



*Progressive Musicians*



VIRTUAL  
CONCERT  
HALLS



# **Laureate Gala**

## **Well Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall**



**Monday April 1, 2024 @ 7:00pm**





**James Welch**  
*Progressive Musicians*



**Anna Ouspenskaya**  
*Sound Espresso & Virtual Concert Halls*

Welcome to our 4th Laureate Gala hosted by Progressive Musicians, Sound Espresso, Virtual Concert Halls, & The New York Chamber Players Orchestra. Today's program will feature musicians from numerous countries who have won our 2023-2024 Laureate's Auditions.

Progressive Musicians' and Sound Espresso's mission is to help musicians of all ages achieve their goals by advancing artistically through innovative formats of online competitions. Since 2020, we have been hosting online and Internet TV events that provide musicians with a live virtual platform to reach out to world-wide audiences, receive expert feedback from professional musicians, share their artistic views, new albums, and to compete for prizes ranging from our Internet TV showcases, to the most prestigious performance venues around the world. We believe that it is important to recognize all the instruction and support that goes into the development of a musician. We also recognize the value of experience and progress. Progress does not always happen at a consistent rate, it may be quicker at one stage, and slower at another. Aspirations also vary at different stages of life, and from person to person. As one steps out of their comfort zone, it takes courage to share one's art for humanity.

Music is an artistic vehicle that brings together storytelling, math, history, art, imagery. Most significantly, it provides an environment and a language for deeply emotional connections. Although music is appreciated by many, art can never be perfected, providing an opportunity for eternal evolution and enjoyment. Music illuminates the gifts of many cultures, our world's biggest historical events, and continues to inspire stories, movies, dance, and enhance social gatherings. Some key ingredients to strong musical training include engaging highly qualified instructors, supportive family and community of friends and fans. It also demands a disciplined practice routine, collaborations with other artists, and many opportunities to perform on various stages and venues. There are endless musical possibilities and unique artistic voices being discovered.

We are thrilled to be working with an amazing team of professionals that continue educating, encouraging, and rewarding musicians of all ages and stages of their careers. Today we are honored to have pianist James Adler to offer the James Adler Audience Favorite Award, as well as to present additional awards from iClassical Academy.

It would be impossible for us to continue these types of events without the dedication and support of all our families and everyone who contributed!

THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING! Enjoy the Gala!

**Progressive Musicians  
Sound Espressivo  
Virtual Concert Halls &  
The New York Chamber Players**

*proudly presents its*

**4th**

**LAUREATE GALA**

*Weill Recital Hall at  
Carnegie Hall*

**April 1, 2024**

*with the Lehner Quartet*

*Bernard Vallandingham, Adina Vallandingham  
Erika Gray, & Igor Zubkovsky*





# Program

## Opening Announcements

*Steve Robinson*

*Fuga y Misterio*

*Astor Piazzolla/ Arr. C. Nelegatti*

*Concerto for two cellos in G minor, RV 531*  
*I. Allegro*

*Antonio Vivaldi*

*String Quartet No. 6 in F minor, Op. 80*  
*I. Allegro vivace assai*

*Felix Mendelssohn*

**The Boston String Academy**

*Quartet No. 3*  
*I. Allegro*  
*De Natura Silentii*

*\*Bernard Vallandingham*

*\*Leopold Brauneiss*

**The Lehner Quartet**

**Bernard Vallandingham, violin; Adina Vallandingham, violin**  
**Erika Gray, viola; Igor Zubkovsky, cello**

*Vines of Hope*

*\*Michael Chang*

**Mike Raposo, flute; Matt Lepek, oboe**  
**John DiSanto, bassoon; Christopher Koelzer, piano**

*Fantasia in F sharp minor, Op. 28 "Scottish Sonata"*

*Felix Mendelssohn*

**Kate Shin, piano**

*Un sospiro, Étude de Concert*

*Franz Liszt*

**Grace Cho, piano**

*Auld Lang Syne*

*Traditional*

**Donna Lee, piano & voice**

*Zigeunerweisen (Gypsy Airs), Op. 20*

*Pablo de Sarasate*

**Kenneth Zhang, violin; James Greening-Valenzuela, piano**

*Fantasy from the film "Ladies in Lavender"*

*Nigel Hess*

**Vintine Anrich, violin; James Greening-Valenzuela, piano**

*Oblack (The Cloud)*

*\*Ante Božić-Kudrić*

**Marin Vitas, countertenor**  
**Ante Božić-Kudrić, piano**

*Rondo*

*\*Giampiero Bugliarello*

**Giampiero Bugliarello, piano**  
**Jacques-Pierre Malan, cello**

*Arabesque for Piano*

*\*Daniel Espen*

**Daniel Espen, piano**

*Artamidae  
Sonic Fantasy*

*\*Glen Carter-Varney*

**Glen Carter-Varney, piano**

*Métamorphose*

*\*Anne de Boysson*

**Elisabeth Möst, flute; Alisa Sadikova, harp**

*Recuerdos de la Alhambra  
Vals Venezolano N° 3*

*Francisco Tárrega  
Antonio Lauro*

**Patricio Cadena Pérez, guitar**

*Emmanuel Variations*

*\*Peter Dickson Lopez*

**Ante Božić-Kudrić, piano**

*Paraphrase on Verdi's Rigoletto*

*Franz Liszt*

**Laura McCormick, piano**

*When Our Voice Hide When We Must Speak  
Quarantine Quartet*

*\*Noam Faingold*

*\*William Toutant*

**The Lehner Quartet**

**Bernard Vallandingham, violin; Adina Vallandingham, violin**

**Erika Gray, viola; Igor Zubkovsky, cello**

austrian cultural forum<sup>nyc</sup>



**Price**  
ATTRACTIONS

# The Host



## Steve Robinson

Steve Robinson is an American radio manager, producer and executive producer. He has held senior management positions with numerous American radio stations, including WFMT and the WFMT Radio Network/Chicago, WBUR/Boston, WGBH/Boston, WCRB/Boston, KPFA/Berkeley, WBGO/Newark, Vermont Public Radio and Nebraska Public Radio Network. Robinson served as general manager of the statewide Nebraska Public Radio Network (1990-2000) and WFMT and the WFMT Radio Network from 2000 until October 2016.

A 50-year radio veteran, he has produced programs ranging from classical music documentaries to public affairs programs and has directed over 100 on-air pledge drives.

In 1984, he co-founded AIR, the Association of Independents in Radio, a service organization to assist independent radio producers in the United States. Robinson wrote AIR's first two successful grants from the New York State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. Throughout his career, Robinson has produced dozens of radio programs that have been heard throughout the world, including live broadcasts from Salzburg, Austria (on the occasion of Mozart's 250th birthday); Durbin, South Africa (for the world premiere for the opera, "Princess Magogo"); Quebec City, Canada (for a live broadcast of Mahler's Symphony of a Thousand with 1000 performers); Jerusalem, Israel (for a broadcast from the Jerusalem International Chamber Music Festival); and has produced numerous live broadcasts from Chicago and throughout the U.S. He has worked with William Schuman, Elliott Carter, Charles Dodge, Roger Reynolds, Alan Hovhaness and other composers on programs about their music. In 2003, he created the daily classical music appreciation radio program, Exploring Music with Bill McGlaughlin. The series is carried by state networks throughout the world including Australia and China. At the WFMT Radio Network he created the first classical music radio exchange between the United States and China.

In 2000, Robinson became the general manager of WFMT and the WFMT Radio Network. Founded in 1951, WFMT is considered as one of the most admired classical music stations in the U.S. and under his leadership many new programs were added to the local schedule, including Introductions, Impromptu and others. Robinson worked on diversifying the programs of WFMT by expanding the amount of live broadcasting from the station.

One of his most important initiatives at the WFMT Radio Network was the creation of Exploring Music with Bill McGlaughlin, in 2003. This daily, one-hour music appreciation program is heard on over 60 U.S. stations and has a weekly audience of over 400,000 unique listeners. The program is also heard in Australia, Guam, the Philippines and in Beijing. Initial funding for Exploring Music was provided by the National Endowment for the Arts with additional funding from individuals and foundations.

The station under his leadership focused on live music by broadcasting a wide array of local Chicago groups and ensembles. In 2007, the Chicago Tribune named him "Chicagoan of the Year" in the arts.

In 2015, he executed a cross-cultural broadcast relationship between America and China by exporting to China for the first time broadcasting concerts by the NY Philharmonic, LA Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, Dallas Symphony, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall. He also arranged for concerts from the Shanghai Spring International Music Festival and the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra to be exported to the West with broadcasts in the U.S., Canada and Europe.

In 2004 and again in 2010, Robinson created and produced two, live, 17-hour fundraising campaigns involving all Chicago radio and TV stations to aid victims of the tsunami in the southeast and the earthquake in Haiti. Each campaign raised over \$3 million. Robinson received two Wesbury Award from the American Red Cross of Greater Chicago for the fundraising campaigns. In 2008, Robinson and Bill McGlaughlin received the Dushkin Award for Exploring Music with Bill McGlaughlin from the Music Institute of Chicago. He has received local and national awards for his work in Chicago, including the Champion Award from the Merit School of Music, the ASCAP/Deems Taylor Award for creative programming and others.



# *The Lehner Quartet*



*Bernard  
Vallandingham*

**Violin**

Composer Bernard Vallandingham felt a calling for music at a very early age and started learning how to play the violin after falling in love with its magical sound when he heard it for the first time in a concert hall at age four. At his third violin lesson he proudly brought his very first piece for solo violin to his teacher, and his passion for writing music has continued ever since, expanding to a variety of works that feature different instruments, chamber music works, and later, choral works and larger scale works for full orchestra.

At age 17, he continued his music education with a scholarship to Oberlin College and Manhattan School of Music where he studied violin and viola with Marilyn Macdonald and Isaac Malkin, and music theory, counterpoint, and composition with Warren Darcy, Allen Cadwallader, and Mark Stambaugh.

Mr. Vallandingham combined from the start two passions: performing and composing. Mr. Vallandingham's unusual versatility as a violinist as well as violist has led to many performances in many concert halls throughout the US such as Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall and Avery Fisher Hall in New York, Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., Kravis Center for the Performing Arts in Palm Beach, Gusman Center for the Performing Arts in Miami and Naples Center for the Arts in Naples and has worked with conductors Kurt Masur, Yuri Temirkanov, Zdenek Macal, Joseph Silverstein, Marco Armiliato among others.

Mr. Vallandingham has been a member of well-established orchestra groups such as the Florida Philharmonic Orchestra, Naples Philharmonic, the Philadelphia Virtuosi, and the Manhattan Virtuosi – with whom Mr. Vallandingham performed as concertmaster.

As a composer, Mr. Vallandingham has been writing orchestral and chamber music works, some employing somewhat unusual configurations, such as his Dance Suite in three movements for Piano, Clarinet, Violin, and Viola.

His Terzetto for Two Violins and Viola was presented at the Academy of Music Festival in New York, and his String Quartet No. 3 was premiered at Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, in Washington D.C. Other works have been featured at the National Music Festival in Chestertown, MD, and some of his most recent chamber works will be released this year on a new album with Kassia Music, a group co-founded by him in an effort to bring and present new contemporary tonal music to audiences.

Music education remains an important interest for Bernard's compositions: last year, he finalized a commission for the renowned violinist and pedagogue Mr. Robert Lipsitt in California that was successfully presented at the Colburn School. The latest piece Bernard is working on is a musical story with narration, which will be premiered at the end of this year to audiences of all ages in Washington D.C. Stay tuned!



