

Irene Breslaw, viola



A former Naumburg Scholarship winner and graduate of The Juilliard School, Irene Breslaw joined the viola section of the New York Philharmonic in August 1976. She was named Assistant Principal Viola in 1989. Prior to joining the Orchestra, Ms. Breslaw was a member of both the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra and the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. In May 2001 Ms. Breslaw celebrated 25 years as a member of the New York Philharmonic.

An active chamber musician, Ms. Breslaw appears regularly with the New York Philharmonic Ensembles. In the summers of 1993 and 1995, she traveled to Finland to perform chamber music with several of her Philharmonic colleagues and to coach members of the VIVO Youth Orchestra, an experience she found extremely rewarding. She has also recorded the Mozart Clarinet Trio, "Kegelstatt," with Principal Clarinet Stanley Drucker and pianist Lukas Foss for Elysium Records. Since 1998 Ms. Breslaw has been on the orchestral performance faculty at the Manhattan School of Music, and is an adjunct at Queens College.

Sandra Church, flute



Sandra Church was invited by Zubin Mehta in 1988 to become Associate Principal Flute of the New York Philharmonic. She made her solo debut with Mr. Mehta in 1990, and has appeared as soloist with the Orchestra under the batons of Lorin Maazel, Kurt Masur, and Leonard Slatkin. She played first flute on the last three New York Philharmonic all-Tchaikovsky recordings led by Leonard Bernstein, and has also performed first flute on many Philharmonic recordings conducted by Mr. Mehta, Mr. Masur, and the late Giuseppe Sinopoli.

A native of Syracuse, New York, Ms. Church began her orchestral career in 1978 as principal flute with the New Jersey Symphony. During the summers she served as principal flute of the Chautauqua Symphony. An avid chamber musician, she performs regularly with the New York Philharmonic Ensembles, and has appeared on many

recordings, most notably with André Previn on his album of songs with soprano Sylvia McNair entitled *From Ordinary Things*, for Sony.

Ms. Church teaches privately and has given master classes throughout the world, as well as at the annual Julius Baker Flute Master Classes in Danbury, Connecticut. She writes articles for flute publications and is a member of the New York Flute Club and the National Flute Association, often appearing in recital with both organizations. Sandra Church earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from The Juilliard School, where she was a student of former Philharmonic Principal Flute Julius Baker.

[Robert Rinehart, viola](#)



Robert Rinehart, who joined the New York Philharmonic's viola section in 1992, is a familiar figure on the New York chamber-music scene. He has appeared at the Spoleto, Vancouver Chamber Music, and Santa Fe Chamber Music festivals, and with Chamber Music Northwest and The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. A founding member of the Ridge String Quartet, Mr. Rinehart has performed in every major music center in the United States, as well as in Canada, Australia, Japan, and in Europe. He has collaborated with Benny Goodman, Rudolf Firkusny, and the Guarneri String Quartet, among others, and his chamber music recordings have received a Grammy Award, two Grammy nominations, and the Diapason d'Or. A native of San Francisco, Mr. Rinehart

studied violin at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music with Isadore Tinkleman, and at The Curtis Institute of Music with Jaime Laredo, David Cerone, and Ivan Galamian. He is on the faculty of the Manhattan School of Music.

[Fiona Simon, violin](#)



Violinist Fiona Simon, a member of the Orchestra since 1985, made her Philharmonic solo debut in November 1989, performing Vivaldi's Concerto for Three Violins. Ms. Simon began her career in her native England, where she studied with Szymon Goldberg and won major prizes in the Carl Flesch and Jacques Thibaud competitions. For three consecutive years, she was London's Young Artist of the Year. She has performed with the Academy of St.

Martin-in-the-Fields, the Royal Opera at Covent Garden, and the English Chamber Orchestra, among others. She has also been featured in many recitals and concerts broadcast over the BBC, and has made numerous appearances throughout Europe. Ms. Simon is a member of the Vanderspar String Trio and the Simon String Quartet. She was married to the late New York Philharmonic violinist Richard Simon, and has a son, Michael Paul, a poet.

R. Allen Spanjer, French Horn



R. Allen Spanjer joined the New York Philharmonic as Second Horn, The Rosalind Miranda Chair, in February 1993. His appearances with the Orchestra as a featured soloist have included performances of Schumann's *Konzertstück* for Four Horns in 1995 and 2001, as well as on the Philharmonic's 1996 European Festivals Tour and 2001 Latin American Tour, conducted by then Music Director Kurt Masur. He was also featured in 1996 in Vivaldi's Concerto for Two Horns with Principal Horn Philip Myers, also conducted by Mr. Masur.

Prior to joining the Philharmonic, Mr. Spanjer was a full-time freelance musician in New York City, performing in a broad range of classical and commercial settings.

During this time he was also a frequent substitute with the New York Philharmonic, as well as with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, and he spent one season as Second Horn of the Orquesta Filarmonica de la UNAM in Mexico. A Georgia native, R. Allen Spanjer began horn lessons at age 13. He was a pupil of Norman Schweikert at the Interlochen Arts Academy and later studied with former Philharmonic hornist Ranier De Intinis at The Juilliard School. He also studied at the Brevard Music Center, Aspen Music Festival with Philip Farkas, SUNY Purchase with Paul Ingraham, Waterloo Music Festival with Martin Smith, Tanglewood Festival with Harry Shapiro, and privately in New York City with Carmine Caruso.

Mr. Spanjer maintains an active teaching studio, and is frequently a guest performer and teacher at music schools around the United States. In addition to his New York Philharmonic work and teaching horn, he is a certified instructor of the Alexander Technique, having graduated from the American Center for the Alexander Technique in New York City in 1981. He is on faculty at the Manhattan School of Music and frequently performs as a chamber musician. He has written for *The Horn Call*, the journal of the International Horn Society. In addition, he was featured at the 1999 Symposium of the International Horn Society, as well as the 2000 and 2001 Northeast Horn Workshops.

Carl Schiebler, Orchestra Personnel Manager



Carl R. Schiebler has been the New York Philharmonic's Orchestra Personnel Manager since 1986. Mr. Schiebler was educated at the University of Wisconsin–Madison and the United States Naval School of Music. He performed as a horn player in the 7th Army Symphony Orchestra before becoming second hornist of the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra in 1962. He combined the duties of this position with that of the symphony's Personnel Manager from 1977 to 1986.

Mr. Schiebler has taught horn at the University of Wisconsin, Washington University in St. Louis, and Saint Louis Institute of Music, and he has presented management workshops for the American Symphony Orchestra League.