

# Orchestra New England

## Facts Sheet

Founded as the *Yale Theatre Orchestra* (at Yale University School of Music) in March 1974; name established as *Chamber Orchestra of New England* by James Sinclair and Kenneth Singleton with 30 co-operating musicians (of the Yale School of Music faculty and graduate student body) in November 1975 (incorporated as a not-for-profit 501(c)3 in August 1977).

### First concerts:

*Yale Theater Orchestra*: March 3, 1974 (Sprague Hall, Yale) New Haven (program of premieres of works of Charles Ives);

*Chamber Orchestra of New England*: November 2, 1975 (Sprague Hall, program of Handel, Stravinsky, Babbitt, Copland and Haydn) Phyllis Curtin, soprano soloist);

*Orchestra New England*: June '85

Subscription concerts began in October 1978 (Sprague Hall).

### Previous concert marks reached:

# 100	Nov. 14, 1982	New London (Leamy Hall), Dvorak & Stravinsky
# 200	Dec. 31, 1984	Chapel Square Mall, <i>New Year's Eve Ball-at-the-Mall</i>
# 300	Dec. 20, 1986	Stamford, <i>The Nutcracker</i> (American Ballet Co.)
# 400	May 15, 1989	New York (Pierre Hotel), Broadway stars gala
# 500	Nov. 22, 1992	United Church on the Green, <i>Colonial Concert XIII</i>
# 600	Feb. 20, 1999	Battell Chapel, Mozart, Torke, Strauss, Hindemith
# 700	Apr. 28, 2007	Battell Chapel, Mendelssohn <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>
# 800	Apr. 22, 2023	Unitarian Society of New Haven

### Home concert halls (all New Haven):

Sprague Hall	Mar 1974 – Mar 1979 ( 10x)
Lyman Auditorium [SCSU]	Sep 1979 – Feb 1984 ( 25x)
Shubert Theater	Mar–Apr 1984 ( 54x)
Palace Theater	Oct 1984 – Oct 1985 (18x)
United Church on the Green	Nov 1980 – present ( 71x)
Battell Chapel	Feb 1986 – Mar 2019 (122x)
Unitarian Society of NH	Apr 2017 – present (9x)

No. of performances since founding – 802 (average of 20 performances per year)

No. conducted by music director James Sinclair – 728 (91%) [67 by guest conductors or jointly]

No. of Connecticut towns/cities performed in – 61

No. of states performed in – 9

No. of states broadcast in – 50

Most notable guest conductor – Aaron Copland (Jan 24, 1977)

No. of *Nutcracker Ballet* performances – 151

No. of *Nutcracker Ballet* productions – 5

No. of commercial recordings of ONE available – 6

No. of commercial recordings by other CT orchestras combined – 5

Largest single live audience – 110,000 (Stamford, July 6, 1991)

Largest TV audience – 7 million (est., PBS December 1982-85)

Most financially successful fundraiser – Garrison Keillor (Palace Theater, April 14, 1992); raised over \$31,000

Most financially disastrous fundraiser – Michael Bolton (Woolsey Hall, April 22, 1994); lost over \$4,000

## **DISTINCTIONS:**

- # First professional Connecticut orchestra to be broadcast over CT Public Radio (1978)
- # "Connecticut's Best" – Connecticut Magazine 1989
- # Only Connecticut orchestra on national TV (Colonial Concert, 1982-85)
- # Featured orchestra for 350th celebrations of Stratford, Fairfield and Stamford
- # Premiered more works of Charles Ives (26) than any orchestra in the world, ever
- # Survived the Woodstock Fair, twice (1988 & 1989)
- # Spectacular Viennese balls—Connecticut Savings Bank (May 16, 1981); Woolsey Hall (Dec 31, 1982)

- # Five New Year's Eve “Ball at the Mall”—Chapel Square Mall (Dec 31, 1983–87)
- # Annual “Colonial Concerts” in historic United Church on New Haven Green, period-costume concerts that “could have been” 200+ years ago; special guests have included George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and Roger Sherman
- # “Pops in Connecticut” concerts—sponsored by SNET, 74 performances (1984–1991)
- # Featured orchestra of the Connecticut Arts Awards (1979, 1983, 1984, 1988)

**LOCATIONS** (and no. at each) of ONE's performances --

**In Connecticut (61):**

Ansonia	1	Glastonbury	1	Orange	5
Avery Point	3	Goshen	1	Oxford	1
Branford	11	Guilford	3	Simsbury	2
Bridgeport	1	Hamden	29	Southport	7
Bristol	17	Hartford	16	Stamford	110
Canaan	1	Litchfield	3	Storrs	6
Canton	2	Madison	10	Stratford	4
Cheshire	3	Manchester	8	Torrington	6
Chester	2	Meriden	1	Trumbull	1
Clinton	12	Middletown	5	West Haven	9
Danbury	5	Mystic	1	Wallingford	6
Danielson	1	Naugatuck	1	Washington	1
Darien	1	New Britain	7	Waterbury	2
Deep River	11	New Canaan	1	West Haven	9
Derby	1	New Haven	328	Westport	9
East Hampton	1	New London	7	Wethersfield	1
East Haven	2	New Milford	3	Willimantic	1
Enfield	2	Norfolk	2	Woodbridge	1
Essex	3	Norwalk	18	Woodstock	5
Fairfield	8	Norwich	1		
Farmington	1	Old Lyme	5		

**Performance locations out of Connecticut (total 42):**

In **Washington, DC** (1)