# *Adina Vallandingham*

**Violin**

Adina was born in Romania and began her musical education at the Music School for gifted children at age of 6. She traveled and played concerts throughout Europe from age 14. Later, she won a full scholarship to “Gheorghe Dima” Conservatory of Music in Cluj-Napoca, where she studied violin with Professor Maior Valeriu, a student of legendary violinist Leonid Kogan. At 18, she was one of the youngest violinists to win a position with a professional orchestra in Romania. After Conservatory, she moved to the United States where she was accepted as a full scholarship recipient to the Artist Diploma Program at the University of Washington where she served as the concertmaster of the Orchestra.

She has been a member of well-established groups such as the Transylvania State Philharmonic Orchestra, the International Orchestra of Holland, Spokane Symphony, Palm Beach Opera Orchestra, Florida Philharmonic in South Florida and the Florida Orchestra in Tampa. Her teachers included Maria Larionoff, Robert Davidovici, Erick Friedman, Kelly Farris and Maestro Stefan Ruha. She has performed internationally at numerous venues including; Filarmonica Transilvania Hall, Academia de Muzica Dima Hall, Romanian Opera Cluj, The Met in Spokane where she was radio broadcast performing solo, Stuttgart Academy, Lyon Conservatory Music Hall, Kravis Center for the Arts, Miami Center for the Arts, Gusman Center for the performing Arts, Strathmore Music Center, Kennedy Center and many others. She has performed with well-known conductors such as Peter Eros, Marco Armiliato, Emil Simon, Joseph Silverstein, Stefan Sanderling, Cristian Mandeal, Fabio Mechetti and Roberto Brignoli among many others.

In addition to playing with Kassia, Adina serves on the faculty at the College of Southern Maryland, plays in the Langgaard Quartet, and runs a small private studio.



# *Erika Gray*

**Viola**

26-year old violist Erika Gray has been captivating audiences worldwide for nearly two decades, praised for her rich sound and charismatic stage presence. She is a sought-after chamber player and orchestral musician, appearing as a substitute in major orchestras across North America. She has performed internationally in venues such as the Sydney Opera House, Royal Albert Hall, Moscow Conservatory, Wiener Konzerthaus, and the Helsinki Music Centre.

In February 2017, Erika was the featured viola soloist “Sancho Panza” in the Chicago Symphony Orchestra’s performances of Don Quixote alongside her friend and colleague Oliver Herbert performing as “Don Quixote”. She joined the National Symphony Orchestra in May 2019 for their performances of Liszt’s Dante Symphony and Rossini’s Stabat Mater in Carnegie Hall. She has appeared at the BBC Proms on the Royal Albert Hall stage with Maestro Valery Gergiev leading the National Youth Orchestra. At the Pacific Music Festival in Japan, she held the assistant principal violist position as the youngest member of the orchestra and spent winter break of 2013 at the New York String Orchestra Seminar in Carnegie Hall.

Erika spent the past two summers at Music from Angel Fire, bringing classical music to the schools in the Northern New Mexico area. She attended the Verbier Academy and Kneisel Hall chamber programs working closely with esteemed faculty members and studying the chamber music repertoire in depth. She has performed chamber music with renowned artists such as Ida Kavafian, Steven Tenenbom, Peter Wiley, and Meng-Chieh Liu.

Erika competed in the quarter-finals and semi-finals of the 2018 Primrose International Viola Competition held at the Colburn School in LA. She was a 4th prize winner at the 2015 Irving M. Klein International String Competition, finalist in the 2015 Stulberg International String Competition, and 2nd prize winner in the 2013 Salomé Young Artists Competition. Her string quartet, Quartet Stracciatella, won the gold medal in the 2012 Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition junior division.

Erika is a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music where she studied with Roberto Díaz and Hsin-Yun Huang, and held the Gerry and Marguerite Lenfest Fellowship. In her 4th year, she rose to the position of principal viola of the Curtis Symphony Orchestra, having previously toured Europe with the orchestra as assistant principal.

She frequently subs with the Philadelphia Orchestra, the National Symphony Orchestra and the Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra. She traveled to Cambodia in December 2019 as a part of Midori’s International Community Engagement Program where she taught in different outreach settings as well as performed in concerts with the ICEP quartet. In June 2022, she will be back working with the ICEP quartet, this time in Japan!

Erika performs on a 2011 Gary Garavaglia viola from the William Harris Lee shop in Chicago.





*Igor  
Zubkovsky*

**Cello**

Igor Zubkovsky started playing cello in his native Russia. He first appeared as a soloist with the Minsk State Philharmonic Orchestra at the age of twelve, performing the Haydn C Major Cello Concerto. Later, he studied at the Moscow Conservatory with Natalia Shakhovskaya, the Gold Medalist of the 1962 Tchaikovsky Competition.

Mr. Zubkovsky won top prizes at international competitions, including the International Cello Competition in Minsk, Belarus (II prize), and the Tansman Competition in Lodz, Poland (Grand Prix). As a member of “The Brahms Trio” in Moscow, he won 2nd Prize at the Trapani, Italy and 1st Prize at the Weimar, Germany International Chamber Music Competitions. With a remarkable record of performances, awards and academic distinctions, Mr. Zubkovsky was awarded a full scholarship to the Peabody Conservatory of Music where he earned a Graduate Performance Diploma.

Since 2003, Mr. Zubkovsky has been a member of the Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra, and continues to perform extensively as a soloist and chamber musician. He has appeared at Merkin Concert Hall in New York, at the prestigious Newport Music Festival, and has performed recitals in Massachusetts and at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. Live recordings of those concerts are frequently broadcast on TV and over the Internet. Recent engagements include performances of the Brahms Double Concerto with the West Chester University Orchestra and Tchaikovsky’s Rococo Variations with the Altoona Symphony. He has performed in a series of chamber music concerts in Paris with the Marquis Ensemble as well as performances at the Moscow Conservatory Rachmaninov Hall. Trio concerts with Anna Ouspenskaya and Elisabeth Adkins (as part of the “Levine Presents” performance series) were aired on WETA, Washington’s Classical Music Radio station.

Mr. Zubkovsky is the author of numerous arrangements and transcriptions of duets and trios featuring the cello. He premiered the Cello Sonata by Isaac Mikhnovsky and has several CD recordings to his credit. A founding member of The Lehner String Quartet, he was also a cellist of the critically-acclaimed Veronika String Quartet in 2021-2022.

# The Boston String Academy



Boston String Academy is a non-profit organization, inspired by the Venezuelan El Sistema model which believes in music as a vehicle for social change. We provide rigorous string instrument instruction to children in under-served communities, laying a solid musical foundation and creating a path for young people to become sensitive, responsible and creative human beings. Our program makes mastery of a string instrument reachable by eliminating obstacles that stand in an inner-city family's way.

BSA was founded in November, 2012 by violinists Marielisa and Mariesther Alvarez, graduates from The Boston Conservatory, and of El Sistema program in their home country of Venezuela, and have modeled BSA on that experience. We currently offer three programs in the Chinatown and Allston neighborhoods, serving more than 120 students.

The Academy has collaborated with renowned artists including Midori, Gustavo Dudamel and Sir Simon Rattle. Our students have performed out of state and internationally and have been selected to participate in festivals such as the Dudamel Foundation's "Encounters/Encuentros" in Mexico City, Orquestra Geração in Lisbon, Portugal, Festival Groba in Galicia, Spain, LA Phil's YOLA National Festival in Los Angeles, Boston University's Tanglewood Institute, Sphinx Performance Academy, Greenwood Music Camp, Dudamel's residency at Princeton University, among others. In June 2021, the Youth Ensemble was selected by Midori's Orchestra Residency Program to premier "Spring Cadenzas" for violin and strings, performed by Midori herself.

In Spring of 2016, Marielisa and Mariesther Alvarez were chosen among the 100 most influential people for the Hispanic community in Massachusetts. BSA won the 2019 Commonwealth Awards, which honors exceptional achievement in the arts, humanities, and sciences in the state of Massachusetts. In 2023 BSA received recognition from the Boston City Council for its contributions dedicated to supporting and promoting Venezuelan culture in the City of Boston and in the Commonwealth.

## **Violin I**

Fiona Yuan  
Gisele Francisco  
Annabelle Lee  
Mika Liu  
Estrella Sanchez  
Annie Yuan

## **Violin II**

Scarlet Falcón  
Maienna Andersson  
Shu Yan Huang  
Jiro Lind  
Angelina Moy

## **Viola**

Ana Isabel Cardona  
Richard Fang  
Bonnie Mai  
Camila Martinez

## **Cello**

William Parkes  
Bryan DaCosta  
Jennifer Gamez  
CJ Klinmann  
Noah Liu  
Juna Yatsu

## **Faculty**

Marielisa Alvarez , Boston String Academy Director  
Mariesther Alvarez, Boston String Academy Director  
Anthony Morales, Youth Ensemble Director  
Michal Shein, Cello Faculty Chair





## *Progressive Musicians*

**\*Learn, \*Progress, \*Compete, \*Perform**  
*Progressive Musicians is dedicated to helping musicians of all ages and levels achieve their goals and advance artistically*

### Opportunities for Musicians

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- *Opportunities to improve your performance*
- *Opportunities to perform in prestigious concert halls*

*We strive to make our events and competitions positive experiences for each contestant, their teachers, and their families*

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# *Sound Espressivo*

*LIVE Online Competition  
Empowering Tomorrow's Musician*

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# Season Concerts

**COLORCHESTRA  
PROUDLY PRESENTS  
A CONCERTO WINNERS CONCERT**



**MAESTRO  
GLEN CORTESE  
USA**



**USA**   
MOLLY XIE  
VIOLIN



**USA**   
AUSTIN VITELLO  
BASSOON



**BRAZIL**   
MARCIO CANDIDO  
VIOLIN



**CHINA**   
HONGBO CAI  
PIANO



**FRANCE**   
MIA MANDINEAU  
SOPRANO



**USA**   
ALEXIS DYCHE  
PIANO



**USA**   
ELEANOR ALFORD  
OBOE



**THE STATE UNIVERSITY  
OF NEW YORK  
@ FREDONIA**

**THURSDAY MARCH 28  
7:30PM**

**HARRY KING CONCERT HALL**

[WWW.COLORCHESTRA.COM](http://WWW.COLORCHESTRA.COM)

**COLORCHESTRA  
PROUDLY PRESENTS  
A CONCERTO WINNERS CONCERT**



**MAESTRO  
GEVORG SARGSYAN  
ARMENIA**



**TUESDAY 30 APRIL  
الثلاثاء 30 أبريل  
8:00PM || 20:00**



**JAPAN**   
MISATO HANAWA  
SAXOPHONE



**USA &  
SOUTH KOREA**   
KATE LEE  
PIANO



**USA**   
ANNA MARIA MENDIETA  
HARP



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**COLORCHESTRA  
PROUDLY PRESENTS  
A CONCERTO WINNERS CONCERT**



**USA**  
**DINA NESTERENKO**  
VIOLIN



**LATVIA**  
**ALISE ANNA ALKSNE**  
FLUTE



**SWEDEN**  
**ARTHUR EDMAN**  
BASSOON



**USA**  
**MICHAEL MCAVOY**  
BARITONE

**TUESDAY MAY 7  
ÚTERÝ 7. KVĚTNA  
7:30PM || 19:30**

**KONGRESOVÉM CENTRU ZLÍN**



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# Season Auditions



*Concerto, Chamber Music,  
Solos, Duos, &  
Composition at Carnegie  
Hall*

*Apply by May 1*



*Concerto with the  
Boulder Symphony*

*Apply by June 1*

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*The music you will hear today would not be possible without the dedication and investment of education, time, and care of wonderful teachers. Private teachers not only profess their knowledge and experience to their students. They also spend time teaching extra lessons, musical skills, musical lifestyle, presentational skills, great musical values, creating new unique opportunities; the list goes on. We thank you for your efforts and applaud you on your student success!*

*Han Bee Shin*

*Soon Ja Hong*

*Sonya Visser*

*James Greening-Valenzuela*

*Olga Chichova*

*Grace Lin*

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*Special Thanks*

*Jack Price*

*Ann Lathan Kerzner*

*The Staff of PianoPiano Studios*



# Special Thanks



## VOCAL ARTISTS MANAGEMENT SERVICES

### VOCAL ARTISTS MANAGEMENT SERVICES AUDITIONS

**Eligibility:** classical singers with a vast amount of high-level performance experience, seeking (and ready for) a professional management service. Currently open to US citizens residing in the United States.

