



Primrose International
Viola Competition
&
American Viola Society
Festival

June 17-22, 2024

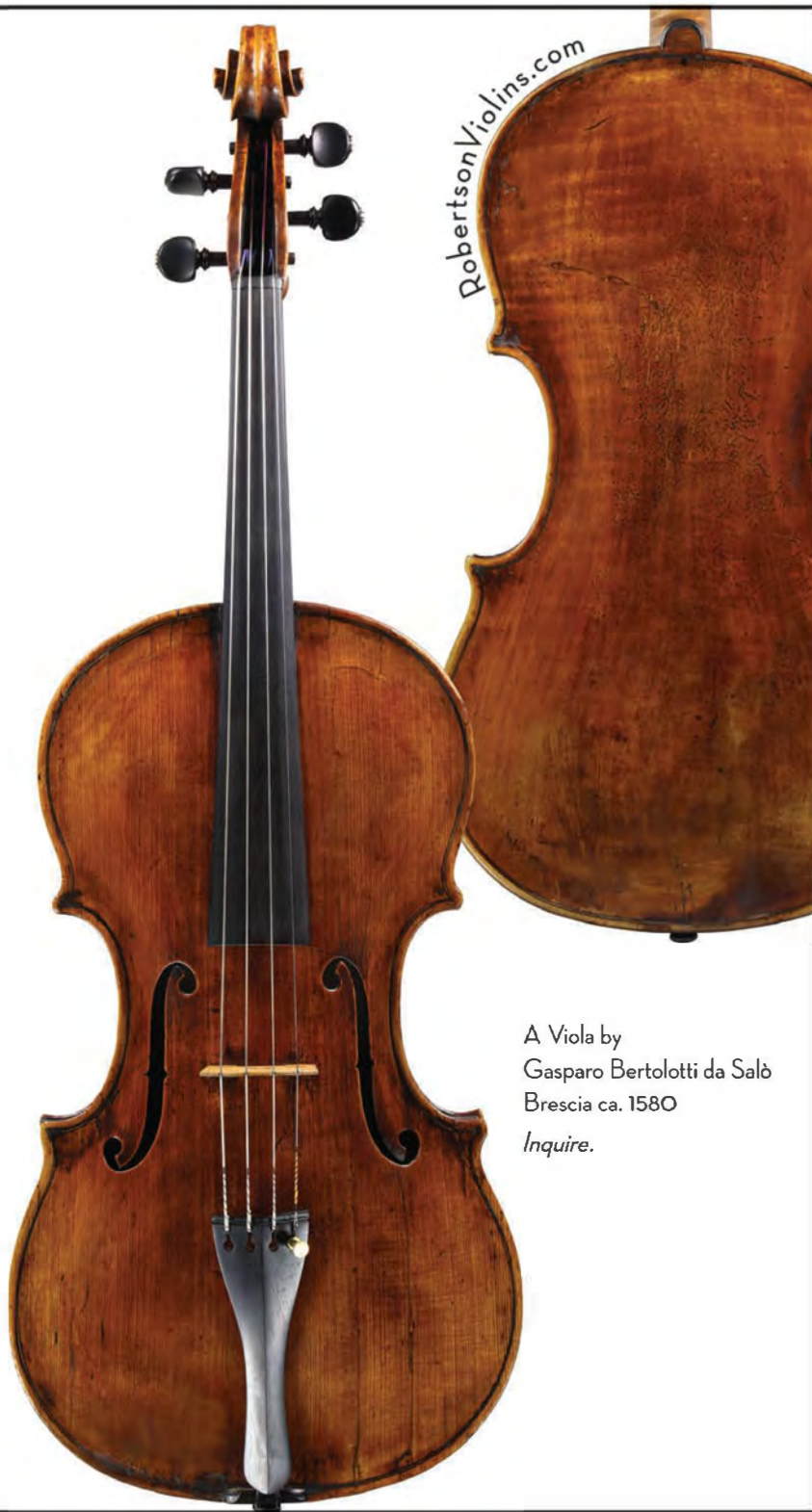


Co-presented by the Colburn School
and the American Viola Society

primrosecompetition.org
americanviolasociety.org

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2024 Primrose International Viola Competition & American Viola Society Festival

Colburn School, Los Angeles

June 17-22, 2024

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AVS Mission Statement

The American Viola Society inspires excellence and builds community through viola study, performance, research, composition, and lutherie. The premier source for all viola-related activities, the AVS is a non-profit organization that provides core resources for the global viola community.

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Welcome to the 2024
American Viola Society
Festival & Primrose
International Viola
Competition!

Welcome from the Colburn School



On behalf of the Colburn School, I am pleased to welcome the participants and attendees of the *Primrose International Viola Competition*® and the *2024 American Viola Society Festival* to Colburn’s beautiful campus in the heart of downtown Los Angeles.

Founded on the principle of access to excellence, the Colburn School has remained committed to providing the highest quality music and dance education to students at all levels of development, from beginners to those about to embark on professional careers, for nearly 75 years. Under the care and guidance of an exceptional faculty, the School has stewarded the careers of some of the world’s most accomplished musicians, vocalists, and dancers.

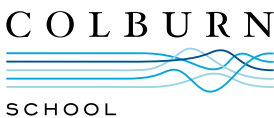
Likewise, the Primrose Competition has provided a launching pad for exceptional violists since its founding in 1979. It is an honor to continue our partnership with the American Viola Society in co-presenting this esteemed competition that pays homage to the respected legacy of William Primrose. This year, we are especially pleased to dedicate the competition to the memory of Dr. David Dalton, one of the world’s great champions of the viola, and welcome our inaugural honorary chair, Nokuthula Ngwenyama, 1993 Primrose Competition Winner and a graduate of Colburn School’s Community School of Performing Arts.

This will no doubt be an exciting week filled with competition, performance, and learning. Thank you for joining us for this memorable occasion and I hope you enjoy your time on the Colburn campus.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sel Kardan', written over a light blue wavy line graphic.

Sel Kardan
President and Chief Executive Officer



A Letter from the AVS President



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Welcome to the 2024 American Viola Society Festival & Primrose International Viola Competition! It has been six years since we last gathered here in beautiful downtown Los Angeles for a full AVS Festival and PIVC, and it is a thrill to be back on the Colburn campus. The AVS is so grateful to our partners at the Colburn School for their excellent stewardship of the Primrose Competition and for providing strong support and an incredible venue for our combined event. We can't wait to share this unparalleled

celebration of the viola with you!

This year we humbly dedicate our festival and competition events to **Dr. David Dalton**, a luminary of viola research and pedagogy, an early leader of the American Viola Society, and founder of the Primrose Competition. It is with deepest respect and gratitude for Dr. Dalton's vast contributions to the viola community that we remember him this week. Please refer to your program for sessions honoring Dr. Dalton's legacy during our festival.

In addition to the riveting live rounds of Primrose Competition, we are excited to present full evening programs by vibrant contemporary violist-composer **Jessica Meyer** and dynamic recitalist **Tatjana Masurenko**, as well as a joint PIVC Juror recital by revered performers **Atar Arad**, **Ayane Kozasa**, and **Steven Dann**.

We hope that you will enjoy the vast slate of AVS Festival and PIVC programming in Colburn's state-of-the-art facilities, and that in between events you'll visit our wonderful exhibitors. There are dedicated **Exhibitor Coffee Breaks on Thursday and Friday at 2:00-3:30pm**, so please be sure to take that time to explore what our sponsors and vendors have on offer and thank them for their presence and support. This year we also continue a new festival tradition begun in 2022, the AVS **Exhibition of Modern Violas and Bows**. Be sure to visit and play the instruments on exhibition and vote for their favorites in the categories of playability and tone, then hear them performed by Ben Ullery, Associate Principal Viola of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, on Saturday morning in Zipper Hall.

Be sure to check out Whova, the festival app, and take advantage of all the pre-recorded and virtual-only festival content. Thanks to Whova, you will have access to event recordings for three full months after the festival. Be sure to take advantage of this benefit of your registration!

As we kick off our exciting festival event, I want to give tremendous thanks to our wonderful hosts at the Colburn School and to the whole team that coordinated this extraordinary event. It truly takes a village to put on an event of this scope! On the AVS side, I want to recognize Festival Coordinator **Daphne Gerling**, Assistant Coordinator and Program Book Coordinator, **Christina Ebersohl-Van Sycoc**, Proposals Coordinator **Tony Devroye**, and Competitions Coordinator **Hsiaopei Lee**, who all put in countless hours to make this event a success. Without their tireless hard work, this event would not have been possible. When you see them, please thank our incredible festival team!

Thank you for your presence at this wonderful and historic event—we wish you a wonderful 2024 AVS Festival and PIVC!

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Ames Asbell". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a dark purple color.

Ames Asbell
AVS President

A Letter from the Festival Coordinator



Welcome from the AVS Festival Coordinator!

You're reading this! That means that after months of preparation, we are finally here, at the Colburn School, gathered for the most awaited viola gathering of 2024 in North America! I'm so excited to share the coming days with you, attending sessions, listening to our featured artist recitals, catching the Primrose live rounds, stopping by the exhibitors for the latest finds, and hearing the new violas as part of the Exhibition of Modern Violas and Bows.

The next four days offer you an opportunity to be truly immersed in every aspect of what we love best about our instrument. Our hope is that you will take advantage of as many sessions as possible, then take the next three months to catch up on anything you missed by watching virtual sessions once you get back home. Whova access will remain open for 90 days to give you a chance to relive all the great moments. Whova is also the place to go to participate in gamification and be eligible for terrific prizes from our sponsors. You can also share and display photos, and message other conference participants.

We are excited to recognize several members of the viola community with awards to celebrate their career achievements and their artistic, creative, and philanthropic contributions to the AVS. Join us at the AVS closing ceremony, the Exhibition for Modern Violas and Bows, and the evening concerts where we will share these honors.

Planning for this event has involved an incredible team. I wish especially to thank Ames Asbell and Christina Ebersohl-Van Scyoc, whose daily dedication to the AVS is unparalleled. Tony Devroye and Hsiaopei Lee took on herculean organizational tasks for the festival and rounded out our core team. We are indebted to the amazing Colburn personnel who took care of so many logistical details, especially Randy Osherow, Rachel Drudi, Jennifer Kallend, Nick Gianopolous, and Tara Grand. Caroline Skeels came on as our Vendor Coordinator Intern at just the right time and helped with numerous tasks. Thanks to all the Colburn senior administration for their commitment to our partnership, and to all the board members of the PIVC and the AVS for their teamwork to create each aspect of this beautiful event.

I look forward to meeting each of you and to all the moments that we will share this week.

Sincere thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daphne Gerling".

Daphne Gerling
2024 Festival Coordinator

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Acknowledgements

The American Viola Society would like to especially thank the following individuals and groups who have made the 2024 AVS Festival and Primrose International Viola Competition possible.

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Rachel Drudi, Facilities Scheduler and Rentals Manager
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Randy Osherow, Facilities and Special Projects
Tara Grand, Director, Office of Events and Special Programs

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2024 AVS Festival Program Book

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Sharon Wei, Live Round Jury

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Matt Pickart, Pre-screening Jury
Katherine Lewis, Pre-screening Jury
Katrin Meidell, Live Round Jury
Wendy Richman, Live Round Jury
Gregory Williams, Live Round Jury

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Trisha Berquist, Pre-screening Jury
Andrea Houde, Pre-screening Jury
Martha Carapetyan, Live Round Jury
Christiana Fortune-Reader, Live Round Jury
Peter Slowik, Live Round Jury

2024 AVSF Ensemble Invitational Committee

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Niloofer Sohi, Selection Round Jury
Rachel Riese, Selection Round Jury
Amir Nasser, Selection Round Jury

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Ruben Balboa
Nancy Buck
Philippe Chao
Christina Ebersohl-Van Scyoc
Juan-Miguel Hernandez
Kimia Hesabi
Gabrielle Padilla Molina
Rose Wollman

2024 PIVC Jurors

Ayane Kozasa, Jury Chairman
Atar Arad
Cathy Basrak
Ensik Choi
Steven Dann
Geraldine Walther

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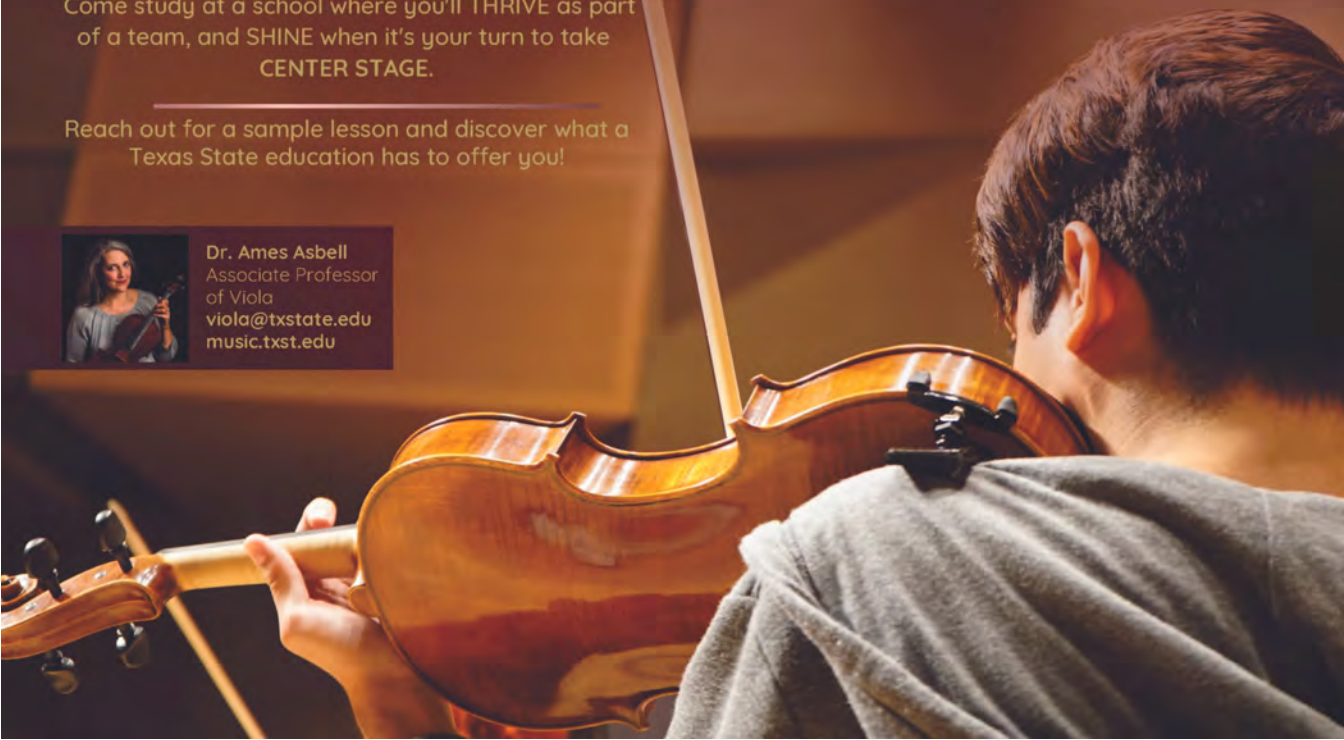
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Dr. Ames Asbell
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*2024 Primrose International Viola Competition & American Viola Society Festival
Dedicated to Dr. David Dalton*



In Loving Memory of Dr. David Dalton
1984-2022

David Johnson Dalton (January 18, 1934 - December 23, 2022) was an American violist, author, and professor emeritus at Brigham Young University (BYU). He graduated from Eastman School of Music in 1961 and received his doctorate in viola performance in 1970 at Indiana University School of Music under William Primrose. As a faculty member at BYU, Dalton's main contribution was the establishment of the Primrose International Viola Archive, one of the largest viola archives in the world. Dalton's other significant positions include editor of the *Journal of the American Viola Society*, president of the American Viola Society, and president of the International Viola Society.

"I leave you with one final charge: never forget how much we loved him - and never forget why. Likewise, please bear in mind how much he loved...each of us. "Leb' wohl, leb wohl, lieber Freund, bis wir uns oben treffen." Farewell, farewell my dear friend, until we meet above."

-Dwight Pounds, Ph.D.



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2024 American Viola Society Festival Featured Composers



Nokuthula Ngwenyama— “Mother of Peace” and “Lion” in Zulu, Nokuthula Ngwenyama has garnered recognition as an orchestral soloist, recitalist, chamber musician, and composer. Also known as “Thula,” her performances provide “solidly shaped music of bold mesmerizing character” (*Gramophone*). Her music has been performed by the Detroit Symphony, London Symphony, Chicago Symphony, Phoenix Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, New Jersey Symphony, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, Toronto Symphony, KwaZulu Natal Philharmonic, and the Orquesta Nacional de Madrid, among others. Her chamber works have been performed in North America, Africa, and Asia.

Ms. Ngwenyama gained international prominence winning the Primrose International Viola Competition at age 16. The following year, she won the Young Concert Artists International Auditions, which led to debuts at the Kennedy Center and the 92nd Street Y. As a recipient of the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant, she has performed as a soloist and in recitals around the world.

