



**WASHINGTON
PERFORMING ARTS**

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**WASHINGTON PERFORMING ARTS WELCOMES
EIGHT NEW MEMBERS TO ITS JUNIOR BOARD**

(Washington, D.C.) — Washington Performing Arts has announced the addition of eight new members to its Junior Board, which comprises young professionals who are enthusiastic about the arts and committed to enhancing philanthropy, leadership, and advocacy within the D.C. community.

“I’m excited to welcome these dynamic new members to our Junior Board, and I look forward to the impact and engagement that they will bring through their participation,” said President and CEO Jenny Bilfield. “Much as Washington Performing Arts has invested in emerging artists, we believe it’s equally important to provide a pathway for new generations of arts lovers to connect their passion with opportunities to develop crucial experience in leadership, governance, and advocacy. The mentorship of our Board and partnership with our staff offer invaluable context in service of a great mission—truly exemplifying the ‘unifying power of the arts’ on multiple levels.”

Established in 2017, Washington Performing Arts’s Junior Board engages professionals in their 20s and 30s who have a desire to impact the future of the arts. Its members cultivate a community of arts supporters from within their networks and involve their peers in Washington Performing Arts’s varied performances and initiatives. They also collectively adopt an existing Washington Performing Arts program—such as the Children of the Gospel Choir and Embassy Adoption Program—as their philanthropic project and develop their leadership skills through mentorship from Washington Performing Arts’s Board of Directors.

The eight new members of the Washington Performing Arts Junior Board are:

- **Sascha Fishman** – Finance Manager of Corporate FP&A at Amazon
- **Lena Galperina** – People & Community Director at ARTECHOUSE
- **Troy Kallman** – PMO Lead at Superlative Technologies

- **Sarah Lysaker** – Associate Editor at CNA Corporation
- **Patricia Ofori** – Real Estate Investor at Ofori&Co
- **Erica Royal** – Junior Analyst at The Carlyle Group
- **Prachi Shah** – Senior Consultant at Guidehouse
- **Jeremy Skog** – Senior Financial Economist at Public Company Accounting Oversight Board

The newly announced members join 22 current members of Washington Performing Arts’s Junior Board. A full listing can be found at washingtonperformingarts.org/aboutus/junior-board/.

Washington Performing Arts’s Junior Board members serve two-year terms with no term limits.

BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS, PHOTOS, AND QUOTES FROM THE NEW JUNIOR BOARD MEMBERS



SASCHA FISHMAN

Sascha is a native Washingtonian and lifelong supporter of Washington Performing Arts. She is excited to be back in the region after many years away and to re-engage with local arts organizations, including Washington Performing Arts. She currently works in Finance at Amazon.com, with prior experience at General Mills and Nestle Nutrition. She holds an MBA from Indiana University’s Kelley School of Business and a BA from the University of Chicago. She previously served on the Board of Directors of the Alliance Française de

Minneapolis-St. Paul, where she supported its first major capital campaign. In her spare time, she is an avid baker, traveler, reader, and watcher of ’90s science fiction.

“I grew up as a patron of Washington Performing Arts, and I am excited to join the Junior Board so I can give back to an organization that has been bringing me and this community so much joy.”



LENA GALPERINA

Lena is passionate about bringing impactful arts experiences to audiences. She believes that the arts have the power to help us understand each other and bring us closer together. She holds a Bachelor’s degree in Art History and International Relations from American University and a Master’s degree in Arts Management from George Mason University. She has professional and personal experience in both visual and performing arts: she loves to paint and draw; is passionate about storytelling; and dances with Carpathia Folk Dance Ensemble, where she is also the Assistant Director. Currently, she works as the People & Community Director at ARTECHOUSE, an innovative art space dedicated to showcasing artists whose primary medium is technology. Her role focuses on strengthening connection between the audience and the art, as well as supporting ARTECHOUSE’s community both internally and externally.

“In the last year and a half, I have definitely missed live performances. Getting to see musicians play, dancers dance, and actors bring stories to life is something that is truly special. As the world starts to open up, I have had the opportunity to once again experience these arts live and that makes me happy. I believe that experiencing art firsthand is very important to all of us, individually

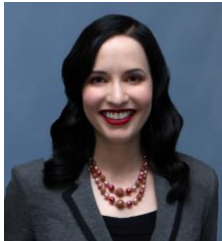
and as a society. That is why I decided to get involved with the Washington Performing Arts, a local organization that brings such performances to the D.C. community.”



TROY KALLMAN

Troy is a lifelong music lover and supporter of the arts dedicated to music culture, music education, and connecting communities. He is active on the Washington Performing Arts’s Junior Board as well as the Board of Directors of the Kanter Kallman Art Foundation. He enjoys listening to a diversity of music, attending live performances, playing the piano, and composing original music. He also enjoys frequent visits to the region’s abundance of musical hotspots, such as the Kennedy Center and the Music Center at Strathmore.

