



Plymouth Philharmonic Orchestra

AMERICA'S HOMETOWN ORCHESTRA SINCE 1913



2025-26 SEASON

Kara McEachern
Executive Director

Steven Karidoyanes
Music Director/Conductor

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, May 7, 2026

PLYMOUTH PHIL MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE AWARDS JUNIOR SCHOLARSHIP TO MARIA-RITA SILVA

Plymouth, MA — The Plymouth Philharmonic Orchestra Music Scholarship Committee proudly announces **Maria-Rita Silva** of **Hanover** as the recipient of the 2025–2026 Plymouth Phil Junior Music Scholarship.

A gifted flutist, pianist, saxophonist, and composer, Silva has distinguished herself through extraordinary musical achievement, leadership, and versatility throughout her high school career. She will use the \$2,500 scholarship award to further her musical studies and preparation for admission to a four-year college music program.

Silva has been deeply involved in instrumental music across a remarkable range of ensembles and performance settings. A member of the Hanover High School Symphonic Band, Jazz Ensemble, Marching Band, and pit orchestras, she has also performed with the South Shore Conservatory Youth Orchestra, Commonwealth Wind Symphony, UMASS Wind Ensemble, and numerous regional honor ensembles including SEMSBA and SEMMEA festivals, where she earned top placements and All-State recommendation honors.

In addition to her performance accomplishments, Silva is an emerging composer and arranger. Her original three-movement concert band work featuring treble choir and piano premiered this spring at Hanover High School. She has also composed a woodwind quintet, arranged works for chamber ensembles and choir, and has written stand tunes for the Hanover High School Marching Band.

“Maria-Rita’s musicianship, curiosity, and commitment to music-making are truly exceptional,” said **Steven Karidoyanes**, Music Director and Conductor of *the Phil*. “She represents the very best of young musical talent in our region, and we are excited to support her future artistic journey.”

The Plymouth Philharmonic has awarded Junior Music Scholarships since 2015 during the orchestra’s 100th Season. The scholarship is open to high school juniors attending public or private schools in Plymouth County who intend to apply to four-year college music programs majoring in instrumental or vocal performance, music education, or music composition. The scholarship is designed to enhance students’ opportunities for admission to the music school of their choice and may be used for lessons, workshops, summer music programs, travel, instruments, tuition, or other educational expenses.

The Plymouth Philharmonic Orchestra's Scholarship Committee is chaired by Board member **John Emler** and includes Board Vice Chair **Kevin Kiley**, Music Educator **Susan Sylvester** and **Jean Landis Naumann**, and Music Director Steven Karidoyanes. For information about the scholarships, visit plymouthphil.org/scholarships or contact the Scholarship Committee at 508-746-8008.

Photo Attachment: Jr. Scholarship Winner check presentation with scholarship committee member, Jean Landis Naumann, board member John Emler and conductor Karidoyanes and Maria-Rita Silva.
Photo Credit: Jim Curran

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About the Plymouth Philharmonic Orchestra

The Plymouth Philharmonic Orchestra is a premier non-profit cultural institution in Massachusetts.

Dedicated to artistic excellence and community enrichment, the orchestra offers world-class performances, innovative outreach programs, and strong community partnerships. Now launching its 111th season, *The Phil's* mission is to create music and educational experiences that engage people of all ages and from all walks because we believe music inspires curiosity, enables connection, and provides joy.

For more information, visit plymouthphil.org or call 508-746-8008.

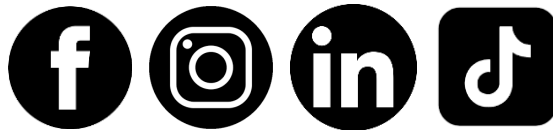
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