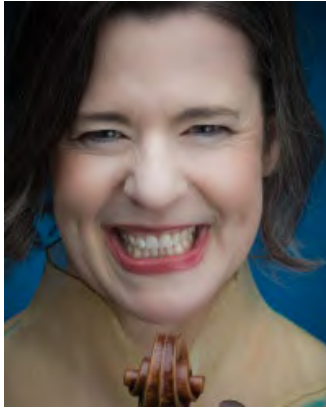
In the 2023–24 season, the renowned Takács Quartet premiered Ms. Ngwenyama’s quartet, “Flow.” Led by Cal Performances (Berkeley, California) and co-commissioned by the University Musical Society (Ann Arbor, Michigan), Shriver Hall Concerts (Baltimore, Maryland), 92nd Street Y (New York), Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, Friends of Chamber Music (Portland, Oregon), BroadStage (Santa Monica, California), and Capital Region Classical (Schenectady, New York), it celebrates the flow of natural history from our universe’s initial creative event to now.

As curator of Composer’s Choice, a co-production of Phoenix Chamber Music Society, ASU Kerr Cultural Center (Scottsdale, Arizona), and Peace Mama Productions, Ms. Ngwenyama presents “Cars Talk” for violin, viola, cello, and double bass with Ruggero Alliffranchini, Thomas Landschoot, and Nicholas Villalobos, and her concerto for viola and orchestra with piano reduction performed with pianist Eckart Sellheim.

Ms. Ngwenyama collaborates with instrumentalist-composers Valerie Coleman (flute) and Han Lash (harp) in their trio Umama Womama. She also joins Jaime Laredo, Bella Hristova, Milena Pajaro-van de Stadt, Sharon Robinson, and Keith “Robby” Robinson with her work “Sexagesimal Celebration,” opening Schoenberg and Dvořák sextets on the Linton Chamber Series (Cincinnati, Ohio).

Born in Los Angeles of Zimbabwean-Japanese parentage, Ms. Ngwenyama attended the Crossroads School for Arts and Sciences and the Colburn School of Performing Arts before graduating from the Curtis Institute of Music. As a Fulbright Scholar, she studied at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Paris and received a Master of Theological Studies from Harvard Divinity School. A voting member of the Recording Academy, Ms. Ngwenyama is the first composer in residence with the Phoenix Chamber Music Society. She resides with her family in Arizona on Tohono O’odham land.

2024 American Viola Society Festival Featured Composers



Melia Watras—Hailed by Gramophone as “an artist of commanding and poetic personality” and by The Strad as “staggeringly virtuosic,” Melia has sustained a distinguished career as a creator and facilitator of new music and art. The 2023-24 season includes the release of her new album *Play/Write*, which features her own compositions and works by Anne Leilehua Lanzilotti and Frances White; the world premiere of Watras’s *Fantasies* in alto clef for viola ensemble, commissioned by the American Viola Society for their 2024 festival in Los Angeles; and the debut of Watras’s *Sarabanda* for solo viola, which will be premiered and recorded as part of Atar Arad’s project, *Partita Party*.

Watras’s discography has received considerable attention from the press and the public. Her album *String Masks*, a collection of her own compositions including the titular work which utilizes Harry Partch instruments, was praised for “not only the virtuoso’s sensitive playing, but also her innovative and daring spirit,” by the *Journal of the American Viola Society*. Her compositional debut album, *Firefly Songs*, was hailed for “distilling rich life experiences into strikingly original musical form” by *Textura*. *Schumann Resonances* was described by the *American Record Guide* as “a rare balance of emotional strength and technical delicacy.” The *Strad* called *26* “a beautiful celebration of 21st century viola music.” *Ispirare* made numerous Best of 2015 lists, including the *Chicago Reader*’s (“Watras knocked the wind out of me with the dramatically dark beauty of this recording”). *Short Stories* was a *Seattle Times* Critics’ Pick, with the newspaper marveling at her “velocity that seems beyond the reach of human fingers.” Of her debut solo CD (*Viola Solo*), *Strings* praised her “stunning virtuosic talent” and called her second release (*Prestidigitation*) “astounding and both challenging and addictive to listen to.”

Watras’s compositions have been performed in New York City, Chicago, Seattle, Bloomington (IN), Columbus (GA), Denmark, Spain, Switzerland and Wales. She has been commissioned by the Avalon String Quartet, violinists Mark Fewer, Rachel Lee Priday and Michael Jinsoo Lim, cellist Sæunn Thorsteinsdóttir, pianist Cristina Valdés, accordionist Jeanne Velonis, violist Rose Wollman, and has had works performed by artists such as violist Atar Arad, singer Galia Arad, pianist Winston Choi, Harry Partch Instrumentarium Director Charles Corey, violinists Tekla Cunningham, Manuel Guillén and Yura Lee, vocalist Carrie Henneman Shaw, percussionist Bonnie Whiting and the ensemble *Frequency*. Her music has been heard on National Public Radio’s *Performance Today*, and can be found on the albums *Play/Write*; *String Masks*; *3 Songs for Bellows, Buttons and Keys*; *Firefly Songs*; *Schumann Resonances* and *26*. Watras’s adaptation of John Corigliano’s *Fancy* on a Bach Air for viola is published by G. Schirmer, Inc. and can be heard on her *Viola Solo* album.

Watras is currently Professor of Viola and Chair of Strings at the University of Washington, where she holds the Ruth Sutton Waters Endowed Professorship and was awarded the Adelaide D. Currie Cole Endowed Professorship, the Donald E. Petersen Endowed Fellowship, the Krielsheimer and Jones Grant for Research Excellence in the Arts, and the Royalty Research Fund. She plays a viola made by Samuel Zygmuntowicz.

2024 American Viola Society Festival Featured Composers



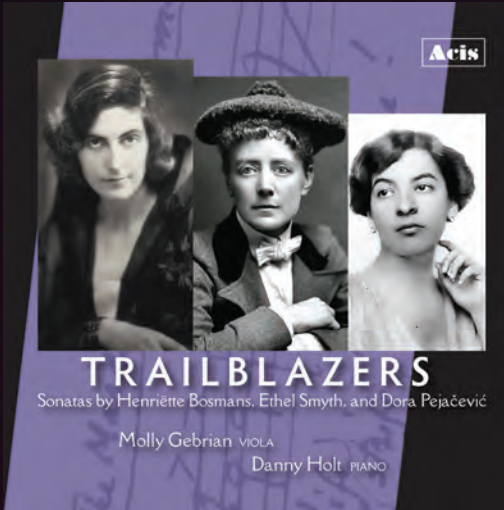
Michael Kimber– (b. 1945) A prolific performer, Michael has toured throughout the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Australia, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, England, Spain, and Italy. He has been featured as a viola soloist on Australian Broadcasting Commission radio and on National Public Radio's "Performance Today." His experience includes concert tours as violist of the Kronos Quartet, fifteen years as violist of the Atlanta Virtuosi, twelve seasons as principal violist of the Kansas City Chamber Orchestra, fifteen seasons with Kansas City's Summerfest chamber series, over thirty solo appearances with orchestras, scores of solo recitals, and hundreds of chamber music performances.

His compositions, mostly for viola, have been widely acclaimed and performed both in the U.S. and abroad. Eminent Polish violist Marcin Murawski has recorded eight CDs of Kimber's music for viola(s). In 2002 Kimber received the music composition award of the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters. In 2010 he was a recipient of the American Viola Society's Founders Award in recognition of his compositions for viola. In 2021 his string orchestra composition *Perseverance* received honorable mention in the 75th Anniversary Composition Competition of the American String Teachers Association. In 2023 he was the recipient of the prestigious Silver Alto Clef award of the International Viola Society in recognition of his contributions to the viola worldwide. From 2019 to 2023 he served as composer-in-residence for Red Cedar Chamber Music; videos of their performances of his music that they have commissioned can be viewed on their YouTube channel. Kimber's music has also been featured in festivals of the Iowa Composers Forum and has been twice selected for performance on *Fifteen Minutes of Fame*, a production of Vox Novus.

In 1990 Kimber designed the poly-pad shoulder rest, tens of thousands of which have been purchased by violinists and violists in all 50 states, D.C., and 21 foreign countries. This simple, ergonomically designed poly-foam pad has been praised again and again for promoting correct, relaxed playing posture as well as relieving chronic discomfort sometimes experienced by violinists and violists.

After twenty-five years as a viola professor, first at The University of Kansas and then at The University of Southern Mississippi, Dr. Kimber has resided since 2004 in Iowa City, where his wife, Dr. Marian Wilson Kimber, is professor of musicology at The University of Iowa. Recipient of the Iowa String Teachers Association Studio Teacher Award for 2011-12, he taught viola at Coe College from 2005 until his retirement in 2020. He has also been visiting professor of viola at the University of Iowa (spring semesters of 2007 and 2016) and at the University of Northern Iowa (spring semester 2011). Previously active as a solo and chamber music performer, he was a member of the viola section of Orchestra Iowa from 2004 until his retirement in 2024. His years of service to the orchestra were recognized publicly at his last concert.

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WINGS
Chamber Music by Rami Levin

2024 Rami Levin's "Linguas Fraternas (Fraternal Languages) for viola and piano (2019)". Performed by Anthony Devroye.



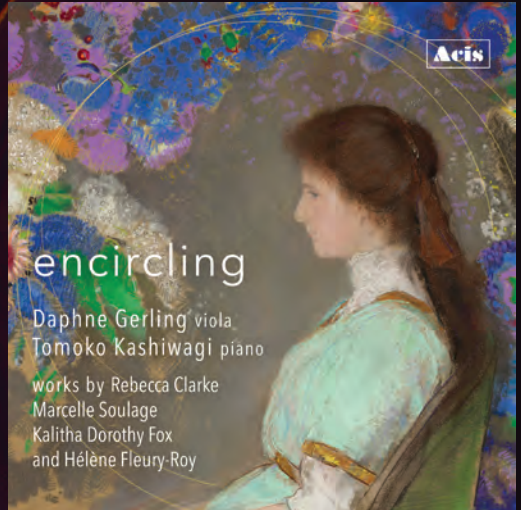
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New Orchestra of Washington
Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez

2017 Elena Ruehr's "Shadow Light, Concerto for Viola and Strings (2016)". Performed by Marcus Thompson.

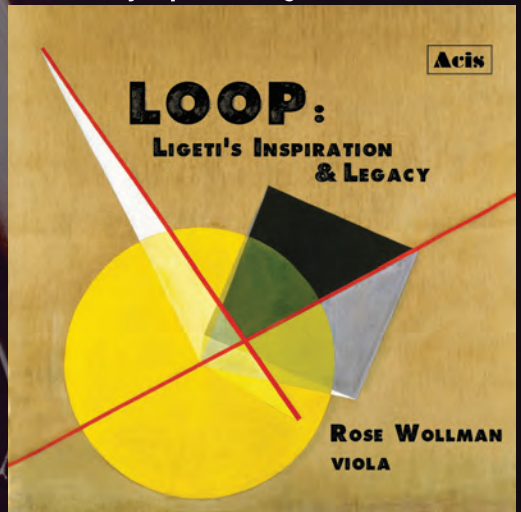


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encircling
Daphne Gerling viola
Tomoko Kashiwagi piano

works by Rebecca Clarke
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2024 A program of works surrounding the time and legacy of the 1919 Coolidge competition. Performed by Daphne Gerling.



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2024 Primrose International Viola Competition & American Viola Society Festival

Schedule of Events — SUNDAY, JUNE 16 - TUESDAY, JUNE 18

SUNDAY

June 16, 2024

10:00 am - 10:30 am

Primrose International Viola Competition Drawing of Lots
Mayman Hall

6:00 pm - 6:45 pm

Primrose International Viola Competition Opening Ceremony
Mayman Hall

MONDAY

June 17, 2024

10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Primrose International Viola Competition Quarter-Final Round, Pool 1
Zipper Hall

2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Primrose International Viola Competition Quarter-Final Round Continued, Pool 2
Zipper Hall

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Primrose International Viola Competition Quarter-Final Round Continued, Pool 3
Zipper Hall

TUESDAY

June 18, 2024

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Primrose International Viola Competition Quarter-Final Round, Pool 4
Zipper Hall

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Primrose International Viola Competition Quarter-Final Round Continued, Pool 5
Zipper Hall

4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

AVSF Competition Registration & Check-In
Grand Building Lobby

2024 Primrose International Viola Competition & American Viola Society Festival

Schedule of Events – WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 2024

WEDNESDAY

June 19, 2024

8:00 am - 7:30 pm

Attendee Registration

Grand Building Lobby

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

AVS Collegiate Solo Competition (18 and older)

Jurors: Karen Ritscher, Sharon Wei, & Aurélien Pétillot

Zipper Hall

<i>Cello Suite No.4, BWV 1010</i> I. Prelude (1685-1750)	J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
<i>Sonata for Viola and Piano</i> I. Allegretto	Modesta Bor (1926-1998)
<i>Rhapsody-Concerto</i> I. Moderato	Bohuslav Martinů (1890-1959)

Alice Ford, viola
Yu-Ting Peng, piano

<i>Cello Suite No.5, BWV 1011</i> I. Prelude	J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
<i>Sonata for Viola and Piano</i> I. Allegretto	Modesta Bor (1926-1998)
<i>Der Schwanendreher</i> I. Zwischen Berg und tiefem Tal	Paul Hindemith (1895-1963)

April Kwon, viola
Yu-Ting Peng, piano

<i>Cello Suite No.5, BWV 1011</i> I. Prelude	J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
<i>Sonata for Viola and Piano</i> I. Allegretto	Modesta Bor (1926-1998)
<i>Viola Concerto</i> I. Con moto moderato e flessibile	Walter Piston (1894-1976)

Nilli Tayidi, viola
Nikki Tayidi, piano

2024 Primrose International Viola Competition & American Viola Society Festival
Schedule of Events – WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 2024

Cello Suite No. 3, BWV 1009
I. Prelude

J.S. Bach
(1685-1750)

Sonata for Viola and Piano
I. Allegretto

Modesta Bor
(1926-1998)

Rhapsody-Concerto
I. Moderato

Bohuslav Martinů
(1890-1959)

Victoria Skinner, viola
Yi-Ting Peng, piano

Cello Suite No. 4, BWV 1010
I. Prelude

J.S. Bach
(1685-1750)

Sonata for Viola and Piano
I. Allegretto

Modesta Bor
(1926-1998)

Viola Concerto
I. Moderato assai

Miklós Rózsa
(1907-1995)

Grace Leonard, viola
Yi-Ting Peng, piano

Cello Suite No. 2, BWV 1008
I. Prelude

J.S. Bach
(1685-1750)

Sonata for Viola and Piano
I. Allegretto

Modesta Bor
(1926-1998)

Viola Concerto
I. Moderato

Béla Bartók
(1881-1945)

Seth Goodman, viola
Yi-Ting Peng, piano

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

AVSF Senior Solo Competition (14 to 18)

Jurors: Katrin Meidell, Wendy Richman & Gregory Williams

Thayer Hall

Cello Suite No. 6, BWV 1012
I. Prelude

J.S. Bach
(1685-1750)

"Peace"

Jessie Montgomery
(b. 1981)

Suite Hébraïque
I. Rhapsodie

Ernest Bloch
(1880-1959)

Kayla Kim, viola
Hyewoon Chang, piano

2024 Primrose International Viola Competition & American Viola Society Festival

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Cello Suite No.3, BWV 1009
I. Prelude

J.S. Bach
(1685-1750)

"Peace"

Jessie Montgomery
(b. 1981)

Viola Concerto
I. Andante comodo

William Walton
(1902-1983)

Sophia Nam, viola
Mikhail Korzhev, piano

Cello Suite No.4, BWV 1010
I. Prelude

J.S. Bach
(1685-1750)

"Peace"

Jessie Montgomery
(b. 1981)

Der Schwanendreher
I. Zwischen Berg und tiefem Tal

Paul Hindemith
(1895-1963)

Mason Lee, viola
Yu-Ting Peng, piano

Cello Suite No.3, BWV 1009
I. Prelude

J.S. Bach
(1685-1750)

"Peace"

Jessie Montgomery
(b. 1981)

Viola Concerto
II. Andante religioso
III. Allegro vivace

Béla Bartók
(1881-1945)

Logan Purser, viola
Mikhail Korzhev, piano

Cello Suite No.4, BWV 1010
I. Prelude

J.S. Bach
(1685-1750)

"Peace"

Jessie Montgomery
(b. 1981)

Viola Concerto in D Major, Op.1
I. Risoluto

Johann Stamitz
(1717-1757)

Dustin Breshears, viola
Hyewoon Chang, piano

Cello Suite No.2, BWV 1008
I. Prelude

J.S. Bach
(1685-1750)

"Peace"

Jessie Montgomery
(b. 1981)

Der Schwanendreher
I. Zwischen Berg und tiefem Tal

Paul Hindemith
(1895-1963)

Lillianna Wodzis, viola
Hyewoon Chang, piano

2024 Primrose International Viola Competition & American Viola Society Festival

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9:00 am - 12:00 pm

AVS Junior Solo Competition (14 and under)

Jurors: Peter Slowik, Martha Carapetyan, & Christiana Fortune-Reader

Mayman Hall

Cello Suite No.1, BWV 1007
I. Prelude J.S. Bach
(1685-1750)

