

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY

XIAN ZHANG MUSIC DIRECTOR

Community Partners Monthly Highlights

December 2025

In December, musicians served more than **1,600** community members of all ages, through **15** events across **8** New Jersey counties.



Art House Jersey City Fridays

On December 5, Bart Feller joined Undead Arts at Grace Church Van Vorst in Jersey City for a memorable evening of music and song as part of Art House Jersey City Fridays, the city's free quarterly festival celebrating local arts events. During the concert, Bart previewed selections from *The Magic Flute* in anticipation of the May concerts, performed Debussy's *Syrinx* and Bizet's *Carmen Fantasy*, and collaborated with vocalist Yohji Cantar Daquio on Julius Benedict's *The Wren*.

Paterson Music Project

On December 8 and 9, Greg LaRosa and Juan Esteban Martinez premiered the Global Grooves program at Paterson Music Project's two sites. The program took students on a musical tour of the world, starting in North America and traveling through every continent before ending in South America. The students were engaged and enthusiastic throughout the program. Paterson Music Project is one of our valued El Sistema New Jersey Alliance partners.





Kemmerer Library

On December 14, Xin Zhao, Jim Tsao, David Blinn, and Jonathan Spitz performed the annual string quartet holiday concert at Kemmerer Library in Harding Township, sponsored by New Jersey Symphony Board of Trustee member Norm Slonaker. The program blended holiday favorites with thematically related works connected to upcoming mainstage concerts, including Mozart's *Divertimento*, Fauré's *Pavane*, and Bartók's *Romanian Folk Dances*, and concluded with "Sleigh Ride," featuring audience participation with jingling car keys!

Newark Penn Station

On December 17, Garth Greenup, Tiago Linck, Katie Jordan, Levi Boylan, and Derek Fenstermacher performed festive brass quintet holiday tunes inside the Newark Penn Station waiting area to entertain and delight commuters. The performance, which took place on the fourth night of Hanukkah, was held in partnership with NJ Transit as part of their "Music in Motion" series.



Hudson County Chamber of Commerce

On December 17, Adriana Rosin, Sasha Neglia, Martin Andersen, and Ted Ackerman provided festive background music during the cocktail hour of the Hudson County Chamber of Commerce's annual Legends Gala. The performance created a warm and celebratory atmosphere for business leaders across Hudson County to connect.

As always, thank you for your support of the Community Partners program.

Stay tuned for the next edition of Monthly Highlights!