

Individual Biographies

Karin Aurell, flutes

Karin Aurell teaches flute in the Mount Allison University music department and is a founding member of the woodwind quintet Ventus Machina. Karin can also be heard playing with Symphony New Brunswick and the Charlottetown Festival Orchestra. Other recent collaborators are Carl-Philippe Gionet, Nadia Francavilla and Joel Cormier. Karin regularly commissions and performs new music by composers from the region.

Before moving to Canada from her native Sweden, Karin played principal flute in the Norrköping Symphony Orchestra, on Sweden's Baltic coast. She studied flute with, among others, Gerard Schaub and Robert Aitken.

Karin can be heard on orchestral recordings with the Norrköping orchestra, as well as on a number of other albums – Nightingales for Katy (solo flute); Roots, In the Weeds and Marcher à l'infini with Ventus Machina; and two albums with Trio Arkaede (Karin Aurell, flute; Isabelle Fournier, violin; Julien LeBlanc, piano).

When not playing or teaching, Karin most loves to spend her time outdoors - hiking, skiing, and learning about plants and mushrooms.

Daniella Tejada-Cortes, oboe and English horn

Daniella Tejada-Cortes is a Colombian-born oboist and educator. She began her training at the Conservatory of the National University of Colombia, performing with major ensembles such as the Bogotá Philharmonic Orchestra and the Colombian Youth Philharmonic, before moving to Montréal to complete her Master of Music degree at the Université de Montréal.

Daniella has appeared at major artistic institutions, including the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, where she participated in the Banff Chamber Music program and its intensive chamber music residency, collaborating with internationally renowned musicians.

Part of the musical landscape of the Atlantic Canada, Daniella plays second oboe with Symphony New Brunswick, and performs regularly with the Tutta Musica Orchestra. She is also oboist with the renowned woodwind quintet Ventus Machina, with whom she performs, tours, records, and develops collaborative and educational projects across the region.

Deeply committed to music education, Daniella teaches oboe at the Université de Moncton, mentors young musicians through Sistema New Brunswick, and serves as faculty with the New Brunswick Youth Orchestra (NBYO). Her work blends artistic excellence, community engagement, and a passionate dedication to accessible, transformative music-making.

James Kalyn, clarinet and saxophone, arranger

James Kalyn is a diverse and highly experienced musician. He is a soloist, orchestral and chamber musician on both clarinet and saxophone, a conductor of orchestra, band, and jazz ensemble, and an arranger and composer. A Professor at Mount Allison University in New Brunswick, Canada (www.mta.ca), James is originally from Southern Ontario, has taught in several Canadian provinces, and spent many years teaching and performing in the United States.

James has performed throughout the world with groups such as the Cleveland Orchestra, and is Acting Principal Clarinet with Symphony New Brunswick.

Jon Fisher, horn

Jon Fisher is a horn player, conductor, and teaching artist based in Saint John, New Brunswick. He is an active presence in the province's musical community and performs regularly in orchestral and chamber music settings. Jon currently serves as Acting Principal Horn of Symphony New Brunswick, a position he has held since 2023.

Jon is deeply committed to music education and youth development. He teaches horn with Sistema New Brunswick in Saint John and manages the Saint John Youth Orchestra, where he also directs the SJYO Wind Ensemble. He is a regular coach with the New Brunswick Youth Orchestra, working closely with the horn and brass sections. Many of Jon's students have received accolades at the local, provincial, and national levels.

In addition to performing and teaching, Jon conducts Saint Mary's Band, one of Canada's oldest continuously operating concert bands. He is proud to contribute to the ensemble's long-standing musical legacy in the city of Saint John.

Originally from North Vancouver, Jon has made New Brunswick his musical home, contributing broadly to its artistic life through performance, mentorship, and community leadership.

Neil Bishop, bassoon

Neil Bishop is a bassoonist from St. John's, Newfoundland. He began playing the bassoon in 2005 with the Newfoundland Symphony Youth Orchestra and participated in various ensembles through his high school music program.

In 2008, Neil moved to Toronto to study bassoon at the Royal Conservatory's prestigious orchestral training program, the Glenn Gould School (GGS), where he had the privilege of studying the bassoon with Nadina Mackie, and was coached by many of Canada's leading pedagogues and performers. During his time at GGS, he appeared regularly with the Royal Conservatory Orchestra.

Alongside his orchestral training, Neil broadened his musical horizons as a member of Das Fagott Mannschaft (DFM), the world's first electric bassoon quartet cover band. With DFM, he performed at a variety of special events and festivals across Ontario, including ScotiaBank Buskerfest, the Northern Lights Festival in Sudbury, Toronto Pride, and the Toronto Jazz Festival.

In 2017 Neil relocated to Saint John to join the teaching faculty of the New Brunswick Youth Orchestra and Sistema NB, where he founded the bassoon studio at Sistema NB Saint John. He currently teaches bassoon students of all levels within the New Brunswick Youth Orchestra and has served as Secretary for the Council of Canadian Bassoonists, a national registered charity, since moving to New Brunswick.

In 2024 Neil joined Ventus Machina, New Brunswick's vibrant and highly active woodwind quintet, and is acting principal bassoon of Symphony New Brunswick.