Viola Concerto in D Major, Op.1
II. Adagio Franz Anton Hoffmeister
(1754-1812)

“Windy Nights” Elaine Fine
(b. 1959)

McKayla Hwang, viola **Minhye Choi, piano**

Cello Suite No.2, BWV 1008
I. Prelude J.S. Bach
(1685-1750)

Viola Concerto in D Major
II. Adagio Franz Anton Hoffmeister
(1754-1812)

“Windy Nights” Elaine Fine
(b. 1959)

Neena Agrawal, viola **Hsin-I Huang, piano**

Cello Suite No.1, BWV 1007
I. Prelude J.S. Bach
(1685-1750)

Concerto for Viola in C Minor
II. Allegro molto espressivo J.C. Bach/H. Casadesus
(1879-1947)

“Windy Nights” Elaine Fine
(b. 1959)

Ellie Washecka, viola **Hsin-I Huang, piano**

Cello Suite No.3, BWV 1009
I. Prelude J.S. Bach
(1685-1750)

Viola Concerto in D Major
II. Adagio Johann Stamitz
(1717-1757)

“Windy Nights” Elaine Fine
(b. 1959)

Jennifer Kang, viola **Minhye Choi, piano**

2024 Primrose International Viola Competition & American Viola Society Festival Schedule of Events – WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 2024

Cello Suite No.1, BWV 1007
I. Prelude

J.S. Bach
(1685-1750)

Concerto for Viola in C Minor
II. Allegro molto espressivo

J.C. Bach/H. Casadesus
(1879-1947)

"Windy Nights"

Elaine Fine
(b. 1959)

Aria Kim, viola **Minhye Choi, piano**

Cello Suite No.3, BWV 1009
I. Prelude

J.S. Bach
(1685-1750)

Viola Concerto in D Major, Op.1
II. Adagio

Franz Anton Hoffmeister
(1754-1812)

"Windy Nights"

Elaine Fine
(b. 1959)

Anya Gilchenok, viola **Minhye Choi, piano**

9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Primrose International Viola Competition Semi-Final Round

Zipper Hall

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Exhibits Coffee Break

The Acre

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

AVS Orchestral Audition Competition and Seminar

Jurors: Melissa Matson, Gloria Lum, & Meredith Snow

Thayer Hall

The Orchestral Audition Seminar provides a unique experience for festival attendees to listen behind the screen from the perspective of the judging panel. The semi-final and final round will be followed by a panel discussion from the jurors on the audition process. *Orchestral Audition Seminar Finalists: Devin Burgess, Sumin Cheong, Gina Gravagne, Eleanor Hammersly, Jay Julio, Isabella Marques, Angela Rubin, and Joyce Tseng.*

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Lecture

Olive 270

The Dalton-Primrose Collaboration

Dwight Pounds - This presentation will consist of a lecture augmented by 21 slides on the collaboration of David Dalton and William Primrose and the fruits of their efforts to the benefit of all violists worldwide. Given his recent passing and the fact that the festival is dedicated to his memory, emphasis will be given to David Dalton's career, particularly his service to the AVS and the IVS, the roles he played, his citations, and his publications.

2024 Primrose International Viola Competition & American Viola Society Festival

Schedule of Events – WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 2024

1:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Primrose International Viola Competition Semi-Final Round Continued

Zipper Hall

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Lecture-Recital

Mayman Hall

A Compositional Trinity: Three Caprices Evoking Heritage, Faith, and Urban Culture.

Aiveen Gallagher - The "Trinity Caprices" demonstrate virtuosity and technical brilliance whilst embodying elements of artistic identity. Caprice No.1, Aisling (a Vision), evokes aspects of Ireland's cultural music. Caprice No.2, Vocate ad Mariam (Call to Mary) is inspired by sacred music aesthetics. Caprice No.3, Urbana, has a distinct influence from 1980's minimalism weaved into the fabric of multicultural popular and global genres. They explore different sound worlds through experimentation with timbre, textures, extended techniques, and electronics.

Trinity Caprices

I. Aisling

II. Vocate Ad Mariam

III. Urbana

Aiveen Gallagher

(b.1986)

2:15 pm - 3:15 pm

Lecture

Olive 272

Inspiring Curiosity, Self-Discovery, and Connection in the Viola Studio Setting

Molly Wilkens-Reed - Teachers have many hopes for their students when it comes to studying the viola. Curiosity in the learning process, self-discovery, and connection with community are all things we hope to help students find while they pursue viola study. This session will focus on using creative projects to inspire curiosity and self-discovery in the areas of research and scholarship, new music, music of underrepresented composers, practice habits, string pedagogy, and much more!

3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Lecture

Olive 270

What Technology (including Virtual Reality) Can Teach Us About the Bow Arm

Katherine Lewis - String players have long been fascinated by how sound and articulation are produced in their bow arms and the visual patterns they produce. Beautiful images from Jascha Heifetz and photographer Gjon Mili's 1950's collaboration involving lights attached to Heifetz's bow are testaments to the complexity of the bow arm, but hard to use as a pedagogical or research tool. This lecture will demonstrate how VR and other electronic tracking options can allow us new insights into the inner workings of the bow arm to use as a performance and pedagogical tool.

3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Lecture

Olive 272

On Shubho Lhaw Qolo: The Confluence of Maqam and Western Compositional Techniques

Sami Seif - Join Sami Seif as he dissects his viola concerto, Shubho Lhaw Qolo, in a three-part lecture: 'Exploration of Pitch and Maqam,' 'Multidirectional Form and Tonal Shifts,' and 'Memory, Anticipation, and Musical Time.' Delve into the unique blend of Maqam scales and Western techniques, the multidirectional form, and the psychological aspects of musical time. This lecture unravels a new perspective on the fusion of cross-cultural musical elements, suggesting new directions for engaging with viola repertoire.

2024 Primrose International Viola Competition & American Viola Society Festival

Schedule of Events – WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 2024

4:45 pm - 5:45 pm

AVS Shared Recital

Thayer Hall

Storytelling

Four Flashbacks
I. With Bustling Energy
II. Gentle
III. Driving
IV. Quiet, Calm

Kenji Bunch
(b.1973)

Miniature Suite
I. March
II. Berceuse
III. Minuet and Trio
IV. Fugue

Gordon Jacob
(1895-1984)

PoCo Duo: Sarah Manasreh, *clarinet* & Mary Moran, *viola*

Through the clarinet and viola works by two American Composers, Kenji Bunch and Michael Kimber, PoCo Duo explores bittersweet nostalgia, repercussions of the past, and the excitement of our best memories. Kenji Bunch's *Four Flashbacks* is a dynamic journey into the memories of a place once called home. Filled with gentle melodies, emotional dissonance, and playful counterpoint, this recital highlights the thrilling sonic possibilities of clarinet and viola through compelling repertoire that evokes memories of the past.

Hex's Bonfire

Lindsey Wiehl
(b. 1993)

Gabrielle Padilla Molina, *viola*, James Thompson, *flute* & Lindsey Wiehl, *bassoon*

"Hex's Bonfire" is a trio for flute, bassoon, and viola written by performer and composer Lindsey Wiehl in 2021. The composition was created alongside a visual presentation that matches the tale of Hex's Bonfire. While the piece may be performed as a standalone musical performance, the visual element was made especially to match the timing and story of the music. This work premiered at the 2022 National Flute Association Convention in Chicago, Illinois.

The Voyage
The Rough Open Sea
The English Channel
The 9 Muses
The Lion's Spring Dance

Reena Esmail
(b. 1983)

Sharon Wei, *viola*, Scott St. John, *violin* & Julia St. John, *violin*

In 2020, during the first summer of the pandemic, Indian American composer Reena Esmail wrote a new work for our family. "Her work is between the worlds of Indian and Western classical music and brings communities together through the creation of equitable musical spaces." This US premiere of her wonderful new trio was workshopped over Zoom and written for multi-level players (an intermediate player with two professionals). The titles were given by the young violinist.

4:45 pm - 5:45 pm

Lecture-Recital

Mayman Hall

Telemann's 12 Fantasies for Viola da Gamba Solo: Considerations & Challenges

Misha Galaganov - Recently-rediscovered Fantasies for Viola da Gamba by Georg Philipp Telemann are almost perfectly suited for the modern viola in tonal qualities, range, and character. The pieces are written mostly in viola clef and for an instrument similar in sound to the viola. This lecture-recital will feature examples of the works, focusing on important considerations in making adaptations for the viola, including range, voicing, transposition, improvisation, and more.

2024 Primrose International Viola Competition & American Viola Society Festival

Schedule of Events – WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 2024

4:45 pm - 5:45 pm

Lecture

Olive 270

Occupational Health Problems of Violists, an Epidemiological Study

Hollie Dzierzanowski - Violists represent an occupational group with specific biopsychosocial demands, including the physical characteristics of the viola, viola-specific repertoire and performance techniques, and the unique occupational role violists play in the social context of classical music. In addition to the lack of viola-specific data due to researchers grouping string players together, novel web-based survey methodologies based on biopsychosocial frameworks offer increased specificity and precision regarding the lived experiences and consequences of performance-related musculoskeletal pain at specific body sites, non-musculoskeletal problems, and psychosocial challenges including being on the receiving end of viola jokes. For example, while only one known article documents the viola joke cycle, no known studies have reported on the influence of these jokes on violists. The purpose of this study was to apply these new research methodologies to better understand the occupational health problems of violists. Representing the first known epidemiological study exclusively for violists, this study deployed new survey protocols that allowed for detailed assessment of playing-related musculoskeletal problems of violists.

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Primrose International Viola Competition Semi-Final Round Continued

Zipper Hall

7:30 pm - 8:30 pm

The Primrose Recital, with Featured Artist Jessica Meyer

Zipper Hall

Sounds of Being: a Collection of Self-Composed Works for Loop Pedal and Viola

<i>Source of Joy</i>	Jessica Meyer
<i>Hello</i>	(b.1974)
<i>Getting Home (I must be...)</i>	
<i>Flooded Flower on the Destin Shore</i>	
<i>Duende</i>	

Love Songs (a collection of words & music)

- I. The Light that Still Lives (poem: "Eros" by Jennifer Beattie)
- II. The in between only us (poem: "I do not" by Lucy Anderton)
- III. Touch (poem: "Riverside Park, Late Summer" by Giancarlo Latta)
- IV. Unbearable Lightness (poem: "Not Anyone Who Says" by Mary Oliver)

Works for Solo Viola

- I. Naughty Kitty (from "Snapshots")
- II. Delta Sunrise
- III. Tempest (from "Snapshots")

Swerve

8:30 pm

AVSF Opening Ceremony & PIVC Finalists Announcement

Zipper Hall

*2024 American Viola Society Festival Featured Artist
Jessica Meyer*



With playing that is “fierce and lyrical” and works that are “other-worldly” (The Strad) and “evocative” (New York Times), Jessica Meyer is an award-winning composer and violist whose passionate musicianship radiates accessibility and emotional clarity. Meyer's first composer/performer portrait album, *Ring Out* (Bright Shiny Things, 2019) debuted at #1 on the Billboard Traditional Classical Chart. Her second album *I long and seek after*, a collection of her vocal works which feature strings, was recently released in March of 2024 on New Focus Recordings and was hailed by Musical America as “gorgeously scored.”

Since the start of her composition career in 2014 at age 40, Meyer's compositions have viscerally explored the wide palette of colors available to each instrument while combining techniques inspired by her experiences as a contemporary and period instrumentalist. Her works have been performed in venues from the Kennedy Center to Carnegie Hall, by musicians of the Minnesota Orchestra and the New York Philharmonic, and by orchestras around the country. Her first Symphonic Band piece was commissioned and toured by “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band and was a finalist for the William D. Revelli Composition Contest. She has also received multiple commissioning awards from both Chamber Music America and the New York State Council on the Arts.

Premieres have included performances by GRAMMY-winning vocal ensembles Roomful of Teeth and Vox Clamantis, the St. Lawrence String Quartet as the composer in residence at Spoleto Festival USA, the American Brass Quintet, PUBLIQuartet, Sybarite 5, NOVUS NY of Trinity Wall Street, a work for *A Far Cry* commissioned by the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston, the Juilliard School for a project with the Historical Performance Program, and by the Lorelei Ensemble for a song cycle that received the Dale Warland Singers Commission Award from Chorus America. Recent premieres included works for the Dorian Wind Quintet, Hausmann Quartet, Hub New Music, the Portland Youth Philharmonic in collaboration with the female vocal ensemble *In Mulieribus*, and her viola concerto GAEA that she premiered alongside the Orchestra of the League of Composers at Miller Theatre in NYC. Upcoming premieres include a new companion piece to the Brahms songs for the Brooklyn Art Song Society, a work for trombone and organ for the American Guild of Organists in honor of their National 2024 Conference, a work for viola and piano commissioned by the Pre-College Department of The Juilliard School, and a new orchestral piece to be premiered by a consortium of orchestras across the United States.

At home with many different styles of music, Jessica can regularly be seen as a soloist, premiering her chamber works, performing on Baroque viola, improvising with jazz musicians, or collaborating with other composer-performers. Ms. Meyer is equally known for her inspirational work as an educator, where she empowers musicians with networking, communication, teaching, and entrepreneurial skills so they can be the best advocates for their own careers. She is also passionate about getting musicians of all ages off the page to activate their own creativity, improvise, and awaken their own inner composer - which in turn makes them better performers. In 2023, she joined both the Viola and Chamber Music Faculty of the Manhattan School of Music.

THURSDAY

June 20, 2024

8:00 am - 7:30 pm

Attendee Registration

Grand Building Lobby

8:00 am - 9:00 am

Mass Viola Ensemble Rehearsal

Zipper Hall

9:15 am - 10:15 am

Lecture-Recital

Mayman Hall

A Celebration of 40- An Exploration of the Works of Anthony Green

Gregory K. Williams - This recital explores several solo works composed by composer, pianist, and social justice artist Anthony R. Green, celebrating his work for viola. This performance will include: *Nachtspiel* (2006); *Two Pages for Kara* (2011), *on/Zeker* (composed originally for violin in 2012, with the viola version completed in 2020); and the premiere of a commissioned work for viola and recording.

Nachtspiel (2006)

Anthony Green
(b.1984)

Two Pages for Kara (2011)

*written in memory of my sister, Kara Williams

on/Zeker (2012)

*viola transcription, (2020)

9:15 am - 10:15 am

Workshop

Olive 270

Get Grounded!

Karen Ritscher - Want more performance confidence? Let's get grounded! A session of embodiment and alignment, to strengthen our connection to gravity and play from our more deeply connected hearts. Bring your breath, curiosity, and truest selves!

9:15 am - 10:15 am

Lecture

Olive 272

The Unsung Viola: Works for Choir and Viola

Aurélien Pétillot - Though most of us are likely aware of the lyricism of the viola and of its magical pairing with the voice, there is a particularly rich and varied repertoire of works for choir and viola that has remained unknown, despite true gems by composers as diverse as Gabrieli, Schubert, Morricone, Reger, Janacek, Martinů, Schoenberg, and Libby Larsen. This Lecture will shed light on that repertoire in hopes that it will find its way to concert stages.

2024 Primrose International Viola Competition & American Viola Society Festival

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10:30 am - 11:30 am

AVSF Emerging Artist Recital: Namgon Lee & Julie Michael

Zipper Hall

Baroque and Beyond

<i>Fantasia X</i>	Alonso Mudarra (1510-1580) <i>Arr. by Namgon Lee (b. 1991)</i>
<i>Lute Suite in C Minor</i> BWV 997 II. Fuga	Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) <i>Arr. by Namgon Lee (b. 1991)</i>
<i>Ave Maria, Gratia plena</i>	Bartolomeo Tromboncino (c. 1470 - 1535)
<i>Theme and Variations on a Persian Lullaby</i>	Namgon Lee (b.1991)

Namgon Lee, *viola* Jeffrey Laver, *harpsichord*

Of many, 'Fantasia X' is Mudarra's better-known composition. The fantasia uses cross-rhythms and bold chromaticism, resulting in sudden changes of modes and cross-relation. On arranging for the viola, I transposed the piece into a step higher to maximize the use of the open string. Roman's arrangements on Pergolesi's 'Stabat Mater' are unique examples of a solo string. Inspired by his, I arranged the first movement of the same piece for the unaccompanied viola. Although it is called a lute suite, Bach probably wrote BWV 997 for the lautenwerk. Two lute arrangements of Bach's unaccompanied works for strings made me think, "what if this lute suite was an arrangement of a lost work?" My transcription is an answer to this imaginary question. Theme and Variation is one of the most common forms when writing for a solo repertoire due to its ability to show creativity and virtuosity. Imagine me as an 18th-century composer; I composed a theme and Variation based on a traditional Persian lullaby.