**Materials required:** Headshot, resume and no less than two (2) VIDEO links--performed during the past 12 months--featuring your LIVE singing. Singers will be evaluated via video submissions of live performance. There is no application fee.

**To apply, send to:** [vocalartistsmgmt@gmail.com](mailto:vocalartistsmgmt@gmail.com)



# *Collaborative Pianist*



*Ante Božić-Kudrić*

Ante Božić-Kudrić is a Croatian composer and pianist. He gained elementary and secondary music education in the music school “Josip Hatze” in Split in the class of professor Valentina Štrbac-Čičerić. Ante earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the Academy of Music of the University of Zagreb in the class of Ante Milić in 2012. He has won awards at several competitions for young pianists in Croatia. Ante has performed at numerous recitals and masterclasses with renowned and distinguished pedagogues such as Valdma, Kämmerling, Simone, Bogino, Krpan, Inđić. In addition to composing after his studies, Ante performed on numerous concerts and worked as a piano accompanist in the ballet studio, with singers, and for the National Theatre in Split for operas and musicals, also performing with the orchestra. He is working as a piano professor and piano accompanist in music school “Josip Hatze” and privately. From 2014 Ante is actively engaged in composition.

He composed music for the animated short film “From the Depths” in 2014. It won the award for Best Animated Short Film of the children’s jury in 2014 at the Olympia International Film Festival. He composed his first major work in 2014 “Suite for two Violins and Piano” which had its premiere in the small Lisinski Hall in Zagreb in 2015. With the commission from the Dutch Grieg Piano Duo in 2018 he composed his “Rhapsody for Piano Duet” which was premiered by the Grieg Piano Duo at the Piano Loop Festival in 2019 in Split. Of his smaller works there is a song “Oblak” for tenor or soprano on the text of Dobriša Cesarić, two colorful vocalizes for soprano, Serenade and Minuet for the double bass. In 2019 he composed Album for the Young which consists of 72 progressive pieces of difficulty intended for the young piano players as well as players that are on intermediate and advanced level of playing. From 2021 Ante works as a broadcast director and producer for the Virtual Concert Halls online platform that helps classical and jazz musicians to perform online and to attend competitions with live judges.

# The Performers



**Michael Chang**

Michael Chang is a 14-year-old composer and percussionist from California who began writing music and performing at age 6. At age 7, he premiered his work, "School Song," written for voice, ukulele, and maracas. He began his study of composition at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music (SFCM) in 2021. This March, SFCM faculty premiered his "Forever Seeking," written for viola, cello and piano. In April, Mouthscape Choir premiered his "Ancient Mariner." The Lawson Middle School Concert Band premiered his "Woodland Dance" in May. In July, his score for the animated short film, Alma, premiered at the Los Angeles College of Music. Michael regularly performs on drums, marimba, and timpani. This summer, he returned to Carnegie Hall with the 2023 Honors Performance Series. He also recently performed with the California All-State Symphonic Band, the All-Northern Honor Band, and debuted at Disneyland and Stanford University's Jazz Showcase. He earned international recognition in the Global Genius Music Competition's Winter 2022-2023 season as the "Season Top 1" winner, receiving awards for his performance on marimba and for his composition, "Oboe Dance," written for oboe, cello, vibraphone and wood block. Michael studies percussion with Hwei-Yuan Pan, piano with Dr. Christopher Koelzer and composition at SFCM with Dr. Mauricio Rodriguez.

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**Mike Raposo**

Mike Raposo is a multiple-woodwind instrumentalist and educator in NYC performing on all flutes, clarinets, saxophones, and bassoon. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Music Education from University of Hartford's Hartt School of Music, and a Master's degree in Multiple Woodwind performance from New York University. Raposo enjoys a diverse playing career in a variety of settings. He is currently subbing on many Broadway shows, and performs regularly with the Waterbury and Hartford symphonies. Raposo has been featured as a concerto soloist with the Hartford Symphony, Hartt Wind Ensemble, and the Tri-County Symphonic Band. As a founding member and baritone saxophonist in the award winning Resurgam Quartet, his debut album Breaking Point is now available on all streaming platforms. As a commercial musician, Raposo is grateful to have shared the stage with some of the world's greatest singers. He is particularly grateful to have played the low reed chair for Aretha Franklin's 75th Birthday celebration at the Mohegan Sun Arena. Raposo is a passionate educator, and is on faculty at the Grace Church School and the University of Hartford.

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**Matt Lepek**

Matt Lepek is a freelance musician based out of the New York City and New Jersey Area. He received his Masters in Performance from New Jersey City University with a specialization in Multiple Woodwinds. While in school, Matt studied with many notable performers in the fields of musical theater, rock, jazz, and classical music, including oboist Marsha Heller, studio musicians Edward Joffe and Rick Heckman, and jazz saxophonists Jim Snidero and Bob Malach. He has performed across the United States and Canada on saxophone, oboe, English horn, flute, and clarinet in various groups and arrangements. He has performed in many Broadway shows and has held a chair at the Radio City Christmas Spectacular. He currently is a regular member in the orchestra of the Broadway musical Aladdin.



**John DiSanto**

John DiSanto is a graduate of the Rutgers Mason Gross School of the Arts and New Jersey City University with a Masters in multiple woodwind performance. He plays all the members of the saxophone, clarinet and flute families as well as the bassoon. He is an active freelance woodwind artist in the New York area, currently playing the reed 3 chair on Disney's Aladdin. John has also played the reed 2 chair on the Broadway shows "The Prom" and "Caroline or Change". He has performed as a substitute musician on over 30 Broadway shows, held the reed 6 chair in Radio City Music Hall's Christmas Spectacular orchestra, the reed 2 on the off Broadway show "Kid Victory" and reed 2 on the off Broadway show "The Unsinkable Molly Brown". John has been a member of the Swingadelic big band since 2010, you can hear him on the band's recent album release "Bluesville". John has recorded with Charlie Rosen's 8-Bit Big Band, the Broadway cast recordings of "The Prom", "Caroline or Change" as well as the off Broadway cast recording of "Kid Victory". John has performed with the New Jersey Symphony, Princeton Symphony, Queens Symphony and New Jersey Festival Orchestra. He has also appeared with the Ron Aprea Big Band featuring Lew Tabackin at Birdland Jazz club. He currently resides in New Jersey with his daughter Charlotte and wife Wendy.



**Christopher Koelzer**

Solo and collaborative pianist Christopher Koelzer hails from the San Francisco Bay Area, and performs, records, and coaches regularly in the New York City and Washington, D.C. metropolitan areas. Christopher received his Bachelor's Degree in Piano Performance, studying with Dr. Irene Peery-Fox at Brigham Young University, and holds Doctor of Musical Arts and Master of Music Degrees in Collaborative Piano from University of Maryland, College Park, where he studied with Professor Rita Sloan.

Christopher attended Aspen Music Festival and School as Vocal Fellow from 2011-2014. He was an advisor, musical coach and performer in the Rural Artists Project, Inc. in western Alaska in 2014, a program designed to promote music appreciation and cultural development in rural areas. Christopher was a Coaching Fellow at Wolf Trap Opera in 2017, as coach and accompanist for Rigoletto, as well as pianist for a new production of Kurt Weill's The Seven Deadly Sins as part of Halcyon's By The People, an international arts and dialogue festival in Washington, D.C., a performance that collaborated with Hong Kong Ballet and Terra Firma Dance Company. Christopher joined the Merola Opera Program for its 2019 season as Apprentice Coach, premiering Jake Heggie's If I Were You.

Christopher has worked as assistant conductor and vocal coach with many opera companies, including Washington National Opera (Washington, D.C.), Wolf Trap Opera (Vienna, VA), Northern Lights Music Festival (Minnesota), Maryland Lyric Opera (Bethesda, MD), and has coached and performed with the Maryland Opera Studio from 2013-2020. Christopher was selected for Washington National Opera's Cafritz Young Artist Program as pianist and coach from 2017-2019. He has performed and recorded several new musicals and world premieres of new operas, including in New York City (Hometown to the World, Kaminsky/Reed), D.C. (Proving Up, Mazzoli/Vavrek). He is nominated for a 2019 Grammy® Award for his work performing and recording with the National Orchestral Institute + Festival on the album RUGGLES, STUCKY & HARBISON: ORCHESTRAL WORKS with conductor David Alan Miller. Christopher has performed at Carnegie Hall as both pianist (Blake Allen's sextet with voice, Insomnia, 2022) and organist (Dan Forrest's Requiem for the Living, 2022/23, Fauré's Réquiem, 2023). Christopher is teacher of Collaborative Piano and Operetta Workshop, as well as conductor, vocal coach and accompanist at Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Arts and Performing Arts in Manhattan, and conducted LaGuardia's 2023 production of THE ADDAMS FAMILY.



**Kate Shin**

Kate Shin, aged 16, has been studying classical piano since age five. Kate's enduring passion for the piano has been motivated by the inspirational performances of other talented musicians. She studies piano under Ms. Han Bee Shin, and has received awards from competitions, including solo competitions from MTAC and the Southern California Junior Bach Festival, and has received honors from the Certificate of Merit program. She has also performed in masterclasses with pianist Rufus Choi, Professor Junko Garrett, and Professor Jarred Dunn. Since 2019, Kate has been studying at the Pianist Program at the Orange County School of the Arts in California under Dr. Sarkis Baltaian.





**Grace Cho**

Grace Cho is a freshman at Lynbrook High School. She started to play piano when she was 7 years old. She won the US Open Music Competition, California Association of Professional Music Teachers (CAPMT) competition, and Pelican International Music Competition (Baroque and Contemporary). She was invited to perform at the MTAC State Convention upon receiving the branch and state honors at the Certificate of Merit test. She also plays Flute and likes Art and field hockey.

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**Donna Lee**

Donna Lee is a current community college student in California, who has also taken music classes at UC Berkeley. Some of her musical endeavors include performing professionally at Disneyland Paris, singing at the school musical, and playing the violin for a school board inauguration ceremony.

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**Kenneth Zhang**

Violinist Kenneth Zhang, age 13, lives in Orinda, CA. A longtime student of James Greening-Valenzuela, he was selected to perform as soloist in Berkeley's Junior Bach Festival, and has garnered a number of prizes in music competitions: First Prize, Charleston International Music Competition; First Prize, North California Young Talents Competition; First Prize, San Francisco International Innovative Music Competition; First Prize, Pelican International Music Competition; First Prize, DVC/HNU String Competition in California. Also an accomplished pianist, Kenneth attends the Army and Navy Academy in Carlsbad, California.

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**Vintine Anrich**

Violinist Vintine Anrich, age 16, lives in Mountain House, CA. A longtime student of James Greening-Valenzuela, she has garnered a number of prizes in music competitions: First Prize, Charleston International Music Competition; First Prize, North California Young Talents Competition; Second Prize, San Francisco International Innovative Music Competition; Second Prize, Pelican International Music Competition; Third Prize, DVC/HNU String Competition in California. Vintine attends Mountain House High School and is a member of the Oakland Symphony Youth Orchestra.

