**Performers’ bios:**

**Daniel Mori, piano**

Daniel Mori is a sophomore at the High School of American Studies at Lehman College and a student of Irina Morozova at the Lucy Moses School at Kaufman Music Center. He began his piano studies when he was five years old at the Special Music School. Recently he was named a co-winner of the 2018 Bill Scribner Young Bronx Art Competition, and won the Concerto Competition at Kaufman Music Center and just performed the last movement of Beethoven’s Second Piano Concerto with orchestra at Merkin Concert Hall two weeks ago.

He lives in the Bronx and loves to play chamber music and Kendo, a Japanese martial-art. He is working as a Discovery Guide volunteer at the Central Park Zoo.

**Julia Jones, violin**

Julia Jones, 15, started to take violin lessons with Viktor Basis at the age of 5 at the Kaufman Music Center. Currently she is a 9th grader at the Special Music School. At an early age, Julia became a top prizewinner of many international competitions. Julia attended various music festivals in Europe and the United States. She performed at Merkin Hall, Weill Recital Hall, Ann Goodman Hall in New York City, and National Bastille Opera in Paris. Julia has taken masterclasses with Dmitri Berlinsky, Felix Andrievsky, Vadim Gluzman, Catherine Cho, Almita Vamos, Shlomo Mintz, Itzhak Perlman, Li Lin, Natalia Likhopoi, and Viktor Tretiakov. In the summer of 2018, Julia was accepted to the Perlman Music Program. This year, Julia became a recipient of merit scholarship from Kaufman Music Center.
The APOLLO TRIO

Ari Freed, is an 8th grader at Hunter College High School in Manhattan. He studies cello with Natasha Brofsky in the Juilliard precollege program. Ari began playing cello in kindergarten at the Special Music School, where he studied with Yari Bond. While at SMS, Ari was selected to play in several showcase concerts at Merkin Concert Hall. From 2017-2018 he was enrolled in the Young Artist Program at the Kaufman Music Center where he was selected to perform in the 2018 Henry Schneider Young Virtuoso Concert. Ari also performed at Merkin Concert Hall in January 2018 after winning a 1st prize in the Vivo International Music Competition. In May of 2017, Ari performed at Weill Recital Hall after winning 1st prize in the New York Music Competition for Young Artists. Ari is a member of the NYYS chamber program. During past summers, Ari has attended the Lyra Music Festival and Workshop, Greenwood Music Camp, Kinhaven Music Camp, and the JCC Thurnauer Chamber Music Program.

Natasha Wipfler-Kim, thirteen, has been playing the violin since the age of four, and currently studies with Nurit Pacht at the Lucy Moses School, in New York City. She has performed on various stages and venues, including Merkin Concert Hall and Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall. Natasha has won several awards including the Bronze and Silver Prizes at the Vivo International Competition. She is also a winner of the Kaufman Center’s 2019 Concerto Competition. Natasha is in eighth grade at the Anderson School, P.S. 334, in Manhattan.

Emma Huang, piano
Emma is a 9th grader at Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art, majoring in visual arts. For the past 10 years she has attended the School for Strings, studying piano with Sheila Keats and now Marina Obukovsky. Apart from piano and art, Emma enjoys playing the drum set, writing, and running. She is an avid participant of her school’s dance club and a part of the Apollo Trio in New York Youth Symphony chamber music program.
**Fresh Youth Initiatives Samba Band**

Fresh Youth Initiatives (FYI), in partnership with the community and public school of Washington Heights and Inwood provides during the day and afterschool service programs that enrich the educational experience of student. FYI Samba is comprised of an eclectic group of young people ranging from 6th to 12th grade. This Brazilian percussion band began with just an idea to bring music to children and it spawned into an ever-expanding program. Once these bandmates heard the swinging rhythms of the carnival bateria, they were hooked. Recently they have performed in the annual Dominican Parade and the 2018 1st Annual Department of Youth and Community Development Performance Festival.

**Nadia Affolter**

"The earth is but one country, and mankind its citizens" is the understanding with which Nadia was raised. Born in the US, Nadia spent her childhood internationally in Central Asia, Africa, and Europe. Nadia is known as an actress for her role as "Sara" in Amazon's "Jack Ryan" TV series, alongside John Krasinsky, and Wendell Pierce, and in NBC's “The Blacklist” among others. Nadia is also a musician, singer, songwriter. Her talents have led her to perform at Carnegie Hall. Nadia is tri-lingual in English, German, and Farsi and currently a Senior in high school working towards her International Baccalaureate.
**Tropipan Music Group**

Tropipan is a group of immigrant friends who, through the universal language of music, share their experiences, cultures and feelings. The musicians are Roberto Ciraudo (Uruguay), arranger composer and guitarist, Maria Catharina (Germany) bassist singer, Joshua Castillo (Venezuela) drummer and percussionist, Rodrigo Bermudez (Chile) Saxophone and Flute, and Omar Vergara (Chile) strings and guitar.

**Dos Minutos Mas**

Dos Minutos Mas is a reggae cover band made up by the immigrant and first-generation high school friends, Stano Casole (vocalist and lead guitar), Jordan Rodriguez (keyboard), Luigi Hernandez (percussion) Alessandro Guimaraes (bass guitar), Joel Corral (drums), and McLee Mathias (sound). After completing secondary education in Stamford, Connecticut each of them chased their own versions of the American Dream while they remained connected by Reggae music and its positive messages of peace that can forever be transmitted across the world and into different languages and cultures.