

Artis—Naples

Home of The Baker Museum
& Naples Philharmonic

5833 Pelican Bay Boulevard
Naples, Florida 34108-2740

239-597-1111
artisnaples.org

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Tim Hausler, Communications Manager
thausler@artisnaples.org | 239-961-2017

Website: artisnaples.org

Facebook: facebook.com/artisnaples

Twitter: [@artisnaples](https://twitter.com/artisnaples)

Instagram: [artisnaples](https://www.instagram.com/artisnaples)

ARTIS—NAPLES ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF SEVEN NEW MUSICIANS TO THE NAPLES PHILHARMONIC FOR THE 2024-25 SEASON

Naples, Fla. (September 19, 2024) — Artis—Naples announced today seven musician appointments to the Naples Philharmonic by Artistic and Music Director Alexander Shelley for the 2024-25 season. Davis Pierson will serve as associate principal bass, Dylan Reckner will serve in a newly added section bass position and Mark Teplitsky will serve as assistant principal flute. Egor Antonenko, who served as acting principal cello for the 2023-24 season has been named as principal cello. In addition the following musicians have been named to one-year positions: David Everson, principal horn; Courtney Filner, section viola; and Ruiqi Shi, assistant principal bassoon.

“It is an exciting moment for the Naples Philharmonic as we welcome these extraordinary musicians into the orchestra’s ranks,” said Artis—Naples Artistic and Music Director Alexander Shelley. “The Naples Philharmonic has long been known for its exceptional musicianship and commitment to artistic excellence, and I am confident that these new members will only elevate that reputation. I look forward to the inspiring moments that we will create together this season.”

“We are thrilled to welcome these gifted musicians to the Naples Philharmonic. Each of them brings a unique blend of talent and artistry that will enhance the depth and vibrancy of our orchestra,” said Artis—Naples CEO and President Kathleen van Bergen. “We eagerly anticipate the ways they will connect with our audiences, both on our stages and throughout the community, during this momentous season.”

“The musicians of the Naples Philharmonic extend a warm welcome to our new colleagues,” said Principal Timpani John Evans, who also serves as chair of the Naples Philharmonic Players Committee. “Bringing fresh talent always introduces new energy to the orchestra, and it’s been a privilege to watch this ensemble evolve. Their contributions will undoubtedly enrich our performances and the experiences we share with our audiences this season.”

Egor Antonenko, principal cello

Egor Antonenko has gained global acclaim as an esteemed soloist, chamber musician and orchestral performer. He debuted as a soloist at 8 years old with the Kaliningrad Chamber Orchestra, and his musical journey led him to collaborate with renowned Eastern European ensembles, including the Moscow and Ryazan chamber orchestras, as well as the Petrozavodsk, Yaroslavl and Volgograd symphonies. Antonenko has performed on prestigious stages worldwide, including Moscow’s Great Hall, Boston’s Symphony Hall, Walt Disney Concert Hall and others.

David Everson, principal horn

David Everson has held positions in the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Kansas City Symphony, Flint Symphony Orchestra, Toledo Symphony and Des Moines Metro Opera. He has also been guest principal with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic and National Symphony Orchestra. Everson has had active teaching studios in Kansas City and Detroit over the years and has performed in many chamber ensembles. He can be heard in several recent film scores, including *If*, *Despicable Me 4*, *Twisters* and *Transformers One*.

Courtney Filner, viola

Courtney Sedgwick Filner is a native of Minnesota. In addition to her work with the Naples Philharmonic, she is the principal violist of the Southwest Florida Symphony. Courtney has previously held positions as assistant principal viola of the Richmond Symphony, principal viola of the Stockton Symphony and section viola with the San Antonio Symphony, Florida Philharmonic and San Diego Symphony. She teaches viola at Florida Gulf Coast University and is a registered Suzuki teacher of violin and viola.

Davis Pierson, associate principal bass

Davis Pierson received first prize in the 2023 ISB Double Bass Orchestral Division Competition, and he has recently performed as substitute bass with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Houston Symphony, Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra and Waco Symphony Orchestra. As an invited fellow of the Verbier Festival Orchestra, Davis spent two meaningful summers in Verbier, Switzerland, where he performed under the batons of Gianandrea Noseda, Klaus Mäkelä, Charles Dutoit, Daniele Gatti, Lahav Shani and Christoph Eschenbach.

Dylan Reckner, bass

Prior to joining the Naples Philharmonic, Dylan Reckner was a freelance musician in New York City and Philadelphia. His freelance career included performing George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* at its original location exactly 100 years after it premiered. He also had the honor of performing the premiere of Philip Glass' Symphony No. 14 in New York City with the composer in the audience. Reckner has performed frequently with Symphony in C, the Brooklyn Symphony Orchestra, the Avalanche Ensemble and twice with virtuoso violinist Itzhak Perlman.