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**William Toutant**

William Toutant was born in Worcester, Massachusetts. He received his BA and MA from The George Washington University and his Ph.D. in music theory and composition from Michigan State University. He joined the music faculty of California State University, Northridge in 1975. During the next 38 years he not only taught in the Department of Music, but he also served in a variety of administrative positions including Dean of the Mike Curb College of Arts, Media, and Communication. For eighteen years wrote and hosted the weekly radio program, "The KCSN Opera House." He became Professor Emeritus in May 2013. His music is available on North/South, Capstone, Centaur, Phasma, Ariel and Navona records. He lives in Los Angeles with his wife, Ligia Toutant.

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**James Greening-Valenzuela**

Acclaimed violinist James Greening-Valenzuela has performed as a soloist with orchestra, recitalist and chamber musician throughout the United States, Europe and Latin America. He made his solo debut while in his teens, at the Bach Festival de Font Neuve in France and went on to win First Prize in the Shreveport Symphony National Young Artist Competition, followed by critically acclaimed debut recitals at Symphony Hall in Boston and New York's Carnegie Hall.

Dr. Greening-Valenzuela has been featured on seven solo CDs, produced by Musical America, Locrian Recordings and as an artist on the Con Brio Recordings label: his 2002 recording of the Bach Sonatas for Solo Violin earned a submission for a Grammy Award nomination. In 2007 he was the recipient of the Elebash Fellowship Award from The Graduate Center (City University of New York), for his doctoral dissertation on the life and career of composer Ruggero Leoncavallo.

Other performances include Internacional Festival de Musica in Costa Rica, San Francisco War Memorial Herbst Theater, Wildflower Music Festival, Grand Teton Music Festival, Las Vegas Summer Music Festival, Menton Music Festival in France, New York's 92nd Street Y, Kosciuszko Foundation, Tibor Varga Festival in Switzerland, Rodolfo Lipizer Festival in Italy, as well as guest appearances at Yale, Boston, UCLA, UNLV, Hofstra, NYU and South Dakota State Universities. In addition, he was Founder and Artistic Director of California Music Festival, from 2000 to 2008.

He attended the San Francisco and St. Louis Conservatories of Music, as well as the City University of New York. Teachers include Henryk Szeryng, Joseph Silverstein, Zaven Melikian, Daniel Phillips, Masao Kawasaki, John Korman and Doris Brill. Recently honored by theviolinsite.com as one of the most influential violin soloists among today's musicians, he has served as an adjunct faculty member of Queens College, Brooklyn College and Boise State University.

Dr. Greening-Valenzuela currently maintains a private violin/viola studio in Walnut Creek, California and is sought after as a master teacher, lecturer and competition adjudicator. Over the years, many of his students have attended the finest music conservatories, universities and festivals and have built their own professional careers as soloists, chamber players, orchestral musicians and teachers.

In addition, Dr. Greening-Valenzuela is Founder and President of Vocal Artists Management, which tends to the careers of internationally-acclaimed opera and concert singers.



**Marin Vitas**

Marin Vitas (Split, 1989) has a master's degree in solo singing at the University of Mostar (N. Manuilenko; A. Pljevljak-Krehić). In 2016, he made his debut in the comic opera Turia and Plamenko by B. Erceg. He participates as a soloist in the choreo-drama concert Narration and Operation, directed by I. L. Lema, and in the musical spectacle Mozart in the Garden, conceived and conducted by I. Tatarević. In Split, under the direction of maestro E. Mihajlović, he sings the role of Ottone in Monteverdi's opera The Coronation of the Pope. The graduate study of solo singing rounds off with a performance in the church of St. Paul's in Cambridge (England) with the performance of Stabat Mater by G. B. Pergolesi. In 2019, in the series of concerts "Vinko Lesić" in Split, he made a notable performance and was awarded a special prize, a master workshop with the renowned Croatian mezzo-soprano Renata Pokupić. During his studies, Marin regularly attended singing seminars and vocal workshops with renowned pedagogues: Fiorenza Cedolins, Nelli Manuilenko, José van Dam, Radmila Bakočević, Egon Mihajlović, Daniela Schillaci, Renata Pokupić and others. He attended the postgraduate training program at the Academy of Music in Zagreb in the class of Professor Renata Pokupić, with whom he performed together with the Croatian Baroque Ensemble (HRBA) in 2020 at the Croatian House in Split. At the academy, he participated in several projects as a soloist. On the occasion of the hundredth anniversary of the Academy of Music in Zagreb under the baton of maestro Mladen Tarbuk and directed by Krešimir Dolenčić, he sang one of the main roles in the opera Animal Farm (Snowball). The play was awarded the rector's prize. In the autumn of 2023, he performed the cantata of J.S. Bach - "Wieder stehe doch der Sunde" - together with the Mostar Chamber Ensemble in Mostar and Sarajevo Cathedrals. He continues to improve in Zagreb with professors Željka and Neda Martić.



**Giampiero  
Bugliarello**

Giampiero Bugliarello was introduced to the piano at the age of 4 when he began toying with the family piano, approaching it with an empirical perspective as he explored its sound and range. His formal education began shortly afterward under the guidance of Ketty Teriaca. At age 10, Giampiero studied music theory with Alberto Alibrandi, who set him on the path to become a classical pianist, a composer, and a jazz musician. At age 11, he enrolled at the Vincenzo Bellini Conservatory in Catania, led by Carmelo Pappalardo. He graduated from the conservatory with high honors in piano performance. In 2015, Giampiero left Italy to pursue his studies in Piano Performance in the United States. He received a master's degree and doctoral degree in piano performance at The Catholic University of America. He received two full scholarships from the university and worked as a teaching and research assistant while pursuing his studies. Later he was appointed as an Ad-honorem visiting scholar, conducting research for the Latin American Music Center in collaboration with the label Naxos en Español. He currently teaches piano, composition, and history of music at the Music School of Delaware and at the Fairfax Conservatory of Music in Fairfax, Virginia. Giampiero has furthered his studies at the Hochschule Sommerakademie Mozarteum in Salzburg and at the Washington International Piano Festival. He is a prize-winner of awards in various national and international piano competitions, including Catholic University of America International Piano Competition, Gianluca Campochiaro International Competition, J. S. Bach National Competition, and Ibla Grand Prize. The venues of his performances include Wiener Saal, Art Barns, Covington Center for the Performing Arts, the Kennedy Center, and Carnegie Weill Hall. His compositions are published by DaVinci Editions and distributed by Hal Leonard Europe. According to the magazine SoundWordSight, his music presents a range of influences, including Beethoven, Rachmaninoff, and Liszt.

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**Jacques-Pierre  
Malan**

Internationally prize-winning, South African cellist Jacques-Pierre Malan is known as a "tour de force" player with "vibrant musicality" (Beeld). Mr. Malan is an Artist-in-Residence at the Embassy Series in Washington D.C. where he engages with the Embassies not only as a soloist and chamber musician, but as a producer, developing concert programs with humanitarian themes.

With a passion for chamber music, Mr. Malan has performed extensively on stages spanning multiple continents. He is the founder of the Embassy String Quartet, and a member of Serafin Ensemble based in Wilmington, DE. He has had the opportunity to collaborate with such players as Ivry Gitlis, Anthony McGill, Victor Yampolsky, and Jonathan Carney, among others. Chamber music engagements include performances at the Four Seasons Music Festival, Stellenbosch International Chamber Festival, Venetian Arts Society, Arts Club of Washington, Casa Labia Series in Cape Town, Worcester Music Society, and Erin Hall in Rondebosch.

As a concerto soloist, Mr. Malan has performed with Kwazulu Natal Philharmonic, Johannesburg Philharmonic, Cape Town Philharmonic, Mid Atlantic Symphony Orchestra, FreeState Symphony Orchestra, Peabody Conductors Orchestra, and the South African National Youth Orchestra. With the Creative Concert Group, he premiered a new arrangement of Dvorak's Cello Concerto with string quartet accompaniment. Mr. Malan is currently principal cello of Mid-Atlantic Symphony Orchestra and the Washington Opera Society, and formerly the assistant principal position of the KwazuluNatal Philharmonic Orchestra. In 2013, as a member of that Orchestra, Mr. Malan was selected to perform for the funeral of the South African leader Nelson Mandela.

Earning a Masters Degree in cello performance and a Graduate Performance Diploma from Peabody Conservatory, Mr. Malan studied under the tutelage of Amit Peled (principal teacher), Alan Stepanyk, Seth Knopp, and Michael Kannen. Graduating with honors, he received a Bachelors of Music from the University of Pretoria in South Africa studying with Heleen Du Plessis, and a Performance Licentiate from the University of South Africa. He has been a prize-winner in the Yale Gordon String Competition, SAMRO Bursary Competition, and Stellenbosch International Chamber Music Festival Competition. Mr. Malan currently holds faculty positions at the Bryn Mawr School and the Nelly Berman School of Music, and maintains a private cello studio.

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**Glen  
Carter-Varney**

Glenn Carter-Varney is an Australian composer, pianist and educator, formerly Head of Contemporary Keyboard studies and lecturer in piano at the Melba Memorial Conservatorium in Melbourne, and Music Director at The Scots School in Albury New South Wales. She also taught class music at Methodist Ladies College in Melbourne and directed her own private music schools in Melbourne and Brisbane. She has produced musicals, trained choirs and madrigal groups, performed as solo pianist and recording artist, and her experience is wide and varied.

Glen studied piano with Waldemar Seidel and composition with John Ingram and Bernard de Oliveira at the Melbourne University Conservatorium. She later studied piano with Norah Newby at the Royal Academy in London.

Glen has given concerts and workshops in the USA and Australia and has several recordings to her credit which have been used in programs for ABC and commercial radio. She also worked as a session musician accompanying other Australian artists in the recording studios in Melbourne and has given many radio recitals for the ABC from the Melbourne and Sydney studios. As part of a Duo piano partnership with her husband, she was featured in the top-rating television shows. She is currently an examiner for the Australian Music Examinations Board and the Australian Guild of Music Education and has conducted the workshops for Contemporary Popular Music for AMEB throughout Queensland.

Carter-Varney has written, published and recorded a collection of music for the piano. Summer Dreaming - a suite of five pieces - was inspired by the painting entitled The Spirits Within by Australian Artist Roger Saunders. The Artamidae, Sonic Fantasy and Shades of Blue were written for the Keys National Festival for Australian Music and were performed by award winner Andrew Visser at the Festival held at the Brisbane Convention Centre in 2003 and 2004. These piano pieces have now been published in an album entitled The Recital Collection and have become popular recital and examination repertoire. Along with pieces from the books Kool Piano, Kool Shades of Blue and Kool Jazzy Tunes, many of Glen's piano works have been included in the various Australian Examination Syllabi.

