Thomas Adès, conducting the Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra). This album (also titled *In Seven Days*) was the **2021** winner of the contemporary category in the International Classical Music Awards.

Served as concertmaster in the Mannes Orchestra’s **2023** world premiere recording of Jennifer Higdon’s new flute concerto, *The Light That We Can See*, featuring Valerie Coleman, flute.

Other appearances on recordings:

Clara Kim: Our Little Matches (**2025**, New Focus Recordings, FCR 444; new works by Clara Kim for string quartet and mixed quartet)

Palimpsest - Music for Strings (**2024**, Arabesque Records, Z7007)

Selected appearances as soloist:

2026 (upcoming)

- Debut recital tour as Piatigorsky Foundation roster artist with Kessa Mefford (piano), spring 2026

2025

- Original unaccompanied solo violin compositions, live-scoring a three-week run of a new play (*Deadclass*) in the 2024-25 core season at The Tank
- 90th birthday portrait concert of Leonid Hrabovsky as part of the *Ukrainian Music Initiative* in NYC

2024

- Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall as part of the closing concert of the 25th Mannes Sounds Festival, a showcase of Mannes students
- Taping on WQXR 105.9, NYC’s classical music radio station, as part of Simone Dinnerstein’s showcase of Mannes students

2023

- Selected repertoire from the unaccompanied Bach violin works as part of a new play in progress, presented at the CUNY Graduate Center’s 2023 edition of the PRELUDE Festival

- Church of the Transfiguration NYC (“The Little Church Around the Corner”): “A Little Midday Music” concert series with Duo 404 - contemporary Ukrainian works for violin and keyboards

2022

- Performance of own unaccompanied solo violin compositions as part of the 17th Provincetown Tennessee Williams Theater Festival - in conjunction with a new staging of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*

2020

- performance of “Synchronisms No. 9” at the Harvard Music Department’s memorial concert for Prof. Emeritus Mario Davidovsky

2019

- Harvard University: University Hall Recital Series
- World premiere of Paul Mortilla’s violin concerto “Animal Brain: ad infinitum perplexus confixium” with New Music New Haven at the Yale School of Music

2017-2019

- Soloist-conductor with the Amherst Festival Orchestra for three consecutive Mozart concerti (Nos. 3, 4 and 5) in Amherst, MA

Chamber music: Performed chamber music with Nick Photinos, Todd Reynolds, Nathalie Joachim and played in groups coached by Thomas Adès, Pamela Frank, and members of the Juilliard, Chiara and Parker Quartets. Chamber masterclasses with Shai Wosner, Alan Kay, Stephen Drury, Orion Weiss. Contracting experience with the American Composers Alliance and Lincoln Center Stage.

Collaborations with composers: Worked personally with David Lang, Michael Gordon, Thomas Adès, Kati Agócs, George Lewis, Sean Shepherd, Nathalie Joachim, Du Yun, Martin Bresnick and Jennifer Higdon.

Solo masterclasses: with Irvine Arditti, Rachel Barton Pine, Vadim Gluzman and Jennifer Koh.

Addendum: composition, conducting (highlights):

Compositions performed in Vienna, Boston, Miami and New York City by ensembles including the Parker Quartet, Transient Canvas and Ensemble PHACE, as well as Fellows of the New World Symphony and Bang on a Can Summer Festival. Commissions from the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, Provincetown Tennessee Williams Theater Festival, Steinway and Sons (joint with NPR’s *From the Top*), the American Repertory Theatre, Harvard Composers Association, and Southeastern Piano Festival. Scored short films which have won various prizes at the Ivy, Watersprite, “In the Palace” and HollyShorts festivals. Served as Music Director of the Harvard College Opera, the Amherst Festival Orchestra in Amherst, MA, and of a Boston-based intercollegiate new music ensemble, *N. M. E.*