Triptych

Open C

<i>ko'u inoa</i>	Leilehua Lanzilotti (b.1983)
<i>Viola Sonata</i> I. Hora Lunga	György Ligeti (1923-2006)
<i>Study for String Instrument #1</i>	Simon Steen-Andersen (b.1976)
<i>En un tournemain</i>	Georges Aperghis (b.1945)
<i>into the sea</i>	Julie Michael (b.1990)
<i>Viola Sonata</i> Op. 25, no. 1 IV. Rasendes Zeitmaß	Paul Hindemith (1895-1963)
<i>Pizzicato</i> <i>Junk drawer #1-4</i>	Julie Michael (b. 1990)

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<i>Nine Fingers</i>	Garth Knox (b.1956)
<i>Solo Suite No. 2 in DM, Op. 131.d</i> III. Allegretto	Max Reger (1873-1916)
<i>Cello Suite No.1: Serenata</i>	Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)
<i>Cadenza Jig</i> * from <i>Signs, Games, and Messages</i>	György Kurtág (b. 1926)
<i>Parlando</i>	
<i>Verbum caro</i>	Orlando di Lasso (1532-1594) <i>Arr. by Julie Michael</i>
<i>Variations on Product #1</i> * from <i>Genesis</i>	Andrew Hamilton (b.1977) <i>Arr. by Julie Michael</i>
<i>Manto</i> III.	Giacinto Scelsi (1905-1988)
<i>Doloroso</i> * from <i>Signs, Games, and Messages</i>	György Kurtág (b. 1926)

Julie Michael, viola

First section, Open C – introduction: unity branching into many dimensions

With its first piece based on a Hawaiian greeting ritual, this section introduces listeners to the defining characteristic of the viola: its C-string, which lends the instrument a low, mellow voice and a sonority that composer György Ligeti described as having “the aftertaste of wood, earth, and tannic acid.”

Second section, Pizzicato – searching: cyclical transformations, finding oneself

This section becomes more intimate: listeners must get close to hear the softer sounds of plucked strings as the performer explores, tries on one object after another in a repeating, ritualistic search for the right fit, the right sound and identity.

Third section, Parlando – remembrance: faith, absurdity, hope, joy

This final section adds a layer of sung and spoken voice to the sound of the viola, concluding the program with miniature reflections on human belief and faith, from creation stories to prophets to mourning rites.

10:30 am – 11:30 am

Lecture-Recital

Mayman Hall

Showcase: Six Young Artists plus Six New Works

Northern California Viola Society - Hear six recent winners of the NCVS Young Violists Competition and international Composition Contest along with advice from the organizers on how to create meaningful contests. Board officers, an adjudicator and composer round out the panel.

<i>Micro Suite for Viola</i>	Dario Duarte (b.1986)
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Rebekah Sung (2024 winner)

<i>Baby Elephant Wandering</i> <i>Deep in Thought</i>	Alischer Ikramutdinov (b.1965)
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Colin Breshears (2024 winner)

2024 Primrose International Viola Competition & American Viola Society Festival

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Cantilena

Dr. Andersen Viana
(b.1962)

Jennifer Kang (2023 winner)

Viola and Cesario for Solo Viola

Andrew M. Wilson
(b.1960)

Michelle Koo (2021 winner)

Cogitatio

Denise Ondishko
(b.1960)

Pearl de la Motte (2020 winner)

Out of Mud

Denise Ondishko
(b.1960)

Sydney Whipple (2019 winner)

10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Masterclass: PIVC Juror Atar Arad

Olive 270

12:45 pm - 2:15 pm

Masterclass: AVSF Featured Artist Jessica Meyers

Olive 270

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Lecture

Olive 272

Sustainable Instrument Making: Finding Alternatives to Rare Woods

Kathy Reilly - Viola-making honors a craft that has found a balance between form and function. The woods used, Maple, Spruce, and Ebony primarily, were selected for the beauty, tonal capacities, and strength. Quality materials are harder to find and forests of Ebony, Pernambuco, and even common species—Spruce and Maple—are over-forested and affected by climate change. Beautiful, sustainable materials exist! Reilly will describe legal requirements surrounding wood and her journey towards sustainability and environmentally friendly lutherie.

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Lecture

Olive 229

Wilma and Anna - 18th Century Women Composers

Rebekah May - A brief history of Wilhelmine von Bayreuth and Anna Bon will be given, followed by a performance of three of their Sonatas, transcribed for Solo Viola. When transcribing these sonatas, the melody line was preserved and, as much as possible, the harmony from the continuo part has been included as well.

2024 Primrose International Viola Competition & American Viola Society Festival

Schedule of Events – THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2024

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Lecture-Recital

Mayman Hall

Music From The Windy City: A Program of Viola Works by Chicago Composers

Ann Marie Brink - Explore works for viola spanning 145 years which were all written by composers with ties to Chicago.

<i>Divertissement for Viola and Piano (1860)</i>	Theodore Thomas (1835-1905) <i>Ed. by David Bynog for AVS</i>
<i>Barcarolle for Viola and Piano (1960)</i>	Blanche Blood (1882-1933)
<i>Lament for Viola and Piano (1950)</i>	Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson (1932-2004)
<i>Adoration for Viola and Piano</i>	Florence Price (1887-1953) <i>Ed. by Elaine Fine (b.1951)</i>
<i>Incantation (1995)</i>	August Read Thomas (b. 1964)

2:15 pm - 3:30pm

Exhibitor Coffee Break, sponsored by Pirastro

Come visit the amazing exhibitors of the 2024 American Viola Society Festival & Primrose International Viola Competition!

3:30 pm - 6:00 pm

Workshop

Olive 270

Building a Better Practice

Molly Gebrian and Sarah Niblack - This interactive workshop shares the science behind some of the most impactful findings, including interleaved practice, the power of taking breaks, and the importance of mental practice, and what musicians can learn from elite sports training programs. It will delve into crafting more productive self-talk, how to build up a tolerance for performance stress, and discuss why performance skills should be baked into every stage of the learning process.

3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Lecture

Olive 272

Exploring Excerpts: Melissa Matson's Imaginative Resource for Orchestral Study

Amanda Perez, Elianna Nielsen, Richard Baxter Brown, and Gina Stonikas - Melissa Matson (Rochester Philharmonic, Eastman) has created an invaluable resource for aspiring orchestral violists and their teachers. This lecture will demonstrate how this guide helps a violist prepare the major orchestral audition excerpts and how it can be used in a small group setting. With a description of goals for each excerpt, specifically targeted exercises, and viola ensemble arrangements, this book gives a comprehensive look at the most challenging and important viola excerpts.

2024 Primrose International Viola Competition & American Viola Society Festival

Schedule of Events – THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2024

3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Lecture-Recital

Mayman Hall

Julius Röntgen, Sonata for Viola and Piano

Katrin Meidell - Julius Röntgen (1855-1932) was a German-born Dutch composer and pianist. A prolific composer of approximately 650 works, his compositions belong to the late Romantic school. An amateur violist, Röntgen composed three viola sonatas. His Sonata in C Minor, composed in 1924, is an incredible work, yet it is rarely programmed. With this presentation, Katrin celebrates the centennial of the Sonata in C Minor and introduces the piece to AVS Festival participants.

Sonata in C Minor

Julius Röntgen
(1855-1932)

Julius Röntgen (1855-1932) was a German-born Dutch composer and pianist. A prolific composer of approximately 650 works, his compositions belong to the late Romantic school. Listeners can hear influences from Schumann, Brahms, Grieg, and Liszt. Also an amateur violist, Röntgen composed three viola sonatas. His Sonata in C Minor, composed in 1924, is an incredible work, yet it is rarely programmed in the US. With this presentation, I celebrate the centennial of the Sonata in C Minor and introduce the piece to AVS Festival participants. The session will begin with a discussion of Röntgen's life and career, and will end with a full performance of the Sonata in C Minor. It is my hope that others will find the work as magnificent as I do and begin to program it themselves. Of note, this work is similar in style and difficulty to the Brahms sonatas, but a welcome alternative to the well-known Opus 120 works.

3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Lecture

Olive 229

A New Normal: Viola Jokes in the Age of Social Media

Alice Sprinkle - This lecture explores what the culture of viola jokes reveals about the past, present, and future status of the viola, its players, and its community. Whilst these jokes are a "normal" aspect of the viola experience, they have now entered the "new" medium of social media. Through historical evidence, JAVS extracts, fieldwork data, and psycho-sociological literature, potential implications of these jokes – especially for young students – will be explored, with suggestions for approaching this "new normal".

4:45 pm - 5:45 pm

Lecture-Recital

Thayman Hall

Viola and Piano Arrangements: Inter-generational Collaborations with Florence Price and Amy Beach

Molly Wise - Violist Molly Wise provides an inside look into her process arranging works by Florence Price and Amy Beach for viola and piano. Each movement is a case study in balancing the preservation of the original version and making editorial changes that better serve the character of the original. In this way, Wise sees the arrangement and performance of these works as a living, breathing, inter-generational collaboration between herself and the composers. Featuring James Palmer, pianist.

Seven Descriptive Pieces

- I. Little Truants
- II. Two Busy Hands
- III. Hard Problems
- IV. Tittle, Tattle
- V. In Romance Land
- VI. Hilda's Waltz
- VII. Pensive Mood

Florence Price
(1887-1953)
Arr. by Molly Wise

Romance for Violin and Piano
Op. 23

Amy Beach
(1867-1944)
Arr. by Molly Wise

2024 Primrose International Viola Competition & American Viola Society Festival

Schedule of Events – THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2024

4:45 pm - 5:45 pm

AVS Group Recital

Christiana Fortune-Reader & Wendy Richman

Zipper Hall

FronDESCENCE

<i>Resonant Echoes for Viola and Electronics</i> I. From Dawn to Dusk II. Meditation in the Mine	Phyllis Chen (b.1988)
<i>Sun Propeller for Viola and Electronics (2012)</i>	Nina Young (b.1984)
<i>Song for Sendai for Singing Violist (2011)</i>	Ken Ueno (b.1970)
<i>Dark, Light for Two Violas (2017)</i>	Jessie Cox (b.1988)
<i>Suite Mestiza for Solo Viola (2017)</i> "Canto de la Hoja (Leaf Song)"	Gabriela Lena Frank (b.1972)
<i>Vent Nocturne for Viola and Electronics (2006)</i>	Kaija Saariaho (1952-2023)
<i>In manus tuas for Solo Viola (2009)</i>	Caroline Shaw (b.1982)
<i>Storm King Suite for Two Violas (2017)</i> "Wavefield"	Caroline Mallonee (b.1975)

Christiana Fortune-Reader, viola
Wendy Richman, viola and voice
Tim Feeney, electronics & Ryan MacEvoy McCullough, piano

This recital will feature works of contemporary underrepresented composers of our time, focusing on the theme of music that reflects individual elements of the natural world. The program features works by Pulitzer Prize winners Caroline Shaw, Gabriela Lena Frank, and Kaija Saariaho, alongside pieces by Nina Young, Jessie Cox, Phyllis Chen, Caroline Mallonee, and Ken Ueno, drawing inspiration from musicians' potential role in fighting climate change.

4:45 pm - 5:45 pm

Lecture-Recital

Mayman Hall

Rebecca Clarke's Manuscripts

Vinciane Béranger - This research project aims to compare the manuscripts of violist and composer Rebecca Clarke with the printed editions. This approach highlights differences regarding the playing indications (fingerings, breathing, tempi). It provides the interpreter with keys to understand the specific vision Clarke had of her instrument and allows performers to elaborate a personal and documented interpretation.

<i>Sonata (excerpts)</i> I. Impetuoso II. Vivace III. Adagio	Rebecca Clarke (1886-1979)
<i>Morpheus</i>	
<i>Dumka, Trio for Violin, Viola, and Piano</i>	

2024 Primrose International Viola Competition & American Viola Society Festival

Schedule of Events – THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2024

7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

The Primrose Recital with Featured Artist, Tatjana Masurenko

Zipper Hall

Melodie in F, Op. 3 No. 1 (1852) Anton Rubinstein
(1829-1894)
Arr. by Tatjana Masurenko

Violin Sonata, Op. 24 No. 5 (1801) Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770-1827)
I. Allegro
II. Adagio, molto espressivo
III. Scherzo: Allegro molto
IV. Rondo: Allegro ma non troppo
Arr. by Tatjana Masurenko

Sonata No. 1 for Viola and Piano (1926) Nikolai Roslavets
(1880-1944)
I. Allegretto moderato
II. Allegro vivace
III. Tempo primo
IV. Molto vivace

INTERMISSION

*Songs Without Words
for Solo Viola (1994)* Dimitri Terzakis
(b.1938)
I. A Long Time Ago
II. The Prophecy of Cassandra
III. An Eagle
Arr. by Tatjana Masurenko

*Suite from "Romeo and Juliet,"
Op. 64 (1935)* Sergei Prokofiev
(1891-1953)
I. Introduction
II. The Street Awakens
III. Juliet as a Young Girl
IV. Balcony Scene and Love Dance
V. Dance of the Knights
VI. Farewell Scene and Death of Juliet
Arr. by Vadim Borisovsky

Tatjana Masurenko, viola
Yanfeng Tony Bai, piano

FRIDAY

June 21, 2024

8:00 am - 7:30 pm

Attendee Registration

Grand Building Lobby

8:00 am - 9:00 am

Mass Viola Ensemble Rehearsal

Zipper Hall

9:30 am - 10:30 am

PIVC Chamber Music Round

Zipper Hall

2024 Primrose International Viola Competition & American Viola Society Festival

Schedule of Events – FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 2024

9:15 am – 10:15 am

AVS Shared Recital

Thayer Hall

Musique de France

Deux Pièces Pour Alto et Piano, Op.5 Louis Vierne
I. Le Soir (1870-1937)
II. Légende

Hsiaopei Lee, viola
Michael Bunchman, piano

Archaios for Solo Viola Philippe Hersant
(b.1948)

Pavane for Solo Viola

Vinciane Béranger, viola

Sonate en ut pour Saxophone Fernande Decruck
Alto et orchestre (1896-1954)
I. Très modéré, expressif
II. Noël
III. Fileuse
IV. Nocturne et Rondel

Hsiaopei Lee, viola
Michael Bunchman, piano

Tango for Viola and Piano Graciane Finzi
(b.1945)

Vinciane Béranger, viola
Michael Bunchman, piano

French organist Louis Vierne was an active composer and performer in the early twentieth century. Born nearly blind, Vierne showed his musical talent at an early age. He was recommended by César Franck to study organ and later attended the Paris Conservatory. Composed during 1894-95, *Deux Pièces pour alto et piano*, Op. 5 is Vierne's first chamber music work while he was a student at the Paris Conservatory. "Le soir" is intimate, delicate, and lyrical, while "Légende" is a light movement with Sicilian rhythm. The work received its public performance by the dedicatee Victor Balbreck and composer on the piano in Paris in 1895. Organist and composer Fernande Breilh-Decruck wrote more than 250 pieces, but many of them were not published. Her music was forgotten soon after her death until recent years. Decruck received formal training at the Paris Conservatory. She moved to the United States as an organ recitalist for several years, moved back to France, and later accepted a professorship at the Toulouse Conservatory. Sonata in C-sharp minor was written in 1943, one year after she resigned the teaching position, moved back to Paris, and devoted herself to composition. Decruck created two versions of this work – one with alto saxophone or viola and piano, and the other with orchestra. The composition, dedicated to virtuoso Marcel Mule, has four movements: a sonata-form first movement, a slow lyrical second movement, a scherzo-like "Fileuse" (spinning), and the last movement titled Nocturne et Final. The piece is full of colors, rich harmonies, and flashing sounds.

Schedule of Events – FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 2024

9:15 am – 10:15 am

Lecture-Recital

Mayman Hall

Ernest Bloch: Three Unaccompanied Cello Suites (transcribed)

Kimberly Hankins - Ernest Bloch's Suites for Solo Cello (B. 93, 94, 97) contain a melodic-harmonic language unlike any other twentieth-century unaccompanied work, and when transcribed for viola, become meaningful additions to the existing viola repertoire.

Suite no.2

I. Prelude

II. Allegro

III. Andante tranquillo

IV. Allegro

Ernest Bloch

(1880-1959)

Suite no. 3

I. Allegro deciso

II. Andante

III. Allegro

IV. Andante

IV. Allegro giocoso

9:15 am – 10:15 am

Workshop

Olive 270

Baroque Dance Steps and their Application to Teaching and Learning Bach

Joyce Tseng - Rhythm is physical. It is an activity felt in the body, rather than as a musical element to be perceived by the mind. In this workshop, participants will begin by looking at Baroque dances not only as art music, but also as kinesthetic movements that can be embodied and applied to everyday playing. In the second half of the workshop, the group will focus on capturing the essential rhythmic characteristics of Baroque dance. Get ready to dance!

9:15 am – 10:15 am

Lecture

Olive 272

The Four Secret Ingredients of Advanced Learning and Performance

Sarah Niblack - Nurturing these four secret ingredients prepares a performer to work more productively, creatively, with better integration, resilience, and with better confidence. The result is more personal fulfillment and confident performances. These are the "soft skills" of the modern musician, teacher, and artist, and are essential to practice for performance. Just because you learn it doesn't mean you know how to perform it - but these secret ingredients change everything for optimized, healthy performance excellence.

10:30 am – 11:30 am

Lecture

Olive 229

Bridging the Gap: Exploring the Implications of the Gestural Structures on Contemporary Music Performance

Deniz Çağlarcan - Analyzing his piece 'Void' for viola and fixed electronics, Deniz Çağlarcan explores its formal structure, gestural flow, and extended techniques. This lecture will discuss how gestural composition shapes performance practice, the significance of extended techniques as a musical language, and the implications of electronic music composition ideas, like P. Schaeffer's reduced listening, sound objects, and sound morphology. This exploration aims to help performers approach contemporary music with a different perspective and close the gap between performers and contemporary music.