Art has been an inspiration for much of the music, and artworks by Australian Artists have been used for the





**Daniel Espen**

Daniel Espen began studying piano with M° Riccardo Bettini in “Luca Marenzio” conservatoire in Brescia Italy, obtaining bachelor degree with the highest votes “cum laude” in 2006. He continued his studies in piano with M° Gerardo Chimini at the same conservatoire where he completed the Master degree with the highest vote “cum laude”. Espen started to study composition under the guidance of M° Giancarlo Facchinetti and he obtained the bachelor degree from Parma’s conservatoire “Arrigo Boito” with M° Luca Tessadrelli at the top of his class. He studied violin and drawing/painting with M° Elena Alegrètti Camerini. In 2007, as one of the best students of “Libera Accademia di Belle Arti” in Brescia, he obtained Erasmus scholarship for “Theatre Design” at “University of Art and Design” (UCE) in Birmingham, U.K. He completed his Master degree in Set Design and Theatre Direction at the top of his class. During the years 2013 and 2014 Espen won several international composers competitions: First Prize award at the second edition of the “David Maria Turoldo” in Rovato (Brescia); His quartet “Danza Visionaria” was selected among the top ten quartets at the “Seattle composer Alliance First International Competition” in the United States of America; Third prize at International Composer Competition “Ilaria Rambaldi” in Chieti, Italy; Second Prize at the international competition “Busan Maru International Music Festival” in South Korea with the score “Stabat Mater” for mix choir and orchestra. Since 2006 Espen has been very active as concert pianist in Italy and abroad for several musical associations. In 2015 Daniel Espen released his first CD “Archetipi” (Archetype) where he performs the contemporary piano music composed by Luca Tessadrelli and himself. In 2017 his Symphonic Sketch “Dance on the spring of life” won the First prize in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Arturo Toscanini and it was performed in Modena “Teatro Luciano Pavarotti” and Sala “Giuseppe Verdi” in Parma’s Conservatoire. From August 2018 he started a new work experience as a music professor in China (Guangdong province). His painting “Spirit and Matter – Portrait of Luca Tessadrelli” was selected in the second round of the “British Portrait Award Competition” (BP) the most prestigious art competition in the world. In July 2020 he won the ICCJ (International Choral Competition Composition of Japan) and his composition “The Chant of the Witches” for mixed choir was recorded by the “Metropolitan Choir of Tokyo” conducted by Ko Matsushita. From September 2020 he is performing piano recitals in several Chinese cities such as Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin, Dalian etc. From October 2021 Espen is piano professor in the “Royal college of Music” of London (Shanghai section: Kingdom Music education group). In 2022 Espen has exhibited his paintings in two important events: -EспенxOkaharaXFeat- exhibition of paintings and graphics in “db Art space&incubator” from 8th September to 8th of October and -Portraits Art- exhibition of paintings and graphics in “The Belgian House” from 24th November to 24th of December in Shanghai, China. In December 2022 Espen has won the “Audience prize” in the international composer competition “Costruttori di armonie” organized by the association “Serate musicali” in Milan (Italy) with the composition for Cello and Piano “Evocazione”.



**Anne de Boysson**

After a childhood shaped by travels, her parents being itinerants, Anne de Boysson is quickly moved towards composition. Winner of the 1st prize at the International Competition “Music and Earth” of Sofia in composition in 2013, Anne received a state commission from France for a quintet for cellos as part of the commemoration of the centenary of the 1914-1918 War. This piece was created in the presence of more than 80 UNESCO ambassadors. Four years later, she received another state commission from the Army Brass Band (35 musicians), who performed at the annual Gala Concert of the Land Forces 2018 (France). Winner of numerous residences highlighting composers in France, Israël and Belgium, Anne has the chance to be regularly invited to festivals to participate in professional meetings and as a jury. With her eclectic background, Anne has composed the music for some fifty audiovisual projects, including the feature film “The Taste of Apples is Red”, which won a special mention for original music at the Festival International Music & Cinéma de Marseille in 2023 (France), and the short film “Gauche Touché”, which won the prize for best music at the Festival International Long Story Shorts in 2021 (Romania). Anne de Boysson released in 2021 her second album entitled « Fusion » of her own compositions and regularly performs in recitals (France, Switzerland, Germany, Sicilia, Sardinia) as pianist and composer. Her compositions have already been performed by many well-known musicians : Elisabeth Möst (Austria), Christoph Bielefeld (Germany), Anna Sutyagina (Germany), Nuala MacKenna (Ireland), Marie Ythier (France), Jee-Hye Bae (Korea), etc.



**Elisabeth Möst**

Elisabeth Möst: Study in Vienna (Manuela Wiesler) and London (William Bennett), concerts in Europe, USA and South America, leading classes, 1st prize at the international competition Tiziano Rossetti in category WIND and CD, prize at the contemporary competition in London, best Windplayer at the International 3rd Viennese competition, Christoph Bielefeld: Study in Germany and Switzerland, Solo harpist in Bruckner- orchestra Linz, Substitute in Viennese Philharmonic and Hamburg Philharmonic and Berlin, docent at the Mozarteum in Salzburg.





**Alisa Sadikova**

Alisa Sadikova is a prodigy classical harpist from Saint Petersburg, Russia. From 2010 to 2018, she studied at the Special Music School of Saint Petersburg Conservatory, with Karina Maleeva; during 2018–2021, she attended Cambridge Musica Mundi High School in Waterloo, Belgium, with Catherine Michel; from August 2021 to the present, she started her bachelor's degree at the Juilliard School in New York, USA, with Nancy Allen. Alisa is a winner of many international competitions: Absolute First Prize at the International Youth Contest in New York, USA (2010); First Prize at the International Competition of Music Talent in Hanstätten, Germany (2011); Absolute First Prize at the International Competition in Helsinki, Finland (2011); The Yuri Temirkanov Prize (2012); Scholarship holder and owner of an Individual Grant from the Vladimir Spivakov Foundation (2015); 3rd Prize at The Young Talents of Russia (2017); 4th Prize at The 20th International Harp Contest in Israel (2018); First Prize at The Scandinavian International Instrumental Music Competition (2023); Absolute First Prize at the World Grand Prix International Music Contest (2023); First Degree Winner at the Eleventh Sibelius International Instrumental Music Competition (2023); First Degree Winner at the Clara Schumann International Competition (2023); recipient of a Study Grant from the Guzik Foundation (2021–2022), (2022–2023), (2023-2024); A soloist of the World Harp Congress in Australia (2014), and in Hong Kong (2017); participated as a soloist in the international tour with Sarah Brightman (26 concerts in 16 countries) “Royal Christmas Gala”.

Alisa Sadikova is the official representative and an ambassador of the Lyon & Healy Harps and Salvi Harps Foundation.

She recorded five CDs (in Germany, Russia, France and Belgium); a new solo album “Harp Constellation” was released in 2023.

Alisa performed solo concerts and as soloist with orchestras in Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Russia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, USA.

She played as a solo artist at such prestigious venues as Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage in Carnegie Hall, New York, USA; City Recital Hall, Sydney, Australia; the Vienna State Opera, Vienna, Austria; Bolshoi Theatre, Moscow, Russia; Mariinsky Theater, St. Petersburg; Large and Small Halls of the Tonhalle in Zürich, Switzerland, and Saint Petersburg's Philharmonic, Russia; Moscow International House of Music, Russia; The Hague, Prague, Czech Republic; Musik und Kongresshalle, Lübeck, Germany; Tempodrom, Berlin, Germany; Kuppelsaal, Hanover, Germany; König-Pilsener-Arena, Oberhausen, Germany; Messe Erfurt, Erfurt, Germany; Mehr! Theater am Großmarkt, Hamburg, Germany; Liederhalle, Frankfurt, Germany; Liederhalle, Mozartsaal, Stuttgart; Philharmonie, Munich; Concert hall Kurhaus, Baden-Baden, Germany; Samsung Hall, Dübendorf, Switzerland; Výstaviště Praha Holešovice, Prague, Czech Republic; Atlas Arena, Łódź, Poland; Papp László Sportaréna, Budapest, Hungary; Arena Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia; Arena Stožice, Ljubljana, Slovenia; Wiener Stadthalle—Halle F, Vienna, Austria; Kongress Centre, Aalborg, Denmark; Hartwall Areena, Helsinki, Finland; Crocus City Hall, Moscow, Russia; Ledovy Dvorets, Saint Petersburg, Russia; Žalgiris Arena, Kaunas, Lithuania; Arēna Rīga, Riga, Latvia; Dvorets Respubliki, Minsk, Belarus; Alice Tully Hall, New York, USA.

Alisa participated in Online projects dedicated to Michael Jackson, Karpur Gauram, and Global Youth D2D Destiny Foundation. Her YouTube videos get millions of views.



**Patricio Cadena Pérez**

Patricio Cadena Pérez started playing classical guitar in Ecuador, his homeland, when he was 21, as a self-taught musician. A few years later he joined France to learn musical reading and analysis at the Paris Conservatory by taking composition courses. He also learned how to perform from the Argentinian concert artist Roberto Aussel, the Uruguay master Carlevaro and the British lute player Terence Waterhouse. His own research led him to develop his own technique of playing the instrument.



**Peter Dickson  
Lopez**

As an internationally performed composer, Lopez traces his musical roots to a broad range of influences from his tenure as a graduate student at the University of California at Berkeley (USA), as a Tanglewood (USA) Fellowship Composer, and as recipient of the George Ladd Prix de Paris (1976-78). The eclectic nature of Lopez's mature style stems no doubt from having worked directly with composers of diverse approaches and philosophies during his early years at Berkeley and Tanglewood: with Joaquin Nin-Culmell, Andrew Imbrie, Edwin Dugger, Olly Wilson, Earle Brown at UC Berkeley (1972-1978); and with Ralph Shapey and Theodore Antoniou during his Fellowship at Tanglewood (1979). Even more influential to Lopez's artistic development was his residence in Paris where he had the opportunity to listen to many live concerts of contemporary European composers as well as to attend numerous events at IRCAM. One of Lopez's creative principles is that Composition Is Performance On Paper! No doubt due to this enduring philosophy, his compositions were recognized early in his career: with several prizes and awards including the George Ladd Prix de Paris and the Lili Boulanger Memorial Prize; with numerous performances throughout the United States and Europe; and with an LP recording of a major work for Male Voice, Chamber Orchestra and Live Electronics released on the 1750 Arch Records label. In 2021 this work, *The Ship of Death* in an abbreviated version, was rereleased in digital format by PARMA Recordings on the Navona record label. This same work received its world's premiere in 1979 in the Netherlands by the Dutch Radio Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Ernest Bour. Lopez is equally comfortable with experimental instrumental techniques (IFASIA for octet), electronics (Moment Pieces for Extended Piano), digital techniques (MISE-EN, Series I, II, and III), electroacoustics (*The Ship of Death*) and traditional methodologies (*Visions des reflets et nocturnes* for Piano and String Orchestra, *Song of Thirteen Moons* for Orchestra, and *Aujourd'hui* for Double String Orchestra). World premieres of recent works have been performed by the Sydney Contemporary Orchestra in Sydney, Australia (2017, 2018), the Ensemble MISE-EN in Seoul, South Korea (2018), and the Lviv Philharmonic Society in Lviv, Ukraine (2022). Navona Records released a recent work of Lopez, MISE-EN Series II Episode I for Amplified String Quartet and Acousmatic Sound, in July 2023. Navona also released in January 2024 a piano solo piece from his series of piano pieces, *Pieces From A Distant Land*. Acclaimed pianist Anna Kislitsyna recorded this work in May 2023 at the beautiful Shalin Liu Performance Center in Rockport, Massachusetts for this release. Pianist Jennifer Wang premiered this same work shortly thereafter in June at the Carnegie Weill Recital Hall in New York City during the Laureate Gala Performances produced by Progressive Musicians and Sound Espresso. Lopez remains actively engaged in continuing projects including numerous solo piano pieces, orchestral compositions, electroacoustic and digital media, and works featuring vocal soloists, chamber choirs and symphony orchestra. Lopez's current recording projects include an orchestral work (*Serenade from Song of Thirteen Moons*) to be recorded by the Janáček Philharmonic Orchestra (Ostrava, Czech Republic) in November 2023 to be released in 2024 on the Navona Record label, and an album collection of solo piano and chamber works to be released on Petrichor Records, also in 2024.

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**Laura McCormick**

My name is Laura McCormick. I am 17 years old and live in Brisbane, Australia. My journey with the Arts began at the age of 3, with dance lessons. I commenced piano lessons at the age of 7 and have studied under the tutelage of Miss Sonya Visser since 2019. This year, I have also been studying AMEB Theory of Music with Dr Lisa Cheney. Having won the International Prominent Pianists Festival this year, I will be performing at Carnegie Hall in April, 2024. After graduating Year 12 this year, I will be studying a Bachelor of Music, specialising in Piano Performance, at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music from 2024. I hope to become a concert pianist and travel around the world, sharing my passion for music.