Ruiqi Shi, assistant principal bassoon

Ruiqi Shi is an ardent and devoted musician whose solos have graced stages around the world. In 2019, he took first prize in the Auckland Youth Orchestra Soloist Competition and won the Outstanding Soloist prize at the Kirk-Burnnand & Brown Music Festival. Shi earned a Bachelor of Music at The Juilliard School and, during his studies, contributed to many ensembles at Juilliard, having played all positions in the Juilliard Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra, Wind Orchestra and Opera.

Mark Teplitsky, assistant principal flute

Mark Teplitsky previously served for two years as acting second flute with the Houston Symphony after performing for six years as principal flute with the San Antonio Symphony. A graduate of Rice University in 2016 and the Colburn School of Music in 2014, Teplitsky has performed with orchestras across the country, including the New York Philharmonic, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Minnesota Orchestra, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Fort Worth Symphony, Phoenix Symphony, The Florida Orchestra, San Diego Symphony, South Dakota Symphony and Sarasota Opera.

ARTIS—NAPLES

Home of The Baker Museum and the Naples Philharmonic, Artis—Naples is unique among cultural institutions nationwide, equally dedicated to both the visual and performing arts featuring artists of global distinction.

KIMBERLY K. QUERREY and LOUIS A. SIMPSON CULTURAL CAMPUS

Led by CEO and President Kathleen van Bergen and Artistic and Music Director Alexander Shelley, Artis—Naples offers more than 800 paid and free events annually across its 8.5-acre Kimberly K. Querrey and Louis A. Simpson Cultural Campus. Artis—Naples welcomes hundreds of thousands of visitors each year for a broad array of artistic and educational opportunities perfect for audiences of all backgrounds and interests. The cultural campus is home to five buildings, including two performance halls (Frances Pew Hayes Hall and Myra J. Daniels Pavilion), The Baker Museum, the Toni Stabile Education Building and the Kohan Administration Building.

NAPLES PHILHARMONIC

The Naples Philharmonic has long been recognized as one of the cornerstones of Southwest Florida's arts community. As part of Artis—Naples, the Naples Philharmonic performs more than 140 orchestral and chamber music concerts, as well as opera and ballet, education, community and special event concerts annually between September and June in the 1,477-seat Hayes Hall, the 283-seat Daniels Pavilion and around Southwest Florida. The Naples Philharmonic has enjoyed a history of working with world-class music directors. Following a successful designate year in 2023-24, Alexander Shelley begins his new role as artistic and music director in the 2024-25 season. Renowned violinist James Ehnes continues as

artistic partner through the 2024-25 season, working with Naples Philharmonic musicians in a variety of settings with a focus on inspiring and embodying a high level of artistry. Podium leadership also includes Principal Pops Conductor Jack Everly, celebrating 15 years in this role in the 2024-25 season and bringing pops performances that celebrate music across genres.

THE BAKER MUSEUM

The Baker Museum is the foremost fine art museum in Southwest Florida, presenting an ambitious slate of exhibitions annually to complement installations of works from its permanent collection. Comprising more than 3,000 objects, the museum's broad holdings of 20th- and 21st-century art reflect particular strengths in modern art of the United States and Mexico. The Baker Museum's collections reflect the generosity and commitment of area collectors, including significant gifts from the collection of the late Olga Hirshhorn.

With more than two decades of collecting and exhibiting, the museum is committed to the stewardship and scholarship of its collections and to fostering inspiring and transformative experiences with the visual arts. At the same time, The Baker Museum partners with the world's leading arts institutions to make extraordinary exhibitions accessible to the Southwest Florida community—including recently the National Portrait Gallery, London and the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation. In 2020, Artis—Naples celebrated the renovation and expansion of The Baker Museum and adjoining Norris Garden, designed by Weiss/Manfredi Architecture/Landscape/Urbanism, which created new spaces for multidisciplinary exploration and social interaction.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY

In addition to creating and presenting visual and performing arts, Artis—Naples provides robust education and community activities for students of all ages in Collier and Lee counties. Each season, thousands of Collier County Public School students interact with Artis—Naples education programming, both on our cultural campus and in their classrooms. Beyond our commitment to youth education, the Lifelong Learning program provides informative lectures and study opportunities for adults seeking to engage more deeply with the arts.

The Friends of Artis—Naples, comprised of more than 3,500 donor households, offers activities, travel experiences and events designed to foster a deeper relationship between patrons and the arts.

In 2017, Artis—Naples acquired the Naples International Film Festival (NIFF), expanding its film offerings and providing a platform for the festival's continued excellence and growth. In 2023, the festival's 15th anniversary year, NIFF was named one of *MovieMaker* Magazine's "20 Great Film Festivals in Vacation Destinations."

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