2024 Primrose International Viola Competition & American Viola Society Festival

Schedule of Events – FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 2024

10:30 am – 11:30 am

Lecture-Recital

Mayman Hall

New Viola Transcriptions of the Music of Chickasaw Composer Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate

Mark Neumann - This session introduces three new transcriptions for viola of works by the preeminent American composer Jerod Tate. Tate is a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation in Oklahoma, and his music fuses classical style with American Indian musical traditions. Featuring Dr. Enchi Annna Ho, piano.

Oshtha for Solo Viola

Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate
(b.1968)

*Two Movements for Viola and Piano
from "Heloha Okchamiali"*

I. Wakaa
II. Twilight Dream

10:30 am – 11:30 am

AVS Shared Recital

Thayer Hall

South by Southwest

Tejano Suite

Alex Molina Shawver
(b.1994)

Ruben Balboa III, viola
Alex Molina Shawver, piano

Tejano Suite is an exploration of both genre and identity. The Tejano or Conjunto genre includes folk music developed in the Texas-Mexico border region throughout centuries of cultural conflict, fusion, and synthesis. Each movement of the suite includes characteristic rhythmic material from common Conjunto dances, but the harmonic and formal idioms are true to my own style. For me, this practice of blending elements of my musical personality with my cultural heritage is a natural form of acculturation, which has always been a part of the rich and complex Tejano experience. While engaging and delighting in "authentic" and historical music, I have also learned to affirm and take joy in the authenticity of self.

Reflections on a Desert Winter
I. On the Spirit Path
II. Where the Cold Desert Wind Blows
V. Toward the Boundless Expanse

Dominic Dousa
(b.1973)

Stephen Nordstrom, viola
Dominic Dousa, piano

Dominic Dousa's album of works for viola and piano "A Musical Portrait of the American Southwest" takes its inspiration from the land broadly referred to as the American Southwest, a wide-ranging region extending from the Great Plains of western Texas northwestwards to the Rocky Mountains of Colorado and Southwards to the desert lands of New Mexico and Arizona. The suite for viola and piano, *Reflections on a Desert Winter*, forms the core of this album. Written in 2015, each piece in the five-movement suite evokes the spirit of the land—one with a storied history and captivating natural beauty.

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10:30 am – 11:30 am

Workshop

Olive 270

A “Fundamentals-Oriented” Approach to Extended Techniques

Hannah Levinson - This hands-on workshop offers a “fundamentals-oriented” approach to the teaching, learning, and practicing of extended techniques. Through discussion, demonstration, and group exercises, explore how techniques such as *sul pont*, *sul tasto*, overpressure, and circular bowing can contribute to our understanding of sound production, a well-aligned bow arm, and body awareness. Suitable for violists with any level of contemporary music experience.

11:00 am – 12:30 pm

PIVC Chamber Music Final Round

Zipper Hall

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Emerging Artist Masterclass: Gabrielle Padilla Molina

Olive 229

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Workshop

Olive 270

Mastering the Creative Pathway

Peter Slowik - Great performers are blessed with unusual natural ability - their creative ear, physical abilities, and/or work habits. Each of us possesses strengths in these areas in different combinations. This workshop breaks down the act of hearing and learning - of technical and artistic development. Slowik will enumerate different steps of the creative process - and give you suggestions to address weak areas. The workshop will transform your pathway to “getting better” by concentrating your work effectively.

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

AVS Ensemble Invitational Recital

Thayer Hall

La Folia Variations for 4-part viola ensemble Michael Kimber
(b.1945)

Viola Voce Ensemble

Cotton Chris Dahlke
(b. 2001)

Settlement Music School Viola Choir

Carmen Suite No. 1 Georges Bizet
II. Aragonaise (1838-1875)

CCM Prep Viola Quartet

Deal's Off! Hadley Griffin
I. Hot Pursuit (b. 2004)
II. Cavern of Souls

Desert Violas

2024 Primrose International Viola Competition & American Viola Society Festival

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Feira de Mangaio

Sivuca & Glória Gadelha
Arr. by Carlos Anisio

USM Violas

Sonatina in A Minor
I. Andante

Clara Schumann
(1819-1896)
Arr. by Sancho Engaño

Northern Illinois University Viola Quartet

Sens Unique

Astor Piazzolla
(1921-1992)
Arr. by Michel Michalakakos

Schwob Viola Ensemble

*Variations on an Unknown Folk Song**

Michael Kimber
(b.1945)

**composed for the 2024 American Viola Society Festival*

Combined Invitational Ensemble

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Lecture-Recital

Mayman Hall

On Cultivating A Climate For New Music

Emily Hiemstra - This session will outline the process for building a call for scores, from the planning stages through the premiere performance. As a violist and composer, in 2020 Emily Hiemstra hosted her own call for scores during the COVID pandemic to promote and cultivate new music for solo viola when ensemble performances were not possible. Through her experiences in premiering eight new works from composers around the world, she gained skills in marketing, digital creation, fundraising, and extended techniques. This lecture will discuss these valuable tools in the hope of helping guide violists wishing to build a call for scores, as well as sharing selections from the final recording.

Nasubi

Robin Haigh
(b.1993)

Upcycle

Emily Hiemstra
(b.1991)

Over the Himalayas

Kristin Flores
(b.1980)

Just A Moment

Zachary James Ritter

2:15 pm - 3:30 pm

Exhibitor Coffee Break, sponsored by Thomastik-Infeld Strings & Metzler Violin Shop

The Acre

Come for the Exhibitor coffee break at 2:15 pm but stay for Stojan Jovanovic's String Optimization presentation. You can also sign up on **Whova** for a free optimization session and consultation to try out what strings make your viola its very best!

2024 Primrose International Viola Competition & American Viola Society Festival

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3:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Lecture-Recital

Mayman Hall

The Siksika Concerto: An Example of Cross-Cultural Collaboration

Jeffrey Komar - In this lecture-recital, violist Jeffrey Komar and pianist Megaria Halim will present "Siksika", a work for viola and orchestra by Benjamin Ellin, arranged for viola and piano by Jennifer Nicks. "Siksika" premiered in 2010 and was dedicated to the Siksikaitsitapi (Blackfoot) First Nations of southwestern Alberta, Canada. Originally commissioned by violist Rivka Golani, this piece sparked a collaboration between Golani, Ellin, and various members of the Kainai and Piikani First Nations communities. Featuring Megaria Halim, piano.

Siksika

Benjamin Ellin
(b.1980)

3:30 pm – 6:00 pm

Workshop

Olive 272

Evaluating Instrument Performance and Tonal Output: The Impact of Strings

Stojan Jovanovich, Thomastik-Infeld - Finding the most appropriate setup for a stringed instrument and its artist can be a challenging if not daunting task. We believe having a defined process for evaluating the influence of string technology on instrument performance can greatly increase successful outcomes. As Thomastik-Infeld's Product Manager for violin and viola strings, Stojan Jovanovic has closely worked with hundreds of professional musicians, artists/educators, and luthiers worldwide seeking to find the best string technology for their instruments. In this session, Mr. Jovanovich will explain his process for evaluating the tonal output and playability of an instrument and then demonstrate how its performance can be modulated with string technology (tonal capability, string tension, etc.). This will be an interactive presentation where Mr. Jovanovich will be working with several session participants and their instruments.

3:30 pm – 4:30 pm

AVS Shared Recital

Thayer Hall

Viola on the Edge

Sonata for Viola and Piano
I. Andante molto espressivo
II. Lento espressivo e rubato
III. Allegro con brio

Samuel Zyman
(b.1956)

Christina McGann, viola
Heather Conner, piano

"My viola sonata is lovingly dedicated to Michael White, an outstanding composer, scholar, and teacher who was one of my dearest friends and an incredibly meaningful mentor, teacher, and role model to me. Michael was an expert on Mozart, whose music he loved passionately, and, like Mozart, he loved the viola all his life. In his later years, Michael wrote a series of chamber works inspired in Jewish music and his Jewish heritage. My viola sonata was commissioned by my friend, Dr. Lola Reid, and was written between 2020 and 2023, with an interruption in between when I worked on other projects. The first movement opens with an introspective soliloquy for the viola that emphasizes its low register, which I find to be incredibly rich and full of expressive possibilities. The movement continues in a fast Allegro con spirito section with its own motive. The second movement, Lento espressivo e rubato, is a reflection on my own Jewish heritage and, in this way, it also pays tribute to Michael White. The last movement, Allegro con brio, is full of rhythmic energy with plenty of syncopated accents, yet another aspect meant to pay homage to my dear dedicatee, Michael White." - Samuel Zyman

On a personal note, Michael White and Samuel Zyman were two of my incredible theory professors while I studied at Juilliard. I would like to share this meaningful piece with the viola community; I can imagine it becoming part of our standard repertoire.

2024 Primrose International Viola Competition & American Viola Society Festival

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Viola Quartet (2007)

Eric Wubbels
(b.1980)

Carrie Frey, Anna Griffis, Sam Kelder & Martine Thomas

Eric Wubbels' Viola Quartet displays the composer's signature blend of rhythmic vitality, intense physical energy, dense harmonic material, and experimentalism. A virtuosic performer himself, Wubbels expertly exploits the viola quadrupling in athletic unison passages and thorny counterpoint hockets from which melodies sharply emerge and sonorities scintillate. The non-hierarchical structure stretches each violist to the limits of their instrument and a full range of expression, four equal soloists interweaving for a feat of endurance and beauty. This viola quartet makes an argument for the four-violin group as equal to any string quartet in expressivity, virtuosity, and technique and pushes the limits of the viola as a rival to the violin and cello in feats of skill. Underperformed due to its intensity and difficulty, this quartet is unique in its marriage of minimalistic repetition with an attention to timbre and harmony.

...under this blue of my land

Daniel Sabzghabei

2022 Gardner Competition Winner

Anthony Devroye, viola
Wendy Richman, voice

"...under this blue of my land," for viola and voice reflects on a text by an anonymous Persian woman from a prominent women's rights movement in Iran. The unnamed woman speaks of the expansive and deep Persian sky which gives a sense of fleeting freedom within a regime which actively works to choke the voice in her throat and blot out the sun from her head. After an expansive meditation from the viola, the two join for a final, joint outpouring—freedom calls out like the sky.

Poem, Translation, and Transliteration

I and the road and the freedom that is

من و جاده و آزادی که
Man-o jādeh-vo āzādī keh

The wish of many Iranian women.

آرزوی بسیاری از زنان ایرانی است.
Ārzū-ye besiyāri az zanān-e Irānist

I, a girl of the same substance as happiness,

من، دختری از جنس شادی،
Man, dokhtari az jens-e shādī,

Of indomitable ancestry,

از تبار سرکش،
Az tabār-e sarkesh

Under this blue of my land,

زیر همین آبی وطنم
Zīr-e hamīn ābī-ye vatanam

I grab freedom to my body,

آزادی را به تن می کشوم
Āzādī rā beh tan mikesham

And you, O limitless darkness,

و تو ای تاریکی بی مرز
Va to eī tārikī-ye bī marz

You will never see me helpless.

مرا ناتوان نخواهی دید.
Marā nātavān nakhāhī دید

4:45 pm – 6:15 pm

Masterclass: PIVC Juror Cathy Basrak

Olive 270

2024 Primrose International Viola Competition & American Viola Society Festival

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3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Lecture

Olive 229

Viola Works by Women Composers: An Overview

Aurélien Pétillot - The viola and its repertoire are less-familiar to the wider public, and even violists tend to be less aware of the plethora of works available for discovery, especially those by women composers. This lecture will therefore present research and pedagogical resources, featuring works by composers from Beatrice Mattei to Polina Nazaykinskaya, with the hopes that their programming might become the new normal.

4:45 pm - 5:45 pm

Lecture-Recital

Mayman Hall

An AVS Festival Ensemble Commission Retrospective: Works by Bunch, Colberg, and Vanderveer

Ames Asbell - Since 2016, each AVS Festival event has featured the premiere of a newly commissioned work for multiple violas. Composers commissioned by the AVS in past years include Kenji Bunch, Garth Knox, Christian Colberg, and Sakari Dixon Vanderveer. This retrospective features a short, recorded interview with each composer and a performance of their work, highlighting these unique additions to the multi-level viola ensemble repertoire. One of these pieces ("The Immigrant" by Christian Colberg) never received a live premiere as part of an AVS Festival. Featuring performances by Ames Asbell, Ruben Balboa III, Martha Carapetyan, Tim Washecka, and Kathryn Steely.

The Immigrant (2020)

Christian Colberg
(b.1968)

In This Watershed Moment (2022)

Sakari Dixon Vanderveer
(b.1992)

(Rise) and Shine (2016)

Kenji Bunch
(b.1973)

4:45 pm - 5:45 pm

Lecture-Recital

Thayer Hall

Transcending Traditional Boundaries: Innovations in Alternative Chamber Music Performance.

Duo Schembri-Gallagher - Transcending Traditional Boundaries will feature viola and multi-percussion ensemble, Duo Schembri-Gallagher. The rich, sonorous timbre of the viola, and the many diverse timbres of the percussion family allows for a vibrant and creative relationship. Since the inception of this ensemble, a crucial element was to redefine the roles of these instruments in the context of chamber music. The duo will perform four new compositions and discuss aspects of creativity and collaboration in this progressive chamber ensemble.

Scherzo

Kristian Schembri
(b.1992)

Labyrinths

Three Miniatures for Viola and Multi-Percussion

2024 Primrose International Viola Competition & American Viola Society Festival

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4:45 pm - 5:45 pm

Lecture

Olive 229

Rekindling the Music Educator's Flame After Burn-Out

Christiana Fortune-Reader - Transcending If education is the kindling of a flame among students eager to learn, what happens when the music educator is burned out and has forgotten why they even got involved in this difficult field? Discover strategies to continue as a music educator by rekindling one's original passion for music through research-based approaches in growth mindset and grit, self-determination and goal-orientation, internatl resilience, dopamine and cortisol regulation, and examinations of the meaning and influence of awe.

7:30 pm

The Primrose Featured Juror Recital

Zipper Hall

Viola Sonata ('Buoyant Forces') (2017)
I. Paracosm

Paul Wiancko
(b.1983)

Ayane Kozasa, viola
Mitsuko Morikawa, piano

*Children of Conflict:
A Boy and a Makeshift Toy (2015)*

Mary Kouyoumdjian
(b.1983)

Ayane Kozasa, viola
Barry Tan, piano

Sonata for Solo Viola (1992)
I. Melancholia
II. Alla Bulgarese
III. Finale sul ponticello

Atar Arad
(b.1945)

Caprice No. 12 ('Unknown') (2012)

Atar Arad, viola

INTERMISSION

Varsha for Viola (2019)

Reena Esmail
(b.1983)

Jig and Pop for Viola (2022)

Tessa Lark
(b.1989)

Ayane Kozasa, viola

Sonata for Viola and Piano (1944)
I. Modéré
II. Très modéré, presque lent
III. Un peu vite

Pierre de Bréville
(1861-1949)

Steven Dann, viola
Vivan Fan, piano

2024 Primrose International Viola Competition & American Viola Society Festival

Schedule of Events – SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 2024

SATURDAY

June 22, 2024

8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Attendee Registration

Grand Building Lobby

8:00 am - 9:00 am

Mass Viola Ensemble Rehearsal

Zipper Hall

9:15 am - 11:45 am

Exhibition of Modern Violas & Bows

Featuring Ben Ullery, viola

Zipper Hall

9:15 am - 10:15 am

Emerging Artist: Lecture-Recital

Mayman Hall

20th Century Violist-Composers: Sonata Principles in Solo Works by Fuchs, Porter, and Hindemith

Nicholas Lindell - This lecture-recital surveys three solo viola works by 20th century violist-composers working in America: Lillian Fuchs' 1953 Sonata Pastorale, Paul Hindemith's 1937 Sonate, and Quincy Porter's 1930 Suite for Viola Alone. In particular, all three exhibit manifestations of tonally influenced, post-common-practice sonata forms, which are investigated and compared with original analyses. The implications of the composers' performing careers and the solo viola's unique compositional constraints are discussed as a possible cause for this stylistic congruence.

Sonata Pastorale (1953)

Lillian Fuchs
(1901-1995)

Sonate für Bratsche Allein (1937)

Paul Hindemith
(1895-1963)

Suite for Viola Alone (1930)

Quincy Porter
(1897-1966)

9:15 am - 10:15 am

Workshop

Olive 270

Exploring Viola da Spalla

Stephen Collins and Madeleine Darmiento - Take advantage of the rare opportunity to play on a Viola da Spalla, learn of its history, revival, construction, and great versatility. If you are familiar with Sergey Malov's performances, you will already know about the exciting revival of this historical instrument, its rich beauty, and the opportunities that it can provide for your musical life.