“The arts give us purpose and meaning and illuminate the shared values that make us who we are. It is my honor to support Washington Performing Arts and contribute to the culture of great music and the arts in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.”



SARAH LYSAKER

Sarah is a research editor and a classically trained flutist from Minnesota. Work brought her to the D.C. area about six years ago. It was a big change from her hometown of 2,500 people and two stop lights. Since moving to D.C., she has discovered her favorite hobby: street musicianship. She likes setting up outside Metro stations and surprising commuters with live music. Sometimes she does real gigs but playing outside the Metros is the most fun. She likes the unpredictability of playing for whoever happens to be there. She plays Bach and a lot of opera music because her flute teacher was the principal flutist of the Minnesota Opera.

“The performing arts are my passion. I was drawn to the Junior Board because I wanted to meet more people who love classical music.”



PATRICIA OFORI

Patricia is a real estate entrepreneur who uses physical spaces to foster community, creativity, and collaboration. Her boutique firm, Ofori & Co., specializes in multi-unit development and single-family home renovations. As an agent, she has sold over 200 houses—primarily in the Washington, D.C. metro area’s competitive market. She has personally bought, rehabbed, and sold over a dozen properties. Her design philosophy is to honor a neighborhood’s aesthetic and heritage while curating contemporary and functional spaces. The

Baltimore-based investor uses her wealth of real estate knowledge to host events that encourage camaraderie, sustainability, and homeownership.

“The importance of arts and culture was instilled in me as a young child. As a patron and enthusiast of the arts, I’m excited to be a part of the Junior Board to support and engage in the many programs and initiatives that Washington Performing Arts leads and stewards.”



ERICA ROYAL

Erica is originally from Richmond, Virginia, where she grew up singing and was actively involved in both sports and the arts. She attended James Madison University as a collegiate athlete and studied Finance, Spanish, and Chinese. She now works in New York City but plans to remain actively involved in both the D.C. and NYC communities.

“I am drawn to Washington Performing Arts due to my interest in deepening my involvement with the D.C. community. I believe the arts bring people together, and I can’t wait to help facilitate that process in the D.C. area.”



PRACHI SHAH

Prachi is a Senior Consultant for the Federal Government sector within Guidehouse, where she works on technology and finance projects. She has always been involved in philanthropic pursuits, most recently serving on another Junior Board that supports students in achieving higher education goals through scholarships and mentorship. A native of New Jersey, she graduated from Rutgers University with a B.S. in Finance and currently resides in Washington D.C. She speaks three languages and, in her free time, enjoys traveling, skiing, and ballroom dancing.

“The Washington Performing Arts intersection between education and the arts is what drew me to the organization in the first place. Throughout my life, education and the arts have always played an integral role and should be accessible to everyone, regardless of their socioeconomic status. I’m looking forward to getting involved and working with like-minded individuals to contribute back to the community.”



JEREMY SKOG

Jeremy lives in Alexandria, Virginia and works as an economist in financial regulation. When he is not working, he takes advantage of the many activities available in the region, especially the various types and locations of musical performance. He is originally from Fairfax County, where he first learned to play piano and then trombone. It has always been important for him to include music in his life and attending performances is an activity that he has missed.

“I’m excited to support Washington Performing Arts as events pick up after COVID lockdowns. The organization performs a vital role in promoting the Washington area’s reputation as an artistic center.”

ABOUT WASHINGTON PERFORMING ARTS

One of the most established and honored performing arts institutions in America, Washington Performing Arts has engaged for more than half a century with artists, audiences, students, and civic life. The city is truly our stage: for decades, in venues ranging from concert halls and clubs to public parks, we have presented a tremendous range of artists and art forms, from the most distinguished symphony orchestras to both renowned and emerging artists in classical music, gospel

music, jazz, and other rich traditions from around the world. We also have an ever-expanding artistic and educational presence on the internet, envisioning ongoing opportunities for online connection and community.

Washington Performing Arts deeply values its partnerships with local organizations and other arts institutions. Through events online and in myriad performance venues and neighborhoods, we engage international visiting artists in community programs and introduce local artists to wider audiences. We place a premium on establishing artists as a continuing presence in the lives of both young people and adults through residencies and education programs.

Our achievements have been recognized with a National Medal of Arts and with three Mayor's Arts Awards from the DC Government. We have now embarked upon our second half-century, ever inspired by the motto of our founder, Patrick Hayes: "Everybody in, nobody out."

For more information, please visit washingtonperformingarts.org.

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