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**Noam Faingold**

Composer Noam Faingold (b. 1984) is passionate about composing and collaborating in traditional, multi-disciplinary, and cross-genre projects. Faingold's music has been praised as "...lyrical...", "...exhilarating...", and "...a tour-de-force of Jazz melded with Classical" by The New York Times, The BBC, and *Downbeat Magazine*, among others. Highlights include works composed for Leilehua Lanzelotti (Pulitzer Prize finalist), cellist Inbal Segev (Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center), Oboist Rob Botti (New York Philharmonic), and violinists Domenic Salerni (*Attacca Quartet*), Jesse Mills (*Horszowski Trio*), and Itamar Zorman (*Lysander Trio*), and the Appalachian Chamber Music Festival, performances by chamber ensembles the Argus Quartet, PubliQUARTET, and Fidelio Trio, pianists Michael Brown (CMS) and Peter Dugan (Host of NPR's *From the Top*), and arrangements for the London Symphony Orchestra, OK Mozart, and Pentatone Records. Faingold is most excited by multi-stakeholder collaborations, composition projects, and special events. Current projects include a new piece for DC's Sumner Museum 150th anniversary and Duke Ellington School of the Arts students and faculty. His "A Prayer for Those Who Look Away" for Inbal Segev, was turned into a video collaboration with YouTuber The Cello Doll, and featured as an installation at the Sumner Museum. "The Defiant Poet: Elegy in Memory of Yevgeny Yevtushenko" brought together the late 20th century poet and Shostakovich collaborator's family, multiple orchestras, and Navona Records to commemorate Yevtushenko upon his passing. "We Persist," one of the first original virtual orchestra pieces, collaborated with the George Kaiser Family Foundation and the Tulsa Symphony, and has been viewed over 50,000 times on multiple platforms. His music can be found in the Sphinx catalog of Latin American Cello Works and the Latin Orchestral Music catalog. As an educator, Faingold is excited about providing composition mentorship and generating enthusiasm for new music. In 2023 the US Navy Band performed a piece he co-composed with 9 DC Public Schools students, and he mentored DCPS' student composer's first orchestral piece for the year's 100+ student/teacher district Honor Ensemble. He also mentors and advocates as composer-in-residence with Washington Musica Viva and Oklahoma State University's Community Music School and Cellofest, and as arts mentor with the Mid-America Arts Alliance and the Music Teachers National Association. Previous roles include Visiting Artist in Composition at The University of Tulsa, and creator/director of the composition programs at Tulsa Community College and The bART. Faingold has held fellowships through the Salzburg Global Seminar, The Bowdoin International Music Festival, The Atlantic Music Festival, and the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, who funded his Music Composition PhD at King's College London.



**Leopold Brauneiss**

Leopold Brauneiss, (b. 1961) is an Austrian composer, musicologist and teacher, based in Vienna. He studied at the University of Vienna (musicology) and the University of Music and Performing Arts (music education, piano, composition with Heinz Kratochwil) and received his doctorate in music in 1988. From 1990 to 2010 he has taught music theory at the J.M.-Hauer conservatory Wiener Neustadt, since 2004 he has been lecturer for harmony and counterpoint at the University of Vienna, since 2006 he has held a lectureship in harmony, counterpoint and instrumentation at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater „Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy“ Leipzig. The main field of his musicological research is the so called Tintinnabuli Style of Arvo Pärt, whom he has known personally for over 20 years. The style's characteristic aesthetics of reduction as well as the simple yet strict structure of its composition techniques has influenced his music to a great extent. He tries, however, to enrich it sometimes by adding chromatic or even dodecaphonic elements within the tonal frame. His works have been performed by renowned artists such as Gidon Kremer, ensembles like Kremerata baltica and orchestras like Tonkuenstlerorchester Niederoesterreich and have been presented at prestigious festivals like Wien Modern and Kammermusikfestival Lockenhaus.

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**Mariesther Alvarez**

Venezuelan violinist Mariesther Alvarez is founder and co-director of Boston String Academy, a non-profit organization inspired by El Sistema that believes in social change through musical excellence. Mariesther holds graduate degrees from The Boston Conservatory. She has been invited as faculty and guest artist at different institutions including New England Conservatory, Longy School of Music, Harvard University, Sphinx, El Sistema USA, American String Teachers Association, Celebrity Series, Harmony Program, El Sistema in Venezuela.

Mariesther's violin and pedagogy mentors have included Francisco Díaz, José Francisco Del Castillo, Sophie Vilker, Mela Tenenbaum, Rictor Noren, Mimi Zweig, and Geza Szilvay. She has also collaborated with artists such as The Berlin Philharmonic String Quartet, Pamela Frank, Joseph Silverstein, Midori, Giuseppe Sinopoli, Gustavo Dudamel, and Sir Simon Rattle.

Currently, Mariesther serves on the faculty at Boston String Academy, The Boston Conservatory at Berklee, and LA Phil's Yola National Festival. In the Spring of 2016, she was chosen among the 100 most influential people for the Hispanic community in Massachusetts. And in 2019 she received the Mass Cultural Council's Commonwealth Awards through her work with Boston String Academy, which honors exceptional achievement in the arts, humanities, and sciences in the state of Massachusetts. In 2023 her organization received recognition from the Boston City Council for its contributions dedicated to supporting and promoting Venezuelan culture in the City of Boston and in the Commonwealth.

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**Ana Isabel Cardona**

Ana, currently a senior at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, began her musical journey in Venezuela's El Sistema at the age of six, and continued her studies in Boston String Academy after immigrating to the United States in 2015. Since then, she's joined the studio of Gillian Rogell at New England Conservatory Prep. At NEC, she takes music theory, chamber music coachings, and is principal violist of the Youth Philharmonic Orchestra.

She has participated in various festivals and collaborations, including Greenwood Music Camp, Boston University Tanglewood Institute, Sphinx Performance Academy, YOLA National Festival, Longy School of Music's Sistema Side by Side Orchestra, Worcester ChamberFest, Boston Celebrity Series, etc.

Additionally, Ana has had the opportunity to perform internationally through Pequeñas Huellas in Italy, Orquestra Geração in Portugal, and an upcoming orchestral tour of Greece with New England Conservatory this June. Ana has collaborated with renowned artists including Midori, Gustavo Dudamel, Jose Antonio Abreu, Rictor Noren, Michael Casimir, Carol Rodland, Miriam Fried, Donald Weilerstein, Steven Laraia, and members of the Catalyst Quartet.

Ana has also been a teacher assistant and private instructor for younger students through Boston String Academy, Continuo Boston, BSYO ICP, and Cambridge Public Schools. Through Continuo, apart from private instruction she does frequent outreach performances at senior centers such as Goddard House in Brookline and other community locations.

At school, Ana is a leader of Latinx Club, and participates in other extracurriculars such as Modern Dance Company, debate, and community action through the planning and realization of various events in her community promoting cultural visibility and celebration. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, writing, and spending time with friends and family.





**Angelina Moy**

Angelina Moy began her violin studies in 2014 at Boston String Academy under the guidance of Marielisa Alvarez. She has participated in several performances and collaborations including Boston Philharmonic Orchestra, Nantucket Music Center, and Rockport Music.

Angelina has had the opportunity to perform out of state and has been selected to participate in festivals such as LA Phil's YOLA National Festival in Los Angeles and Dudamel's residency at Princeton University, among others. In June 2021, her Youth Ensemble was selected by Midori Goto's Orchestra Residency Program to premiere "Spring Cadenzas" for violin and strings, performed by Midori herself. Currently a senior at Boston Latin School, a public exam school in Boston, Massachusetts, in her spare time, she enjoys editing for the school newspaper, competing for BLS powerlifting, and volunteering in Chinatown, Boston Children's Hospital, Tufts Medical Center, and Boston Public Health Commission.



**Annabelle Lee**

Annabelle Lee is a musician based in Boston, Massachusetts, who currently studies violin performance with Markus Placci at the Boston Conservatory at Berklee. Prior to her conservatory education, she was a student at Boston String Academy for 12 years, where she studied with Mariesther Alvarez. During that time she also participated in Longy School of Music's El Sistema Side-By-Side program, as well as taking chamber music at New England Conservatory. In recent years she has spent her summers at music festivals such as Yola National Festival, Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival, Dudamel Foundation's "Encounters/Encuentros" in Mexico City, Orquestra Geração in Lisbon, Portugal, and Festival Groba in Spain. Last season she debuted as a soloist with the Cambridge Symphony Orchestra performing Lalo's Symphonie Espagnole. Now, Annabelle works as a teaching assistant at Boston String Academy and experiments with singing, composition, and visual arts in her free time.



**Annie Yuan**

Annie Yuan began studying violin in 2011 at Boston String Academy. Her mentors have been Marielisa Alvarez and Anthony Morales. She participated in several performances and collaborations including Boston Conservatory's Hemenway Strings, the Annual El Sistema Showcase organized by the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra, Longy School of Music's Sistema Side by Side Orchestra, Worcester Chamber Music Society's ChamberFest, Point Counterpoint and was a New England Conservatory Prep student. In 2016 she was selected to participate in the National Take a Stand Festival, in 2018 and YOLA National in 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022. She has performed and worked with renowned international artists including Sir Simon Rattle, Gustavo Dudamel, Edicson Ruiz, Rictor Noren, Lynn Chang, among others. She currently works as part of the community engagement program at the Community Music School of Boston located in the South End. Annie graduated from Boston Latin School in 2022 and is a freshman attending college at Bunker Hill.



**Anthony Morales**

The current Orchestra Director of the prestigious Boston Latin School and Boston String Academy, Anthony Morales is a critically sought after musician in the Boston area. A graduate from the acclaimed violin studio of Eva Szekeley at the University of Missouri Columbia, Anthony held an assistantship in the MU Graduate String Quartet, served as concertmaster of the MU philharmonic, and served as concertmaster in the Columbia Civic Orchestra.

As a violinist, he has performed as a featured soloist with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, as the winner of the Emerging Artists competition, with the University of Maryville, and with Webster University as winner of their annual concerto competition. Anthony has been recipient of the Allen Carl Larson Endowed Scholarship at Webster University, The Catherine and Rogers Whitmore String Award, the Leah L. Emmons Orchestral Award, and winner of the distinguished Zoltan Szekeley Performance Award.

Currently, Anthony performs with the Vista Philharmonic Orchestra, the Boston Festival Orchestra, and is a regular musician accompanying top Grammy award winners such as Andrea Bocelli and Audra McDonald. In addition to performing, Anthony is a uniquely devoted teacher and conductor with the Boston Latin School (one of the top ten high schools in the country) and Boston String Academy (the premier El Sistema program in the United States). Anthony is highly energetic and passionate for music and does not settle for anything less in his teaching.



**Bonnie Mai**

Violist Bonnie Mai began her studies in 2014 at Boston String Academy under the guidance of Marielisa Alvarez. She has participated in several performances and collaborations including, Longy School of Music's Sistema Side by Side Orchestra, Boston Landmarks Orchestra, Boston Philharmonic Orchestra, Nantucket Music Center, Rockport Music. She has had the opportunity to perform out of state and internationally and have been selected to participate in festivals such as Kinhaven, Festival Groba in Spain and LA Phil's YOLA National Festival in Los Angeles, among others. She also studies chamber music at New England Conservatory.



**Bryan da Costa**

Cellist Bryan O. da Costa began his studies at Boston String Academy in 2019 under the previous guidance of Taide Prieto, and currently with Michal Shein. He has participated in a number of performances and collaborations such as Longy School of Music's Side by Side Orchestra, the Boston Landmarks Orchestra, the Chineke Orchestra, The Nantucket Music Center, as well as Rockport Music.