2024 Primrose International Viola Competition & American Viola Society Festival

Schedule of Events – SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 2024

9:15 am - 10:15 am

AVS Shared Recital

Thayer Hall

International Colors

Provincetown Suite (1987)

Mira J. Spektor
(1928-2021)

10,000 Filaments (2010)

Sarah E. Gibson
(b.1986)

The Brazos Ensemble

A prolific composer, poet, and Holocaust survivor, Mira Spektor was born in Berlin in 1928 to Lithuanian parents, fled to France in 1938, and eventually to the United States. In 1975, she founded The Aviva Players to support and perform works of women composers and served as its Artistic Director until her death in 2021. *Provincetown Suite* is an instrumental suite for flute, viola and piano, adapted from the musical score for the PBS television documentary entitled *Art in Its Soul* (1987). The title of the suite sets the scene in Provincetown, Massachusetts, a small coastal town on the tip of the Cape Cod peninsula. Sarah Gibson is a Los Angeles based composer and pianist whose works draw on her breadth of experience as a collaborative performer. While writing *10,000 Filaments* (2010), Gibson was reminded of Thomas Edison's effort to make the light bulb in which he claimed he had to try 10,000 different filaments before discovering the right one.

Terzettino (1905)

Théodore Dubois
(1837-1924)

Fujin's Dream, Op.58 (2018)

Airat Ichmourat
(b.1973)

Bacanal (2005)

Eduardo Angulo
(b.1954)

Trio Lawrence

"Terzettino" by French composer Théodore Dubois is the first registered work for the flute-violaharp ensemble, composed in 1905 in romantic style. Its stretched melodies intertwine into a poetic dialog of the instruments. In "Fujin's Dream" (2018), the Volga Tatar born Russian/Canadian composer Airat Ichmouratov refers to Japanese myth about the god of wind. Fujin is the Japanese god of wind, who has been known for bringing devastating typhoons to Japan over the centuries. However, on some days, Fujin decides to be a nice god. Most of the time, Fujin is depicted with his "windbag" which contains the winds, and according to Japanese mythology, Fujin opened the bag at the world's creation and blew away all the clouds so that brightness shone down on the world. In the piece, the composer experiments with timbres, sound effects, and extended technique. "Bacanal" (2005) by Mexican composer Eduardo Angulo is an adaptation of the third movement of his viola concerto for this ensemble. Full of boisterous rhythms and tunes of folk origin it immerses the listeners in a festive atmosphere.

10:30 am - 11:30 am

Lecture

Olive 270

Expanding the Canon: Sonatas by Henriëtte Bosmans, Dora Pejačević, and Ethel Smyth

Molly Gebrian - This lecture will feature discuss brand-new viola transcriptions of cello sonatas by Henriëtte Bosmans, Dora Pejačević, and Ethel Smyth. These three sonatas are outstanding works in a late-Romantic style that all deserve a place in the standard repertoire of every cellist and violist. Recorded selections from each sonata will be presented and the lecture will delve into the lives of these fascinating and unconventional women.

2024 Primrose International Viola Competition & American Viola Society Festival

Schedule of Events – SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 2024

10:30 am – 11:30 am

AVS Shared Recital

Thayer Hall

AVS Presents

Hear a variety of selections from the AVS Presents CD releases, as well as *Zenith, for viola and tape*, First Prize winner of the 2024 AVS Gardner Competition for Composers, performed by composer Christopher Lowry.

Re-Tuning

Ann Southam
(1937-2010)

Jay Julio, viola

Sanctum (Rhapsody for Viola and Piano)

Dr. Adolphus Hailstork
(b.1941)

Meghan Yost, viola TBA, piano

Zenith for Viola and Tape

Christopher Lowry
2024 Gardner Competition Winner

Christopher Lowry, viola

10:30 am – 12:00 pm

Masterclass: AVSF Featured Artist, Tatjana Masurenko

Mayman Hall

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

AVSF Closing Ceremony

Featuring the Mass Viola Ensemble & Invited Ensembles

Zipper Hall

Dawn of Hope

José Elizondo
(b. 1972)

Settlement Music School Viola Choir & CCM Prep Viola Quartet

Deal's Off!

III. Sisyphean Staircase
IV. Solar Battle

Hadley Griffin
(b.2004)

Desert Violas

*Fantasies in Alto Clef**

I. Alto lines
II. Viola visions
III. Spin

Melia Watras
(b.1969)

*composed for the 2024 American Viola Society Festival

Mass Viola Ensemble

2024 Primrose International Viola Competition & American Viola Society Festival

Schedule of Events – SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 2024

1:15 pm - 2:30 pm

AVS Lunch Reception

Grand Plaza

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Exhibits Open

The Acre

3:00 pm - 3:30 pm

AVS General Meeting

Mayman Hall

4:00 pm - 6:10 pm

PIVC Final Concerto Round

Zipper Hall

7:00 pm

PIVC Awards Ceremony & Winners Reception

5th Floor Terrace



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2024 *Primrose International Viola Competition* *About William Primrose*



A plaque is affixed to the second story of an apartment house at 18 Wilton Drive, Glasgow. It reads:

One of the greatest musicians of all time,
the viola player
William Primrose,
was born here, 1904.

Guided by his father, an orchestral violinist, and tutored by a student of Ševčík and Joachim, the boy's precocity was not lost on his elders. He suffered under Ševčík exercises, but later admitted they served his left-hand facility well into late life. (The bow arm was a different matter and had to wait to be sculpted into the extraordinary mechanism it became under the influence of the great Ysaÿe.) The boy and young man became exposed to the greatest touring artists of the day in Scotland and, later, London. Casals and the young Heifetz made profound impressions, but it was Kreisler whose influence was the most indelible. The rhythmic élan and sound became profiles of Primrose's own performances. His early recordings as a violinist attest to his brilliance, witnessing the Rondo capriccioso of Saint-Saëns.

But there had been a dormant yearning since childhood for that curiosity in his father's cupboard, a viola. Not until his Belgian master's encouragement to follow his predilection did the viola become a feature on Primrose's horizon. This, despite familial disappointment and trenchant warning from a friend, "You will make the greatest mistake of your life!" Nevertheless, when the London String Quartet, on tour in America, summoned Primrose to fill in for their indisposed violist, he not only joined, he "burned his bridges," and "walked the road to Damascus, saw the light, repented of past transgressions and switched to the viola." Primrose, the great virtuoso of the solo viola, spent his most satisfying hours of music making in the small ensemble. Perhaps drawing him toward the collaborative art (and the viola) was the "intuitive English penchant for the center of the harmony," as Menuhin expressed it. One can be transported by the recordings of Heifetz-Primrose-Feuermann in Mozart and Dóhnanyi, or Smetana and the Brahms B-flat by the Primrose Quartet, to be both touched and awed by such superb rapport.

Why did Primrose choose to open his recording career as a violist with Paganini caprices? "Youthful pride and ambition," he said to impress others. And in this he did not fail. But the virtuosic show pieces were not the only colors on his artistic palette. The soft supplication of Songs my mother taught me can be moving, and the rhythmic suppleness found in Sarasateana, enchanting. His stylistic affinity captures the attentive adjudicator. Whether it is the melancholy



2024 Primrose International Viola Competition *About the Competition*



of Brahms, the sprightliness of Boccherini, or the robustness of Bartók, the sensitive listener is persuaded to agree that stylistically speaking, things are about right. Along the way Primrose felt a certain deficit in his musical upbringing. His experience in the orchestra was limited. Hearing rumors that an orchestra was being assembled especially for Toscanini, he wrote a letter of introduction, went to Milan and presented himself at the maestro's apartment for an audition. Primrose was hired and spent four years on the first desk of the NBC Symphony in New York. At the close of this tenure, he became engaged in another facet of his career, teaching at the Curtis Institute. At this time, when his solo and recording engagements were blossoming, he admitted he wasn't that fascinated by teaching, or prepared to do so. In fact, he admitted he didn't know how his students learned anything from him. However, Joseph de Pasquale and Karen Tuttle would strongly disagree, the two went on to become wonderfully gifted violists and teachers themselves. As Primrose gradually withdrew from the stage, he devoted himself more to teaching at various institutions. In his last years he set down in book form a lengthy exposition on the principles and practice of Playing the Viola. His students, and in turn, their students carry on the Primrose legacy.

Primrose was not a "hot-house" musician, but rather a versatile human being. His respect and use of the English language came about in early stages reading Dickens and Thackeray and other masters of elevated literature. He was an inveterate reader which allowed him to converse with ease on subjects as diverse as the plays of Oscar Wilde or sumo wrestling. His basic manner was often reserved, that of a British gentleman. He expressed himself as "loving this world and all that is good in it and of good report... the glory of music and pictures and poetry and gracious prose."

Is the Primrose ideal in viola performance attainable? Primrose was a rare combination of talents, born and nourished in a different age that has now passed us by. Still, more than ever aspiring violists strive toward that elusive zenith which seems to be touched with a bit of magic or mystery. May the inspiration continue. – David Dalton

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2024 Primrose International Viola Competition

Jurors

Ayane Kozasa

Jury Chairman

United States



Hailed for her “magnetic, wide-ranging tone” and her “rock solid technique” (Philadelphia Inquirer), violist Ayane Kozasa is a sought-after chamber musician, collaborator, and educator. Since winning the 2011 Primrose International Viola Competition—where she also captured awards for best chamber music and commissioned work performances—Kozasa has appeared on stages across the world, from Carnegie, Wigmore, and Suntory Hall to Ravinia, Aspen, and the Marlboro Music Festival. She is a

passionate advocate for the expansion of viola repertoire, and has commissioned multiple new works featuring the viola, including *American Haiku* by Paul Wiancko and *K’Zohar Harakia* by Judd Greenstein.

Kozasa has developed a career that revolves around the art of chamber music. As a founding member of the Aizuri Quartet for 11 years, she developed her skills of launching a brand-new ensemble. The quartet was the 2018 quartet-in-residence at the Metropolitan Museum and the grand prize winners of both the Osaka International String Quartet Competition and MPrize Chamber Arts Competition. The Aizuri Quartet’s debut album, *Blueprinting*—which features the music of 5 American composers, all commissioned by the quartet—was nominated for a Grammy Award and named one of NPR’s top 10 classical albums of 2018. With collaboration being a deep part of their identity, they performed with artists such as Wilco, Marcy Rosen, Michi Wiancko, Jonathan Biss, and Maeve Gilchrist. Their devotion to education brought them to young musicians around the world, and they crafted a unique student composer workshop format that they implemented at institutions such as the University of Southern California, Princeton University, and New York Youth Symphony. In 2020, the quartet launched *AizuriKids*, an interactive web series for children that explores relationships between music and themes ranging from astrophysics to cooking. Their dedication to the art of the string quartet for 11 years was recognized by Chamber Music America, and in 2022 the quartet received the Cleveland Quartet Award.

Currently, Kozasa is a member of the duo *Ayane & Paul* with composer and cellist Paul Wiancko, with whom she collaborated on Norah Jones’ album *Pick Me Up Off the Floor*. The duo has appeared at several festivals, including Spoleto Festival USA, Brooklyn Chamber Music Society, and the St. Lawrence String Quartet Seminar. Kozasa’s most recent passion project *Owls* is a quartet collective with violinist Alexi Kenney and cellists Gabriel Cabezas and Paul Wiancko. *Owls* share an uncommonly fierce creative spirit, weaving together new compositions with original arrangements of music ranging from the 1600s to the present, and have played at series such as the Baryshnikov Arts Center in NYC and the Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C.

Other collaboration highlights include performances with world-renowned artists such as Tessa Lark, Steven Banks, Nobuko Imai, and the Kronos Quartet. As a seasoned orchestral performer, Kozasa has performed with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, A Far Cry, Philadelphia Orchestra, East Coast Chamber Orchestra, the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, as well as the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, where she served as principal violist from 2012 to 2016.

Much of Kozasa’s current work involves mentoring aspiring young musicians through programs like the Meadowmount School of Music, Green Lake Chamber Music Camp, and Olympic Music Festival. She is currently on the viola faculty at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and has been guest faculty at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and Northwestern University. Taking inspiration from her mentors the Cavani Quartet, Kozasa has developed several education-based music shows curated especially for the youth in a festival’s community including Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts and Spoleto Festival. Kozasa is a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music, Kronberg Academy in Germany, and Cleveland Institute of Music, where she studied viola with Misha Amory, Roberto Díaz, Nobuko Imai, and Kirsten Docter.



2024 Primrose International Viola Competition

Jurors



Atar Arad

United States

Atar Arad was born in Tel Aviv, where he began his early musical education and violin studies. In 1968 he was one of a few young artists to be selected to study in the renowned Chapelle Musicale Reine Elisabeth under the patronage of the Queen of Belgium.

In 1971, drawn by the deep, warm sound of the viola and its broad but unfamiliar repertoire, he decided to devote himself to this instrument and its music. The following year, in July 1972, in his first appearance as a violist, he won the City of London Prize as a laureate of the Carl Flesch

Competition for violin and viola. Two months later he was awarded the First Prize at the International Viola Competition in Geneva by a unanimous decision of the jury.

Numerous concerts followed – as a soloist with major orchestras, and in recitals at some of Europe’s most prestigious festivals. Arad’s recordings for Telefunken are widely acclaimed. His *Sonata per la Grand’ Viola e Orchestra* by Paganini was considered by stringed-instrument lovers and critics alike to be an astonishing demonstration of the technical capabilities of the viola. His album in collaboration with pianist Evelyne Brancart, was praised by *High Fidelity Magazine* as being “...perhaps the best-played viola recital ever recorded”.

In 1980, Arad moved from London to the U.S. in order to become a member of the Cleveland Quartet for the next seven years. With this great quartet he toured throughout the U.S., South America, Western and Eastern Europe, Israel, and Japan, collaborating with many leading musicians (such as pianists Istomin, Curzon, Pressler and Ax, violists Schidloff and Laredo, Cellists Ma and Rostropovich, flutist Gallway, and clarinetist Stolzmann to name a few), recording for labels such as RCA, CBS, and Telarc, and appearing in music festivals including Aspen, Berlin, Edinburgh, Flanders, Israel, New York Mostly Mozart and Carnegie Hall, Paris, Salzburg, and many more. During that time he held the position of a Professor of Viola at the Eastman School of Music.

Arad was an artist/faculty member at the Aspen School and Festival. He also taught at the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University in Houston, TX, and was an artist/lecturer at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. He currently serves as Professor of Music (viola) at the Jacobs School of Music, Indiana University, Bloomington; and in the summers he also teaches at the Steans Music Institute (Ravinia Festival) in Chicago, Domaine Forget Academy of the Art, Heifetz Institute, and in Keshet Eilon Music Center, Israel.

Arad served as a regular guest artist in a great number of musical venues, such as Houston’s Da Camera Society, Seattle Chamber Music Festival, the Upper Galilee Chamber Music Days (Israel), the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, Chamber Music International in Dallas, Sitka Festival, Chautauqua Festival, Ravinia Music Festival, Orford, Domaine Forget, Banff, and Chicago’s North Shore Festival. A frequent guest with today’s leading chamber ensembles, Arad has performed, among others, with the Guarneri, Emersson, Tokyo, Mendelssohn, American, Chillingrian, Vermeer, New Zealand, Orion, and more – recently with Pacifica and Verona string quartets.

A late-bloomer composer, Arad wrote his first musical composition – a Solo Sonata for Viola – in 1992. The Sonata was premiered in 1993 as part of Arad’s recital at the Viola Congress in Chicago and was published by the Israel Music Institute (1995). His student, violist Roland Glassl, the winner of 1997 Tertis International Competition gave the London premier of the Sonata in 1998 at the Wigmore Hall.

In 1998 Arad completed his first string quartet, premiered in Bloomington on April 1999 by the Corigliano Quartet. His Quartet No.2 (2016) was premiered by the Verona Quartet.



2024 Primrose International Viola Competition Jurors

He premiered his own Viola Concerto (2005) in Bloomington, Brussels, and Stockholm with conductors Uriel Segal, Ronald Zollman, and Michael Bartosz, respectively.

Other compositions include Toccata A La Turk for two violins and GDG(!) for string trio (both dedicated to Mimi Zweig and her Violin Virtuosi), Esther for Violin and Viola, Tikvah for Viola Solo, commissioned by the ARD for the 2008 Munich Viola Competition. Listen (Three Poems by W.S. Merwin) for Tenor, Clarinet, Viola, Cello, and Double Bass was commissioned by the International Musicians Seminar and performed in September 2010 on its concert tour, including London's Wigmore Hall, with tenor Mark Padmore. Cellist Gary Hoffman premiered Epitaph for Cello and String Orchestra in 2011 at the Kronberg Cello Festival and Arad gave the viola version of the piece at the 2012 International Viola Congress in Rochester, NY. In November 2018, Arad was a featured artist at the International Viola Congress in Rotterdam, premiering his new concerto for viola and strings, titled Ceci n'est pas un Bach.

In 2013, Arad completed a set of Twelve Caprices, the first six of which he performed at the 2004 Viola Congress in Minnesota along with the rarely played Tibor Serly Viola Concerto. Later, in 2015-16, he toured extensively with the set as a whole in Tel Aviv, Boston, Chicago, Toronto, Berlin, Frankfurt, Detmold, Hamburg, Paris, Madrid, Porto, London, Manchester, Birmingham, Atlanta, Los Angeles, and Munich. The Twelve Caprices along with his Tikvah are now published by Hofmeister Musikverlag, Leipzig, and can be heard on iTunes and CD Baby.