In **Maine**: Portland (1)

In **Massachusetts** (total 6): Boston (1), Edgartown-Martha's Vineyard (1), Fall River (1), Holyoke (2), Springfield (1)

In **New Hampshire** (total 3): Claremont (1), Exeter (1), Plymouth (1)

In **New Jersey** (total 4): East Brunswick (1), Garden State Center (1), Stockton (2)

In **New York** (total 25): Bronxville (2), Cooperstown (1), Clinton (1), Elmira (1), Geneseo (1), Nyack (1), Pawling (6), New York City (12)

In **Rhode Island**: Providence (1)

In **Vermont**: Burlington (1)

**SOLOISTS**: 403, including --

**Metropolitan Opera stars:**

June Anderson

Sasha Cooke

Phyllis Curtin

Wilhelmenia Fernandez

Jerry Hadley

Roberta Peters

Tatiana Troyanos

Dawn Upshaw

**Prima ballerinas:**

Merrill Ashley

Patricia McBride

Heather Watts

**Dancers:**

Ib Anderson

Pilobolusc

Jock Soto

Damian Woetzel

**Instrumentalists:**

Igor Kipnis

Joseph Silverstein

**Broadway/TV stars:**

Harry Belafonte

Peggy Cass

Barbara Cook

Kim Criswell

Judy Kaye

Werner Klemperer

John Rait

Tony Randall

Regina Resnick

George Rose

Jean Stapleton

**Rock star:**

Michael Bolton

**Narrators:**

James Andreassi

Charles Osgood

Lloyd Richards

John Shea

Joan Kennedy

**GUEST CONDUCTORS** (total 32):

Paul Althouse	Wayne Davidson (2)	Paul Mueller (6)
Kurt Anderson	Joseph D'Eugenio (2)	Victor Norman (3)
Frank Brieff	Paul Dunkel (3)	Arthur Post (2)
Keith Brion	John Owen Edwards	Peter Sacco (2)
Marguerite Brooks (4)	Eugene Gwozdz	Keneth Singleton (3)
Allen Brown (4)	Evans Haile (9)	Robert Sirota
Neely Bruce	Andrew Heath	Arthur Sjogren (2)
Phillip Brunell	Doris Kosloff	Perry So
Jack Close	Robert J. Lurtsema	Johannes Somary (18)
Richard Coffey (8)	Mitch Miller (2)	David Thomas (6)
Aaron Copland	Walden Moore (1)	Thomas Toscano
		Rodney Wynkoop

**COLLABORATIONS --**

American Ballet Company (Nutcracker production)  
Connecticut Ballet (Nutcracker and other productions)  
CONCORA [Connecticut Choral Artists] (joint concerts and recording)  
Connecticut Opera (touring opera productions)  
Fairfield County Chorale  
Greater Middletown Chorus  
Long Wharf Theater (Stravinsky touring production)  
New Amsterdam Opera Theater (Broadway show revivals and recording)  
New Haven Symphony Orchestra (AIDS benefit)  
Nutmeg Ballet (Nutcracker production)  
Pilobolus (specially commissioned choreography)  
Shubert Opera Ensemble (AIDS benefit)  
The New Sousa Band (touring and recording)  
Stamford City Ballet (Nutcracker production)

**PREMIERES:** 72 World Premieres (and numerous US & local first performances)

**COMMERCIAL RECORDINGS --**

Columbia Masterworks M-32969: *Charles Ives: "Old Songs Deranged"* (Music for Theatre Orchestra); Yale Theatre Orchestra [the precursor of ONE]/Sinclair, 1974

CBS Masterworks MK-44945-2: *Heitor Villa Lobos: Magdalena (a musical adventure)*; Orchestra New England/Evans Haile, 1989. With Judy Kaye, Jerry Hadley, George Rose, Faith Esham, Kevin Gray and CONCORA (Connecticut Choral Artists)

Koch International Classics KIC-3-7025-2: Charles Ives: *The Orchestral Music of Charles Ives*; Orchestra New England/Sinclair, 1990

New World Records 80417-2: *Cole Porter: Fifty Million Frenchmen* (complete musical); Orchestra New England/Evans Haile, 1991. With Peggy Cass, Howard McGillin, Kim Criswell, Kay McClelland, Susan Powell, Karen Zíemba, Jason Graae, and Scott Waara

Naxos 8.559917: *Charles Ives: Complete Sets for Chamber Orchestra*; Orchestra New England/Sinclair, rec. 2022 (released 2023 June 9).

Naxos [forthcoming 2024]: *Charles Ives: Miscellaneous Works*; Orchestra New England/Sinclair, rec. March 2024 (including five premieres)

Colonial: *Orchestra New England's "Colonial Concert 1781"*; Orchestra New England/Sinclair, 1982

and one recording made under another name ("The New Sousa Band"); Delos, 1990

#### **SOUND TRACKS** for PBS docu-dramas --

*A Good Dissonance Like a Man* (life of Charles Ives); 1976 (Peabody Prize)  
*Augustus Saint-Gaudens*; 1984  
*Thomas Eakins*; 1986

#### **BROADCASTS** --

Voice of America (1984 "Wall-to-Wall Ives" from NYC)  
PBS-TV network (1982–1985 "The Colonial Concert")  
National Public Radio network (Performance Today & other syndicated shows)  
Connecticut Public Radio network (all subscription concerts since 1978–95, "The Connecticut Concert Hall" & other formats)  
Connecticut Public Television network (Connecticut Arts Awards, The Colonial Concert)