Bryan has had the opportunity to perform out of state as well as internationally and have been selected to participate in festivals such as Orquestra Geracao in Lisbon, Portugal, Festival Groba in Spain, the World Orchestra El Sistema in Caracas, Venezuela, Boston University Tanglewood Institute in Lenox MA, as well as many others.

Currently Bryan is a Senior at Waltham High School a public high school in Waltham, MA, continues her musical studies at the Boston String Academy, as well as a number of programs at New England Conservatory. He has also been studying under cellist Allison Eldredge for the past 4 years.



**Camila Martinez**

Violist Camila Martinez began her violin and viola studies in 2015 at Boston String Academy under the guidance of Marielisa Alvarez. She has participated in the Annual El Sistema Showcase, Boston Philharmonic Orchestra Gala, Longy School of Music's Sistema Side by Side Orchestra, and collaborative performances with the Boston Landmarks Orchestra and Celebrity Series of Boston. She has performed for renowned international artists such as Yvonne Frye, Shaw Pong Liu, Midori Goto and Maestro Gustavo Dudamel. Her Youth Ensemble has also participated in a masterclass with the Cuarteto Latinoamericano. Camila has been selected and awarded full scholarship to participate in programs and festivals including PointCounterPoint, New England Conservatory's BEAM program, where she had violin studies for a year with renowned pedagogue Magdalena Richter; Greenwood Music Camp, LA Phil's YOLA National Festival, and Festival Groba in Spain. She has also performed at Nantucket Music Center and Rockport Music. Currently, Camila is a sophomore at Boston Latin Academy, which is a public exam school in Boston, Massachusetts, and continues her musical studies at Boston String Academy.



**CJ Klinman**

I am CJ Klinman and I am a cellist at Boston String Academy (BSA)! I am currently an 8th grader at Boston Latin school, and music has always been a big part of my life. In addition to being a member of the Youth Ensemble, I play in the Elementa string quartet with a few other BSA members. I have played in programs such as YOLA National Festival, Greenwood, and Point Counterpoint, as well as played as a soloist with the Newton Philharmonic orchestra and more recently, an octet. BSA has allowed me to discover and cultivate new skills and techniques, as well as given me wonderful friends and opportunities. I'm so very grateful for the gift and knowledge of music that this program has given me!



**Estrella Sanchez**

Estrella began her violin studies in 2013 at Boston String Academy. She has participated in several performances and collaborations including Boston Conservatory's Hemenway Strings, Sphinx Virtuosi, Longy School of Music's Sistema Side by Side Orchestra, Boston Landmarks Orchestra, Boston Philharmonic Orchestra.

She has had the opportunity to perform out of state and internationally and have been selected to participate in festivals such as the Orquestra Geração in Lisbon, Portugal, LA Phil's YOLA National Festival in Los Angeles, NEC's Summer Orchestra Institute, Dudamel's residency at Princeton University, Festival Groba in Galicia, Spain, among others. BSA won the 2019 Commonwealth Awards, which honors exceptional achievement in the arts, humanities, and sciences in the state of Massachusetts, which included a side by side performance with members of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. In June 2021, her Youth Ensemble was selected by Midori's Orchestra Residency Program to premiere "Spring Cadenzas" for violin and strings, performed by Midori herself.

Currently, Estrella is a senior at St Joseph Prep School in Boston, Massachusetts and continue her music studies at Boston String Academy. In her spare time, she enjoys volunteering at pet shelters and going to the gym.

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**Fiona Yuan**

Fiona Yuan, a high school senior based in Boston, Massachusetts, has grown up playing the violin with the Boston String Academy; now, as the concertmaster of the Youth Ensemble she continues to play in various performances in the New England area. Additionally, as a member of the Boston Philharmonic Youth Orchestra under conductor Benjamin Zander, she has performed in Boston Symphony Hall and participated in a "tour of possibility" to South Africa, collaborating in musical exchanges and sharing music in South Africa's renowned halls, emphasizing music as a means of social change. Fiona has also represented the U.S. as the assistant concertmaster of El Sistema's World Orchestra in Venezuela, playing with musicians worldwide fostered under the same El Sistema ideology with the assistance of the Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra. She has also participated in music festivals such as the Interlochen Arts Camp in Michigan, where she has served as the concertmaster of the Interlochen Philharmonic and member of the World Youth Symphony Orchestra, Orquestra Geração in Lisbon, Portugal, Festival Groba in Galicia, Spain, and the YOLA National Festival, where she has sat assistant concertmaster of the Symphony Orchestra, performing in Walt Disney Concert Hall under LA Phil conductor Gustavo Dudamel. She was a winner of the 2020 Longy School of Music Side by Side concerto competition. Fiona currently studies with Mariesther Alvarez and Anthony Morales, and has participated in masterclasses with Midori Goto, Rictor Noren, Lucia Lin, among others. Outside of music, Fiona writes and edits for her school newspaper and leads various cultural shows and community service initiatives.

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**Gisele Francisco**

Gisele Francisco from Boston MA is a freshman in high school, attending Boston Latin School. Since she was 4, she's been playing the violin with the Boston String Academy with Mariesther Alvarez as her instructor. She's participated in multiple summer programs across the country including YOLA National Festival, Greenwood Music Camp and Point CounterPoint. She was part of the BEAM program for two years, receiving full scholarship to take lessons, chamber music, theory and orchestra at the New England Conservatory, studying under Magdalena Richter. While mostly participating in orchestras, she now participates in the Element String Quartet with other BSA members. Other than the violin, Gisele enjoys other creative activities which she does in her free time.

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**Jennifer Gamez**

Cellist Jennifer Gamez began her cello studies in 2015 at Boston String Academy under the guidance of Michal Shein. She has participated in several performances and collaborations including Ravinia's National Seminario, Longy School of Music's Sistema Side by Side Orchestra, Boston Landmarks Orchestra, Boston Philharmonic Orchestra, Nantucket Music Center, Rockport Music.

Currently, Jennifer is a sophomore at Central Catholic High school, which is a marist college preparatory school in Lawrence, Massachusetts, continues her musical studies at Boston String academy, and occasional band in school. In her spare time, she enjoys participating in many sports such as cross country, track and field, fencing, and will begin this spring season in lacrosse. She volunteers in a marist mentoring service for young children and participates in and is actively involved in school events and activities.





**Jiro Lind**

I have been playing the violin for the past 5 years. Ever since I started, I feel like I have been able to express myself without talking, instead, I could express my feelings using music. I also enjoy playing my instrument as I go to new places and meet new people, like I did at Ravinia's National Seminario in Chicago last summer. Beyond music, I like to play sports like fishing and tennis. I am part of a touring dancing group. I also love traveling to all types of places, especially for tasting different types of foods.



**Juna Yatsu**

Juna Yatsu is currently a 7th grade student at Boston Latin School, an exam school in Boston Massachusetts. She has been playing cello since she was 7 years old in 2018, currently studying with Michal Shein. Juna had the opportunity to participate at Longy School of Music's Sistema Side by Side Orchestra, as well as in performances and collaborations with Nantucket Music Center, and Rockport Music. She has also attended Kinhaven Music School. She enjoys playing music with her friends.



**Maienna Andersson**

Violinist Maienna Andersson began her violin studies in 2015 at Boston String Academy under the guidance of Marielisa Alvarez. She has participated in several performances and collaborations including Nantucket Music Center and Rockport Music.

Maienna has been selected to participate in festivals such as LA Phil's YOLA National Festival in Los Angeles, and Apple Hill Center for Chamber Music's Summer Chamber Music Workshop. Maienna performed in a piano recital at Weill Recital Hall when she was 8!

Currently, Maienna Andersson is an eighth grader at Boston Latin School, which is a public exam school in Boston, Massachusetts, and continues her musical studies at Boston String academy. In her spare time, she enjoys reading.



**Michal Shein**

Israeli-Mexican-American cellist Michal Shein is a performer and master educator focused on curating cross-cultural performance projects and intensive educational initiatives. She is the Artistic Director of Cellissimo, a high level cello festival for Spanish speaking cellists with limited resources which includes masterclasses with world-class faculty, wellness sessions and community building. The festival, which is run in Spanish, has been described as "...one of the most important and unique festivals of its kind in Latin America" (- Álvaro Bitrán, cellist of the Grammy award-winning Cuarteto Latinoamericano).

Michal is recognized for her pedagogical style that nurtures her students with effective pedagogical methods for holistic and high musical advancement. Michal's cello students have been winners in competitions, and have received admission to top festivals such as BUTI Tanglewood, Brevard, YOLA Festival, Greenwood, NSO, as well as the BEAM program. Currently, she is on faculty at the Boston String Academy (an award-winning El Sistema inspired string program), New England Conservatory, and the University of Rhode Island.

In addition to her diverse educational work, Michal maintains a career as a soloist, orchestral cellist and chamber musician. From 2008-2013 she was Principal Cellist of the chamber orchestra Discovery Ensemble, while also immersing in baroque playing and appearing with several baroque ensembles. She currently appears with many orchestras and ensembles in the Boston area including the Rhode Island Philharmonic, Portland Symphony, among others. Some highlights of this past season were collaborations with Celebrity Series of Boston, as well as a new recording of arrangement of the Vivaldi sonatas with guitarist Adam Levin, which will be released in early 2024.

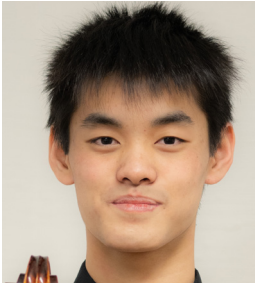
Michal received her B.A. in Music from U.C. Berkeley and Master's in Music M.A. at New England Conservatory. Michal lives in an intentional cohousing community in Jamaica Plain, with her husband Jonas, an outdoor educator, and her young children Noam and Hadas.



***Mika Liu***

Born in Boston, Massachusetts, Mika is a 13 year old violinist currently attending Boston Latin School. Ever since the age of 4, Mika has been learning violin at Boston String Academy (BSA), first under the guidance of Marielisa Alvarez, and currently under Anthony Morales. She has attended festivals such as YOLA National Festival, Luzerne Music Center, and New England Conservatory's Summer Orchestra Institute.

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***Noah Liu***

Born in 2008 in Boston, Massachusetts, I grew up in a household of Taiwanese and Indonesian cultures. I have played cello for nearly 10 years. I have attended music camps and festivals including the YOLA National Festival, Ravinia's National Seminario, New England Music Camp, among others. I am currently a sophomore at Boston Latin School. I also play soccer, for both my school team and also an inner city team. Additionally, I like to sail and ski. I recently joined my school's powerlifting team and I also work as a soccer referee as a side job.

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***Richard Fang***

Violist Richard Fang began his music studies in 2017 at Boston String Academy under the guidance of Mariesther Alvarez. He has participated in several performances and collaborations including Longy School of Music's Sistema Side by Side Orchestra, Boston Philharmonic Orchestra, and Rockport Music. Richard has been selected to participate in festivals such as LA Phil's YOLA National Festival in Los Angeles. Currently, Richard is a freshman at the John D. O'Bryant High School, which is a public exam school in Boston, Massachusetts, and continues his musical studies at Boston String Academy.

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***Scarlet Falcón***

In September 2011, Scarlet joined Boston String Academy, working under violinist Marielisa Alvarez, within a few months Scarlet had shown great improvement in learning many techniques on the violin and reading classical music. Throughout the years, she has had amazing opportunities and collaborations, such as the El Sistema Side by Side at Longy's School of Music, Sphinx Virtuosi, Nantucket Music Center, Rockport Music, New England Conservatory, LA Phil's YOLA National Festival in Los Angeles, and Festival Groba in Spain. Scarlet was able to meet and perform with Gustavo Dudamel on special occasions. Boston String Academy helped Scarlet open and expand her mind more on music, arts, and the cultures surrounding them. Having a learning disability, playing an instrument helped exercise her thinking and improved her skills. Scarlet is still exploring her creativity and plans to have a career based on it in the near future.