Atar Arad is a recipient of the American Viola Society's Career Achievement Award (June 2018) and the International Viola Society's Silver Alto Clef 2018 "in recognition for his outstanding contributions to the to the viola" (November 2018). In 2021, the International Hindemith Viola Competition invited Arad to be one of its judges and commissioned the competition's mandatory piece from him. All participants publicly premiered his Chaconne for solo viola in October that year, in Munich. Atar Arad plays on a viola by Niccolò Amati (the 'Arad') and uses a set of P1 strings, made by Thomastik.



Cathy Basrak

United States

A native of the Chicago area, Cathy Basrak earned her bachelor's degree from the Curtis Institute of Music in spring 2000. Her teachers include Joseph de Pasquale, principal viola of the BSO from 1947 to 1964, and Michael Tree of the Guarneri String Quartet. She has participated in the Marlboro Music Festival, Banff Centre for the Arts, and Norfolk Chamber Music Festival. In addition, she has performed with the Brandenburg Ensemble and Boston's Metamorphosen Ensemble and appeared as soloist with the Philadelphia Orchestra, Chicago, Detroit, and Bavarian

Radio symphony orchestras, and Boston Pops with John Williams. Basrak has won several awards, including Grand Prize in the Seventeen Magazine/General Motors National Concerto Competition, First Prize in the William E. Primrose Memorial Scholarship Competition, First Prize in the Irving M. Klein International String Competition, and Second Prize in the 46th International Music Competition of the ARD in Munich. Basrak teaches at the Boston Conservatory and Boston University and also coaches chamber ensembles at New England Conservatory.



2024 Primrose International Viola Competition

Jurors



Ensik Choi

South Korea

Korean-born violist Ensik Choi's extraordinary talent was recognized by maestro Myung-Whun Chung at an early age. He was accepted to study on a full scholarship at Crossroads High School for Arts and Sciences in Santa Monica, California, studying with Heiichiro Ohyama, principal violist of the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Curtis Institute of Music, where he studied with Joseph de Pasquale, principal violist of the Philadelphia Orchestra.

While a student at Curtis, he formed the Borromeo String Quartet, of which he was a member for five years. They won second prize at the Evian International Chamber Music Competition in France (1990) and the 1991 Young Artists International Auditions in New York. Mr. Choi's numerous concerts have included performances in the United States, Europe and Asia, including the 92nd street Y and Alice Tully Hall in New York, Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., Suntory Hall in Tokyo, and Wigmore Hall in London.

Choi has performed at many festivals, including Spoleto Festivals in both Charleston, South Carolina and Italy; Orlando Festival in the Netherlands; Vancouver Festival in Canada; Cape and Islands Festival in Massachusetts; Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival in New Mexico; Beijing International Music Festival in China; Seoul Spring chamber music; and Just Vivace Festival in Korea.

For three years, Choi was a faculty member at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston where he earned his Artist Diploma with distinguished violist Walter Trampler. He later served on the faculty at the college-conservatory at the University of Cincinnati. He is currently professor of Viola at College of Music, Seoul National University, and the artistic director for the Just Vivace Festival in Korea.



Steven Dann

Canada

Steven Dann was born on Canada's West Coast in Burnaby, B.C. His foremost teacher and mentor was the late Lorand Fenyves. Other significant influences along the way included William Primrose, Robert Pikler, and Bruno Giuranna.

Upon graduation from university, he was named Principal Viola of the National Arts Centre Orchestra in Ottawa, a position he subsequently held with the Tonhalle Orchestra in Zurich, the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra in Amsterdam, the Vancouver Symphony, and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. He has served as guest principal of the Lucerne Festival Orchestra under Horst Stein and Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos, the Boston Symphony Orchestra under Seiji Ozawa, the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra under Sir Simon Rattle and, in both performance and recordings, the Chamber Orchestra of Europe under Nikolaus Harnoncourt, Paavo Berglund, Ivan Fischer, and Pierre Boulez. He also led the viola section of the Canadian Opera Company for the opening of Toronto's Four Seasons opera house in performances of Wagner's Ring Cycle under Richard Bradshaw.

Steven Dann has collaborated as a soloist with such Maestri as Sir Andrew Davis, Rudolph Barshai, Jiri Belohlavek, Sir John Eliot Gardiner, Jukka-Pekka Saraste, Vladimir Ashkenazy, and Oliver Knussen.

Since 1990, Dann has been a member of the Smithsonian Chamber Players in Washington D.C. and was a founding member of the Axelrod String Quartet. He is also



2024 Primrose International Viola Competition

Jurors

violist of both the wonderfully eclectic Zebra Trio (with violinist Ernst Kovacic and cellist Anssi Karttunen) and Toronto's multi-Grammy-nominated ARC Ensemble. In solo and chamber music, Dann has recorded for Sony, Naxos, CBC Records, Marquis Classics, Centrediscs, RCA Red Seal, Ondine, Kairos, Chandos, ATMA Classique, and Toccata Classics. The Stereo Record Review described his recording of the viola works of Brahms (ATMA Classique) as "without doubt, one of the most beautiful viola recordings I have ever heard".

Dann has a diverse solo and chamber music repertoire born of both the researcher's joy in uncovering forgotten treasures, and a love of taking part in new creations. To name a few, important solo works with large ensembles by Mark-Anthony Turnage, Christos Hatzis, Morton Feldman, Giya Kancheli, Alexina Louie, and Jonathan Harvey. Unearthed gems from the past, some recorded for the first time, by Rebecca Clarke, Julius Röntgen, Jerzy Fitelberg, Pierre de Breville, Pierre Tournemire, Paul Ben-Haim, and Alberto Hemsí. And commissions including works from Peter Lieberon, R. Murray Schafer, Kaija Saariaho, Alexina Louie, Magnus Lindberg, Friedrich Cerha, and Hans Abrahamsen.

As both a performer and teacher, Dann is a regular guest at many international festivals and arts schools. He teaches viola and chamber music at the Glenn Gould School in Toronto's Royal Conservatory of Music and is the coordinator of chamber music programs at the Domaine Forget in Québec and the Music by the Sea Festival in British Columbia. With his colleagues in the Zebra Trio, a contemporary music seminar entitled "Creative Dialogue France" involving young and established composers and performers happens each August in the Loire Valley, France. Dann plays a viola commissioned from Joseph Curtin, based on the "Primrose" Guarneri.



Geraldine Walther

United States

Former violist of the Takács String Quartet and former Principal Violist of the San Francisco Symphony, Geraldine Walther previously served as assistant principal of the Pittsburgh Symphony, the Miami Philharmonic, and the Baltimore Symphony. During her tenure with the San Francisco Symphony, she was soloist with the orchestra 47 times and gave the US premiers of several important works. She has appeared in many chamber music festivals including Aspen, Marlboro, Santa Fe, Tanglewood, Music @Menlo, Telluride, Seattle, Cape Cod, Music Academy of

the West, Ravinia, and the Green Music Festival.

In 1995, Walther was selected by Sir Georg Solti as a member of his Musicians of the World, an orchestra composed of leading musicians from around the globe, for concerts in Geneva to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the United Nations. She has also served as principal violist with the Mainly Mozart Festival in San Diego and has performed as soloist with other orchestras.

As a member of the Takács Quartet, she traveled the world as a performer and served as Artist in Residence at the University of Colorado, Boulder. Walther's recordings include eighteen Hyperion recordings as a member of the Takács Quartet, Hindemith's Trauermusik and Der Schwanendreher with the San Francisco Symphony (both on London/Decca), Paul Chihara's Golden Slumbers with the San Francisco Chamber Singers (Albany), and Lou Harrison's Threnody (New Albion), Delectable Pieces with the Volkert Trio (Con Brio), and numerous recordings available from Music@Menlo LIVE. With collaborator David Korevaar (piano), she has recorded two albums of viola sonatas, one featuring Brahms and the other works of Hindemith on the MSR label.

Walther is a founding artist of the Ruby Mountain Chamber Music Festival and the Chamber Music Sundaes series in the San Francisco Bay Area.



2024 Primrose International Viola Competition Pre-Screening Jurors



Ames Asbell

PIVC Pre-screening Coordinator

Dr. Ames Asbell has performed in nearly 40 countries, in venues from Carnegie Hall to clubs. She appears on international releases by Nonesuch, Harmonia Mundi, Naxos, Sony, and more, and on film scores and broadcasts from *Waking Life* to *Austin City Limits*. Recent performances include International Viola Congresses in New Zealand, Poland and Thailand, and recitals in South Africa, Japan, and Mexico. Ames performs with the Tosca String Quartet, Austin Opera (principal), Austin Symphony, and Arizona Musicfest. She is currently Associate Professor of Viola at Texas State University and serves as President of the American Viola Society.



Ruben Balboa III

Dr. Ruben Balboa is a violist, educator, and performer based in Austin, Texas. Currently, he serves as Assistant Director of the University of Texas at Austin String Project, Adjunct Faculty at The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor where he directs the string ensemble, and Assistant Professor at Southwestern University where he teaches viola and conducts the orchestra. Balboa has presented at the American String Teachers Association National Conference and the Best Practices Teaching Sessions hosted by the National String Project Consortium. Most recently, he was invited to give a masterclass for the American Viola Society Festival & 47th International Viola Congress in Columbus, Georgia.



Jordan Bak

Hailed as “a powerhouse musician, with a strong voice and compelling sound,” (The Whole Note) Jamaican-American violist Jordan Bak has achieved international acclaim as a trailblazing artist, praised for his radiant stage presence, dynamic interpretations, and fearless power. The 2021 YCAT Robey Artist and a top laureate of the 2020 Sphinx Competition, Bak was also a Grand Prize and Audience Prize winner of the 2019 Concert Artists Guild Victor Elmaleh Competition, and the ‘John White’ Special Prize recipient of the 2019 Tertis International Viola Competition. Bak has appeared as soloist with such orchestras as the London Philharmonic Orchestra, Sarasota Orchestra, New York Classical Players, London Mozart Players, and Juilliard Orchestra among others, and as a chamber musician, has performed at numerous festivals such as Marlboro Music Festival, Tippet Rise, Chamber Music Northwest, and Newport Classical. Bak currently serves as Assistant Professor of Viola at University of North Carolina School of the Arts (UNCSA).



Nancy Buck

Violist Nancy Buck has developed an international profile as a remarkable artist-teacher. She is an outstanding collaborative performer, highly sought-after in both string quartet and mixed chamber music settings. Ms. Buck is co-artistic director of the Chamber@Ravenscroft music series in Scottsdale, Arizona, co-vice-president of the Arizona Bach Festival and professor of viola at Arizona State University’s Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts. She performs regularly with the Phoenix Symphony and has traveled and appeared at music festivals and concert halls around the world. Ms. Buck holds degrees from the Oberlin Conservatory and the Cleveland Institute of Music. In 2008, she was privileged to serve as Host Chair and Artistic Director of the 36th International Viola Congress, held on the Tempe campus of Arizona State University.

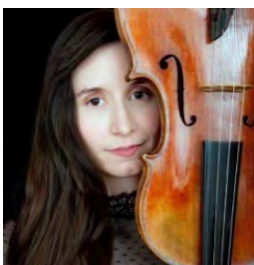


2024 Primrose International Viola Competition Pre-Screening Jurors



Philippe Chao

Philippe Chao is the Assistant Professor of Viola at Texas Tech University and on faculty at the Sewanee Summer Music Festival. He is a longstanding member of the Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra and the Grand Teton Music Festival and performs as a guest musician with the Pittsburgh, National, and Baltimore Symphonies. His chamber music collaborations have included performances with international artists James Buswell, Simone Porter, Robert Koenig, and Julian Rachlin. He has performed on NPR's Performance Today with Fred Childs and can be heard on the Naxos recording featuring the works of Bernard Hermann. Mr. Chao created a popular transcription of the Bach Cello Suites for two violas as well as published several first-editions of works by the 20th century Italian composer, Marco Anzoletti. He has commissioned works from Sergey Akhunov and Adolphus Hailstork with recordings forthcoming.



Christina Ebersohl-Van Scyoc

Christina Ebersohl-Van Scyoc made her solo debut after her Honorable Discharge from the US Army, where she served as an Arabic Linguist. Since her return to the classical world, she has embarked on a multifaceted career, seamlessly transitioning between solo performances, charismatic advocacy, and cultural diplomacy. Her expressive playing and profound understanding of the viola repertoire has garnered critical acclaim, establishing her as a sought-after artist on both national and international stages. Beyond the stage, she remains deeply involved in philanthropic endeavors—inspired by her own experiences as a blind musician, she regularly pursues initiatives that actively make classical music accessible to disabled musicians. Christina is currently the Editor for the Journal of the American Viola Society. She continues to captivate audiences with her soul-stirring performances while contributing to the cultural tapestry of classical music.



Juan-Miguel Hernandez

An artist defined as "...tender, lyrical, loaded with personality" (Atlanta Journal Constitution), violist Juan-Miguel Hernandez is also recognized for drawing "...the sweetest, most sonorous tone..." (Washington Post). First Prize winner at the 16th International Johannes Brahms Competition in Austria, and the Sphinx Competition (2006 Senior division), Juan-Miguel is regularly seen on stage as soloist and guest artist around the world. A dedicated chamber musician, Juan-Miguel was a member of the legendary Fine Arts Quartet (2013-2018) and original member of the Harlem Quartet (2006-2012). Juan-Miguel joined the faculty of the Royal Academy of Music in London as Professor of Viola in September 2016 where he now remains as visiting professor after moving back to Montreal-Canada, his native home, in 2020. His musicianship has led to a wide array of collaborations with artists such as Itzhak Perlman, Lynn Harrell, Kim Kashkashian as well as Chick Corea, Gary Burton and Stanley Clark.



2024 Primrose International Viola Competition Pre-Screening Jurors



Kimia Hesabi

Dr. Kimia Hesabi is a violist, educator, and administrator currently residing in the D.C area. Hesabi is the the Co-Director of Education and Engagement at the National Philharmonic, where she co-creates programs, opportunities, and community initiatives that are centered around artistic, educational, and social impact. Kimia has recently released her album entitled *Nemāno Gaona* featuring works for viola by composers of the Iranian Diaspora under New Focus Recordings. Hesabi in collaboration with violinist/kamancheh player/composer Sarvin Hazin, are among the recipients of the Creator Development Fund from New Music USA in 2022 for a project entitled *Neera*. This multimedia project was among the recipients of the 2023 *innova Recordings National Call*. For more information, please visit <https://www.kimiahesabi.com>.



Gabrielle Padilla Molina

Recognized as an Emerging Teacher by the American Viola Society, Dr. Gabrielle Padilla Molina is an Artist-Faculty member at the Omaha Conservatory of Music. She has served as interim viola faculty of Virginia Tech, West Virginia University, and has taught at the Interlochen Arts Camp and the Oklahoma Summer Arts Institute. Gabrielle has performed and presented lectures at events such as the 47th International Viola Congress, American Viola Society Festivals, National Flute Association Convention, the 2023 American String Teachers Association National Conference, and masterclasses at the Nashville Symphony's *Accelerando* Program, Puerto Rico Summer Music Festival, Longwood University, and West Virginia University's Viola Bootcamp. Gabrielle's studies were at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music, Ball State University with Dr. Katrin Meidell, and West Virginia University where she proudly served as the Graduate Teaching Assistant of Andrea Priester Houde. Gabrielle is a Board Member of the American Viola Society.



Rose Wollman

Hailed as "innovative" and "stylish" by the Chicago Classical Review, violist Rose Wollman is sought after as a soloist, chamber musician and teacher. She was the founding violist of the Petar Jankovic Ensemble and the Larchmere String quartet, and recorded albums with both groups. Rose's solo album *LOOP: Ligeti's Inspiration and Legacy* was released by Acis in October 2022 to critical acclaim. Her newly released album *Breaking Glass Ceilings: Music by Unruly Women*, explores the legacy of American female composers. Rose has performed with the Lucerne Festival Academy Orchestra, the Pacific Music Festival Orchestra, and the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra. She has collaborated with diverse artists, including Atar Arad, Michael Kannen, Jeffrey Dunham, Rachel Barton Pine, Julián Peralta, Pablo Aslan, and Michael Spiro.

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2024 Primrose International Viola Competition Competitors



Leslie Caitlin Ashworth is among the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's 2021 "Hot 30 Under 30 Classical Musicians" and a 2022 prizewinner of the Steppingstone International Competition. A passionate musician, Ms. Ashworth has performed in the Perlman Music Program, as quartet-in-residence at the European Alliance Musical Alliance in Paris and with luminaries such as the Takacs String Quartet and Barbara Hannigan. She has been mentored in master classes with Kim Kashkashian, Robert Levin, Leon Fleisher, Jaime Laredo, and Samuel Rhodes. Ms. Ashworth received the Ontario Lieutenant Governor's Volunteer Award for founding the non-profit Suite Melody Care. Currently pursuing her Doctor of Musical Arts under Misha Amory at the Juilliard School, Ms. Ashworth earned her Master of Music in Viola at Juilliard as a Kovner Fellow (2023) and a Master of Music in Violin at Rice University (2021). She plays an 1854 Joseph Rocca viola on loan from Juilliard. She gratefully acknowledges the Sylva Gelber Music Foundation.



