

A Times-Honored Musician

A violinist is named a 'New Yorker of the Year.'

When a *New York Times* metro columnist asked readers which New Yorkers had made an outsized impact on the city in 2017, readers responded with more than 100 names. Among the four who were ultimately honored in the "New York Today" column was violinist **Kelly Hall-Tompkins** '93E.


Hall-Tompkins "earned acclaim last year as the fiddler in the Broadway revival of *Fiddler on the Roof*," wrote columnist Alexandra Levine. "But more than a decade ago, well before she would have imagined landing the coveted violin soloist gig, she was playing chamber music in soup kitchens."

Hall-Tompkins founded Music Kitchen—Food for the Soul, an organization she started in 2005 that has grown to include nearly 200 chamber musicians—including Hall-Tompkins herself—who offer intimate classical music performances in city shelters, soup kitchens, and other venues. Music Kitchen has expanded to offer performances in other cities as well.

The idea for Music Kitchen "came to me while preparing for a series of solo concerts in February of 2004," she writes on Musickitchennyc.org. "Having just experienced the passing of a friend, I had not had time to arrange to play through my concert repertoire for my usual friends and colleagues."

At the urging of her husband, Joe, a volunteer coordinator at a homeless shelter, she played her repertoire at the shelter. "The experience was very rewarding for me. Some had never heard classical music before and some were knowledgeable about it, but all seemed interested and moved by the music."

Hall-Tompkins is an active soloist, chamber, and orchestral musician. Her soloist role in Broadway's *Fiddler on the Roof* featured music composed specifically for her.

She has also performed for several years as concertmaster for the Gateways Music Festival, which, in association with the Eastman School of Music, brings together professional classical musicians of African descent. 

—KAREN MCCALLY



QUEEN OF THE HILL, TOP OF THE HEAP: Recognized for making a big impact in the Big Apple, Hall-Tompkins also receives applause for her role as concertmaster of the orchestra of Gateways Music Festival, held in association with the Eastman School of Music.



Joining the Cable (Hall of Fame) Lineup



Naomi Miron Bergman

Naomi (Nomi) Miron Bergman '85, senior executive at the media company Advance/Newhouse, has been named to the Cable Center's Cable Hall of Fame.

Based in Denver, the Cable Center launches exhibits and preserves archives on the history of the industry. The non-profit organization also operates as a hub for industry leaders to help shape cable's future.

Bergman, a University trustee, got her start in the cable business at Bright House Networks, where she became a recognized leader in high-speed data and on improving customer experience.

Alumni Advancing Science

For a brief period this past winter, the president and president-elect of one of the world's leading organizations for the advancement of science were both Rochester alumni.

Steven Chu '70 was named president-elect of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in January. **Susan Hockfield** '73 completed her term as president of the association in February, after which she became chair of its board of directors. Under AAAS rules, the president-elect serves one year in the role before assuming the presidency.



Steven Chu

The AAAS, founded in 1848, is one of the world's largest scientific societies, with more than 120,000 members. With the goal "to advance science, engineering, and innovation throughout the world for the benefit of all people," the association publishes a network of peer-reviewed journals, including *Science*, operates educational programs, and works to inform public policy and lobby on behalf of scientific freedom and cooperation.

Chu, the William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of Physics and Professor of Molecular and Cellular Physiology at Stanford University, won the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1997 and served as secretary of energy during President Barack Obama's first term in office.



Susan Hockfield

Hockfield is a professor of neuroscience at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and served as president of MIT from 2004 to 2012.

"As secretary of energy, I was reminded daily that science must continue to be elevated and integrated into our national life and throughout the world," Chu wrote in his candidacy statement. "Never has there been a more important time than today for AAAS to communicate the advances in science, the methods we use to acquire this knowledge and the benefits of these discoveries to the public and our policymakers."

—Karen McCally