***Shu Yan Huang***

Shu Yan Huang is a violinist who started her violin studies at the age of 7 in 2018 at Boston String Academy. She has participated in Longy School of Music's Sistema Side by Side Orchestra, performances at Nantucket, Rockport Music, and Apple Hill Center for Chamber Music's Summer Chamber Music Workshop. She is currently in 8th grade at the Boston Latin School, a public exam school in Boston, Massachusetts. She also does orchestra at Boston Latin School. In her free time, she enjoys journaling and hanging out with friends.



***William Parkes***

William Parkes began playing cello at age eight with the El Sistema Somerville program. In 2018, William joined the Boston String Academy Youth Ensemble, and has been a member since. William has performed in numerous summer music festivals including Point Counterpoint (Leicester, VT), YOLA National (Los Angeles, CA), Festival Groba (Ponteareas, Spain), and the Boston University Tanglewood Institute, where he studied extensively with Boston Symphony Orchestra cellist Mihail Jojatu. William was a winner of the 2020 Longy Side by Side concerto competition. William and his colleague Bryan have previously performed the Vivaldi Double Cello Concerto in G minor with the Boston String Academy at the Shalin Liu Performance Center (Rockport, MA) in May of 2023, and again at the Hatch Memorial Shell (Boston, MA) in August of 2023. William served as principal cellist of the YOLA National Festival 2023 under the direction of Gustavo Dudamel. William is also currently a member of the Rivers Conservatory Chamber Music Lab.



## Our Judges



**Vera Danchenko**

*Voice & Piano*

Pianist Vera Danchenko-Stern graduated with honors from Moscow's prestigious Gnessin Institute of Music in piano, solo performance, chamber music, vocal, and instrumental accompaniment. Immigrating to Canada in 1979, she joined the faculty of the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, still continuing her pianist's career. She then moved to Washington, D.C. in 1990. Her concert appearances include accompanying world-renowned artists, such as violinists Martin Beaver, Ilya Kaler, violist Ryvka Golani, sopranos Carmen Balthrop, Jennifer Casey-Cabot, mezzo-sopranos Susana Poretsky, Audrey Babcock, baritone Sergei Leiferkus and bass Nikita Storoyev, to name only a few. A most significant and enjoyable artistic collaboration was - and still is - to share the stage with her brother, world-famous violinist Victor Danchenko. Ms. Danchenko-Stern served as the teacher of "Russian lyrics and diction" class at the Catholic University in Washington, D.C. from 1992 till 2002. Since 1990, she has also been teaching the "Singing in Russian" class at the faculty of Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University. Four times, she has had an opportunity to present students of the Peabody Institute at the International Week of the Conservatories in St Petersburg, Russia, followed by concerts in Moscow.

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**Emil Chudnovsky**

*Strings*

Emil Israel Chudnovsky hearkens back to the grand romantic tradition of the golden age of violinists. His lush sound and inimitable ability to connect with audiences have garnered him accolades from listeners, presenters and critics alike. Recent seasons have been full of firsts, including his debut this season at the Seoul Arts Center in South Korea with the KammerSymphonie Berlin, and his recent inaugural recording with the St. Petersburg Symphony Orchestra. Equally notable benchmarks include Chudnovsky's debut with the Orquesta Filarmónica de Jalisco in Mexico, when he replaced an indisposed soloist for a previously unknown concerto on ten days' notice.

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**Avguste Antonov**

*Piano*

Born in Bulgaria, Avguste Antonov studied piano in Bulgaria (Dobrich), France (Ecole Normale de Paris, Conservatoire de Bordeaux Jacques Thibaud) and the United States (2000: University of Missouri-Kansas City; 2001-2004: University of Kansas; 2006 -2008: Texas Christian University). He studied under the guidance of Alain Motard, Herve N'Kaoua, Robert Weirich, Stanislav Ioudenitch, Jack Winerock and Tamas Ungar. Avguste Antonov also had the privilege of taking masterclasses with Gerhard Oppitz, Jean-Claude Pennetier, Olivier Gardon, Grigory Sokolov, Olga Kern, Laure Favre Kahn, Anton Nel, Roman Rudnytsky and Yoheved Kaplinsky.

Avguste Antonov is at home in all repertoire, with a special interest in 20th and 21st century music. He has performed World and USA premieres at venues across North America and over the years he has worked with composers Carter Pann, Gregory Hutter, Michael Colgrass, Raina Murnak, Matthew Lewis, Till Meyn, Matthew Saunders, Robert Rollin, William Vollinger and others.



**Julio Reyes**

*Guitar*

Julio Reyes was born in Oakland and learned the guitar at age 5 from his father. By age 18, he performed recitals in the US and Paraguay, the Concerto de Aranjuez with the Oakland Symphony and received a scholarship to the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. He has conducted youth and adult orchestras in the US, Europe, Paraguay, and Havana, Cuba. He has lectures at conservatories of music, universities and Guitar Societies in the US, Cuba and Canada. He made his Carnegie Hall debut Last year winning the Professional category in the Progressive Musicians Competition.



**Dikran Atamian**

*Piano  
Artist Manager*

Atamian's career evolved from a highly-excitabile young artist into the maturity of a statesman of the instrument where a prodigious technical prowess was fused with rare musical acumen to deliver electrifying performances and landmark recordings.

With a major competition win, a landmark recording, and a tour of the Soviet Union, Atamian quickly established himself as a force to reckon with in the piano world performing nearly 200 concerts with orchestras including performances with the Cleveland Orchestra under Lorin Maazel, the Detroit Symphony, the New York Philharmonic, the Boston Pops, the Phoenix Symphony, the Seattle Symphony, major orchestras in Poland, Russia, Mexico, and South Korea, and orchestra tours with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. He worked with some of the leading conductors in the industry including Gerard Schwarz, Erich Leinsdorf, Eduardo Mata, David Zinman, Sergio Comissiona, James DePreist, Gustav Meier, Victor Alessandros, Verner Torkanowsky, Jens Nygaard, Alan Hovhaness, Grzegorz Nowak, Enrique Batiz, Michael Morgan, and Joann Faletta.

Atamian has emerged as manager Atamian and in that role he is known under the trade name Jack Price who is the founder of Price Attractions, a concert management headquartered in Tulsa, Oklahoma with affiliates in several cities. Atamian lives there where he is actively engaged in the careers of the artists he now represents and in the lives of his two children, Sean and Annarose.



**Gevorg Sargsyan**

*Strings*

Hailed as "...one of the most inspiring artists of his generation..." Gevorg Sargsyan is a Singapore based conductor and music director from Armenia. Recipient of Sir Georg Solti Award he has been guest-conducting in various venues around the world with different orchestras including Czech Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra, Armenian National Opera and ballet productions, Jayakarta Symphonic Orchestra, Pescara Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra among others. Gevorg studied in his native Armenia at the Yerevan State Conservatory and later continued in Vienna Conservatory in Austria and Goldsmiths College of Music, London (UK). After moving to Asia, he is combining his career between conducting and running masterclasses and lectures. He is a visiting professor of the University of Philippines College of Music, and is regularly guest-lecturing in various educational establishments across South East Asia. Gevorg is also a member of adjudication panels of various festivals and music competitions and worked as a music director of Madison Academy of Music and SCGS String Orchestra. He has recently been appointed an Artistic Director of Music Hubs with the Ministry of Culture of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.



**Giacomo Franci**  
**New York**  
**Chamber Players**  
*Concerti*

Maestro Giacomo Franci is the Artistic Director and the Conductor of The New York Chamber Players, an organization he founded in 2004. For the 2010-11 season Maestro Franci was elected Guest Maestro of Escuela de Direccion de Orquesta in Cordoba, Spain. Giacomo Franci is world renowned as the leading interpreter of the music of Aaron Copland. He earned this highly coveted position based on the merits of his acclaimed world premiere recording "The Complete Edited Piano Works by A. Copland", a triple CD released by Fone' Classics. Maestro Franci performed at Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center, for the centennial of Copland's birthday in February 2000, receiving rave reviews for his performance.

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**Michelle Lynne**

*Piano*

Canadian pianist Michelle Lynne is known for her dynamic and exciting performances, connecting with audiences in a personal and touching way. Based in the Netherlands, she has performed across Canada and Europe. A frequent chamber musician, she is also in demand as a collaborative pianist and festival adjudicator. She is regularly invited to give masterclasses in International Schools across Europe with violist Deanna Petre as part of the Juilliard Global program. As Artistic Director of the concert series Opus 16 Concerten, she creates concert programs with other young professionals to connect and inspire audiences. She is the Co-Founder of The Fearless Artist Mastermind, a coaching program for professional musicians with co-facilitator Deanna Petre, where they work with musicians to equip them with skills needed to build successful careers as classical musicians. The recipient of numerous awards, she is a laureate of the Prix d'Europe, the Helene Roberge Competition (ARAM), the Canadian Music Competition, the Kiwanis Competition, the Shean Competition. Michelle has attended summer festivals across Europe, studying with renowned professors such as Julian Martin (Juilliard), Claudio Martinez Mehner (Basel), Dominique Weber (Geneva), Klaus Hellwig (Berlin), Ferenc Rados, Marian Hahn (Peabody) and André Laplante (Conservatoire de Montréal). She received a Professional Studies Diploma and a Masters degree in piano performance from the Université de Montréal, studying with Dr. Jean Saulnier. She is inspired by new ideas, good conversation, travel and long walks with her cyprus poodle.

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**Fred Rosenberg**  
**New York**  
**Chamber Players**  
*Concerti*

Fred Rosenberg, Clarinetist is currently 1st Clarinet with the New York Chamber Players Orchestra (Giacomo Franci, Music Director). He has held this position since 2006. Mr. Rosenberg has recorded with The New York Chamber Players Orchestra on the label, CRS (Contemporary Record Society) He was a featured clarinet soloist at Merkin Concert Hall with Giacomo Franci, Pianist. He has freelanced in NYC performing in a broad range of classical ensembles as a clarinetist including Empire State Sinfonia, Bleecker Street Opera, New Jersey Pops Orchestra, and the Goldman Band as well as many others. Mr. Rosenberg's freelance performance background includes multiple credits in Orchestras in Broadway Productions of "Les Miserables," "Cats," and "Titanic." Fred Rosenberg has recorded with Dance Clarinets, a jazz ensemble of clarinets with rhythm section. He was a judge for the annual competition for young soloists with the New York Chamber Players Orchestra for over ten years.



# *Our Team*



**Anna Ouspenskaya**

**Co-Founder, Host,  
Scriptwriter  
Virtual Concert Halls  
&  
Sound Espresso**



**James Welch**

**Co-Founder  
Progressive  
Musicians**



**Igor Zubkovsky**

**Co-Founder,  
Director of  
Productions, Editor  
Virtual Concert  
Halls**



**Frane Rušinović**

**Co-Founder &  
Technical Director  
Virtual Concert  
Halls**



**Jennifer Wang**

**Assistant Director  
Virtual Concert  
Halls**



**Chris Au**

**Host, script  
writer & social  
media manager  
Virtual Concert  
Halls**



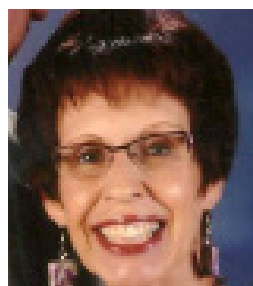
**Ante Božić-Kudrić**

**Technical  
Producer  
Virtual Concert  
Halls**



**Patrick Welch**

**Support Staff  
Progressive  
Musicians**



**Cathleen Welch**

**Support Staff  
Progressive  
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**Meet the Team**  
**VCHS**

Sound Espresso Global Competition  
 Anna Ouspenskaya





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