Keoni Bolding enjoys an eclectic career, having performed with ensembles around the world, including the London Symphony Orchestra, the New York Philharmonic, and the Philadelphia Orchestra. Described as "mesmerizing" (The Burlington Hawkeye Times) and "transportive" (Santa Barbara Voice), music has been at the center of Mr. Bolding's life since the age of three. Recent highlights include joining the viola section of the Houston Symphony Orchestra, recording *A Gathering of Friends* with Yo-Yo Ma, John Williams, and the New York Philharmonic, and premiering his electronic chamber opera, *52 Hz: The Whale Opera*, at the Lincoln Center. Mr. Bolding holds degrees from the Curtis Institute of Music, the Juilliard School, and Mercer University. In his spare time, he enjoys backpacking and surfing with his HSO homies and helping his family take care of their small dairy farm.



Hsiang-Hsin Ching, a dedicated Taiwanese violist and recording engineer, is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in Recording Arts and Viola Performance at the Peabody Institute under the guidance of Choong-Jin Chang. Invited as an Orchestra Academy member and section leader for the 2018 and 2019 Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival, she earned abundant experiences in chamber music and orchestra. In 2020, Ms. Ching was awarded full scholarship to the Taipei Music Academy and Festival and, in 2022, the Aspen School of Music. She joined the Texas Chamber Music Institute with her quartet as quartet-in-residence and Taos School of Music and Chamber Music Festival in 2023. She was also a member of the New York String Orchestra. Ms. Ching's performances have graced numerous venues across Europe, Asia, and the United States, including in Taipei, Changhua, Kaohsiung, Tokyo, Berlin, Hamburg, Lübeck, Plön, New York City, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C.



2024 Primrose International Viola Competition Competitors



Toby Alexander Cook performs internationally as a soloist and chamber musician, recently at Kings Place London, Hamburg Elbphilharmonie, and Berlin Philharmonic. He is a winner of the Małopolska competition, the Barbirolli Prize at the Lionel Tertis International Viola Competition, and the Len Lickorish Memorial Prize at the Royal Overseas League International Competition. Mr. Cook currently studies with Lawrence Power at the Zurich University of Arts, having completed his master's degree with Tabea Zimmermann at Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler Berlin, and bachelor's degree with Juan-Miguel Hernandez and

Garfield Jackson in London, where he began in the junior department with Jacky Woods and Clare Thompson. An avid chamber musician, Mr. Cook has performed at the "Open Chamber Music" seminar at IMS Prussia Cove and Kronberg Academy's Chamber Music Connects the World. Mr. Cook is a Tillett Trust and Villa Musica artist and part of the Festivalcampus Ensemble at Heidelberger Frühling Festival, designing and performing for a number of events.



Riko Eto actively participates in solo, chamber music, and orchestral seminars worldwide. She has performed in the Open Chamber Music week at IMS Prussia Cove as well as the Beppu Argerich Music Festival, Seiji Ozawa Music Orchestra Academy, and Ozawa International Chamber Music Academy Okushiga. As a soloist, Ms. Eto participated in the solo viola section of the ARD International Music Competition 2023 in Munich. She was also selected as an active student of Kronberg Academy's master class and received sessions from Tabea Zimmermann. She also received master class sessions from Nobuko Imai at the

Lac Lemman Music Masterclasses. In Project Q (Japan), she participated in master classes given by the Vision String Quartet, Koichiro Harada, Sadao Harada, and Jean-Guihen Queyras. She completed her bachelor's degree at the Tokyo University of the Arts (Kazunori Kawasaki's class) and is currently studying with Kaoru Ohno and Toshihiko Ichitsubo at the Graduate School of Tokyo University of the Arts.



Andjela Josifoski was born in Belgrade, Serbia, into a family of musicians. She started to play the violin at the age of seven and switched to viola at the age of 13. She finished music school studying with Aleksandra Kijanovic and, in 2022, she joined the prestigious International Menuhin Music Academy (Switzerland), studying with Ivan Vukčević and Gerard Caussé. She has won many national and international competitions. At the international Talents for Europe competition, (Slovakia) she won the grand prize (2022) as well as at the Guarneri Fest (Serbia) and Music & More Summerfest (Bosnia and Herzegovina). Ms.

Josifoski has played at many festivals and attended master classes by Igor Ozim, Dora Schwarzberg, Gabor Takacs-Nagy, Dejan Mihailović, Mr. Caussé, Mr. Vukčević, and Panta Veličković. She has played with multiple orchestras, including IMMA soloists (Switzerland), Žilina chamber orchestra (Slovakia), and Sinfonietta Belgrade.



2024 Primrose International Viola Competition Competitors



Yong Ha Jung is currently a graduate student at the Juilliard School under the mentorship of Carol Rodland, after spending most of his undergraduate studies with Roger Tapping. Born in South Korea, he moved to Dallas, Texas, at an early age where he began playing viola at the age of nine with Ronald Houston. Since then, Mr. Jung has won numerous competitions, including the Lynn Harrell Concerto Competition, Schmidbauer Young Artists Competition, and Collin County Young Artists Competition. He has performed in Carnegie Hall with the National Youth Orchestra in 2018 and toured Asia under the

baton of Michael Tilson Thomas. In recent years, Mr. Jung attended the Kneisel Hall Chamber Music Festival and Taos School of Music Chamber Music Festival, where he has focused on chamber music under renowned faculty members. Most recently, he has had the chance to attend the Verbier Music Festival, continuing to expand his passion for music.



Finnish violist **Annariina Jokela** started her musical journey at the Music Institute of Lapland, studying with Igor Arias and Taru Lehto. She continued her studies at the Sibelius Academy of the University of Arts Helsinki with Lilli Maijala and Pirkko Simojoki, and then continued her education, earning master's degrees from both the University of Music and Performing Arts Munich with Nils Mönkemeyer and at HEMU Lausanne/Sion with Tatjana Masurenko. Upon completing her master's degree with distinction, Ms. Jokela joined the faculty of the Sibelius Academy in 2022 as a viola teacher, concurrently serving as the

assistant to visiting viola professor Mönkemeyer. In addition, starting from 2023, she imparts her expertise to aspiring violists at Metropolia University of Applied Sciences and has served as a substituting viola lecturer and head of the viola faculty. As a soloist, Ms. Jokela has performed with various orchestras, such as the Hamburger Camerata, Tampere Philharmonic Orchestra, and Sibelius Academy Symphony Orchestra.



Born in Kyoto, Japan, **Mao Konishi** first studied violin with Nobu Wakabayashi, Mark Gothoni, and Boris Belkin. She currently studies viola with Hartmut Rohde at the University of the Arts, Berlin. Other musical figures that guided her include Nobuko Imai, Walter Küssner, Antoine Tamestit, Tatjana Masurenko, and Miguel da Silva. She has won numerous awards at international competitions, including the first prize at the Ibolyka Gyarfas Competition, finalist and the Special Prize winner at the Karol Lipiński International Competition, and second prize at the Verão Clássico. Ms. Konishi has performed with many

orchestras, such as the Torun Symphony Orchestra, the Krakow Chamber Orchestra, and the Lutosławski Orchestra. Since 2023, she has been a student at the Konzerthaus Orchestra Berlin. She has participated in prestigious master classes, such as the Kronberg Academy and the Villars Music Academy, organized by Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra. Ms. Konishi plays a viola made by Ivo Luliano (2022).



2024 Primrose International Viola Competition Competitors



Katie Liu is a Master of Musical Arts student at the Yale School of Music in the studio of Ettore Causa. Previously the principal violist of the American Youth Symphony, she is currently a section violist at the New Haven Symphony Orchestra and regularly performs with the New York Philharmonic as a substitute violist. An active chamber musician, Ms. Liu has performed with the Jupiter Symphony Chamber Players and previously attended the NUME Academy and Verbier Festival Academy. Ms. Liu received her Master of Music degree at the Colburn School Conservatory of Music and her undergraduate

degree from Princeton University, concentrating in operations research and financial engineering with minors in musical performance and computer science. Aside from her musical pursuits, Ms. Liu has corporate working experience in asset management and fintech consulting. Her upcoming engagements in the summer of 2024 include Kronberg Academy Chamber Music Connects the World and North Shore Chamber Music Festival.



Laura Liu, a native of Miami, Florida, currently lives in New York City studying with Cynthia Phelps and Misha Amory. Recently hailed by Classical Voice America as a “standout” with “sound deep, warm, and consistently musical,” Ms. Liu participated in the Olympic Music Festival Fellowship, Music@Menlo’s International Performer’s Program, and Perlman Music Program’s Chamber Workshop this summer. She will return to Music@Menlo this February for its winter residency. Previously, Ms. Liu attended Taos School of Music, Kneisel Hall, Music Academy of the West, and Heifetz International Music Institute.

She recently made her Casals Forum debut, performing in recital at the Kronberg Festival Masterclasses. She will return to Kronberg this May as a junior artist participating in its Chamber Music Connects the World. She recently earned her Bachelor of Music, and is now pursuing her master’s as a proud recipient of a Kovner Fellowship at the Juilliard School.



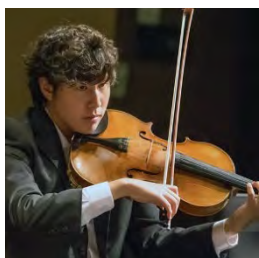
The first violist to be awarded the Prix d’Europe in the competition’s 111 years of existence, Wilhelm Wagner is currently completing a master’s degree in Viola Performance at Yale University in the studio of Ettore Causa. Previously, he completed a Graduate Diploma in Viola at McGill University, studying with André Roy. He was listed on the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation’s “Hot 30 Under 30 Classical Musicians” list in 2022. Mr. Wagner’s solo engagements in 2023–24 include recitals in Canada, the United States, and Poland. He is a prizewinner of many competitions, including the Canadian Music Competition (ex-aequo first prize) and the OSJS Concerto Competition. He was a semi-finalist in the 2022 Oskar Nedbal International Viola Competition as well as participated in the Prague Spring competition. He has performed at many summer festivals, such as the Gstaad Menuhin Festival and Kneisel Hall. He also is a recipient of the Sylva Gelber Foundation Award. Mr. Wagner plays a viola by Ryan Soltis, Nelson (2023), and an Ouchard bow generously loaned by the company CANIMEX INC. from Drummondville (Quebec), Canada.



2024 Primrose International Viola Competition Competitors



Born and raised in Montreal, Canada, violist **David Montreuil** began his musical journey as a violinist before falling in love with the viola while beginning university. He has had the opportunity to attend festivals such as the Aspen Music Festival and School, the McGill International String Quartet Academy, the Schiermonnikoog Music Festival, the Netherland String Quartet Academy, and the New York String Orchestra Seminar, in which he was assistant principal viola. Mr. Montreuil was the winner of the 2023 Golden Violin Award and has been a prizewinner in the 2023 McGill Chamber Music Competition. He was a semi-finalist in the 2022 and 2023 Prix d'Europe Competition and in the 2023 Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition. Since 2022, He was the recipient of a Lloyd Carr-Harris scholarship (2018), the MacLeannan String Graduate Award (2019), and the Student Excellence Fellowship (2019). Mr. Montreuil holds a bachelor's degree, graduate diploma, and master's degree in Viola Performance from McGill University's Schulich School of Music, where he studied with Professor André Roy. He is currently pursuing an artist diploma.



Andy Park, a senior at Yale University, is pursuing Bachelor of Arts/Master of Music dual degrees under the guidance of Ettore Causa. Before attending Yale, he participated in the Colburn School Music Academy program, under Paul Coletti and Gina Coletti. He was a quarter finalist in the 2021 Primrose International Viola Competition and was invited to the first round of the 2023 ARD International Music Competition. As an orchestra enthusiast, Mr. Park took part in the 2018 New York String Orchestra Seminar and has won principal viola positions in numerous orchestras. During previous summers, he actively participated in music festivals such as Music@Menlo and the Heifetz Ashkenasi/Kirshbaum Seminar. Mr. Park has performed alongside esteemed artists such as Joshua Bell, Nicholas Kitchen, Yeesun Kim, Yefim Bronfman, and Pamela Frank. He also participated in master classes led by Roberto Diaz, Karen Dreyfus, and Mr. Coletti. Mr. Park currently uses a bow and a viola graciously loaned by the Maestro Foundation.



Haneul Park is studying at the Curtis Institute of Music under the tutelage of Misha Amory, Roberto Diaz, and Hsin-yun Huang. She has won top prizes at numerous competitions, including third prize at the Cecil Aronowitz International viola competition. Most recently, Ms. Park participated in the Four Seasons Music Festival, Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, the Perlman Music Program Chamber workshop, Yellow Barn Young Artist Program, Moritzburg Music Festival, and New York String Orchestra Seminar. She has collaborated with Itzhak Perlman, Donald Weilerstein, Ida Kavafian, Ani Kavafian, Steven Tenenbom, Tai Murray, and members of the St. Lawrence Quartet. Before moving to the United States, Ms. Park entered the Seoul Arts High School with honors, and as a pianist, graduated from the Yewon Arts School and attended the Seoul Arts Center's Gifted Children's Music Academy. She received a Bachelor of Music from the New England Conservatory, studying with Kim Kashkashian.

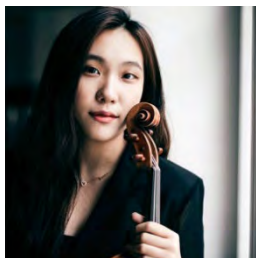


2024 Primrose International Viola Competition Competitors



Karolina Errera Pavon grew up in a Dominican-Russian family with musical influences from all over the world. Making music was initially intended as a pastime after schoolwork, but it quickly developed into a passion that has become an integral part of her life. In 2018, Ms. Errera won first prize at the VIII Yuri Bashmet International Viola Competition, having previously been awarded second place at the 52nd International Instrumental Competition Markneukirchen and first prize at the International Jan Rakovsky Competition. In chamber music, she is fascinated by the sensitivity of the shared creative moment

and the fulfilling communication with one another. She is a former scholarship holder of the Berliner Philharmoniker's Karajan Academy. Since October 2018, she has been studying with Professor Tabea Zimmermann at the Kronberg Academy—her studies were funded by Dr. Rolf M. Schwiete Stiftung—and she completed her Professional Studies degree in June 2023. Currently, Ms. Errera plays a copy of Gasparo da Salò viola made by Leipzig-based Luthier Jan Wünsch.



JungAhn Shin was born in Busan, South Korea. Her musical journey began at the Korea National Institute for the Gifted in Arts, where she honed her talent and ignited her love for music. At age 15, Ms. Shin relocated to Berlin, Germany, where she pursued her musical education under the mentorship of Tabea Zimmermann at the Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler Berlin, starting as a pre-college student. She then continued her bachelor's degree with Ms. Zimmermann and is now pursuing further studies at UDK Berlin with Hartmut Rohde, expanding her musical horizons. Ms. Shin's performances have captivated

audiences at prestigious festivals such as Kronberg Academy's Chamber Music Connects the World, IMS Prussia Cove, and Grachten Festival, collaborating with esteemed musicians such as Steven Isserlis, Nobuko Imai, Christian Tetzlaff, and Renaud Capuçon, among others. Now a regular substitute at the Berliner Philharmoniker, Ms. Shin draws inspiration from artists such as Ms. Zimmermann, Ms. Imai, Lars Anders Tomter, Yura Lee, among others.



Otoha Tabata made her solo debut in London at age 11 and has since been performing as a soloist across Europe and worldwide. At age 10, she entered the Yehudi Menuhin School, growing up both in Japan and the U.K. Her studies were supported by scholarship and the Music and Dance Scheme. Currently, Ms. Tabata studies privately with Nobuko Imai and Jonathan Barritt at the Royal College of Music London, where she receives a full scholarship as a Richard Goulding Scholar supported by the Richard & Susan Jarvis Award. She has been selected as a scholar of the Rohm Music Foundation Japan 2023.

Recent awards include third prize at the Windsor Festival International String Competition, Promotion Prize at the Anton Rubinstein Viola Competition, and an honorary mention at the Oskar Nedbal Viola Competition. Since 2023, Ms. Tabata has been an Akademist of the Munich Philharmonic Orchestra and scholarship holder of Villa Musica Chamber Music Academy. Ms. Otoha performs on a Charles Boullangier viola, kindly loaned by the Royal College of Music.



2024 Primrose International Viola Competition Competitors



Guohan Tang began learning the violin at the age of four. In 2012, he was admitted to the middle school of the Xinghai Conservatory of Music, where he switched to studying the viola under Donglei Hou. Since 2018, he has been studying at the University of the Arts, Berlin with Hartmut Rohde. Throughout his studies, Mr. Tang participated in various music festivals and competitions, such as the Carl Flesch Academy, Tsinandali Music Festival, Oskari Nedbal International Viola Competition, among others. He attended master classes with teachers like Nobuko Imai, Lars Anders Tomter, Antoine Tamestit, Tomas Riebl, Roland Glassl, and more. Mr. Tang was a recipient of the Deutschlandstipendium scholarship for three years (2019-2022). In November 2021, he became a member of the Academy of the Deutsche Symphony Orchestra, and in May 2022, he was awarded the Gerd-Bucerius Scholarship by the Deutschen Stiftung Musikleben. Currently, he is pursuing a master's degree in Instrumental Soloist under Mr. Rohde at UDK Berlin.



Duleen van Gunsteren was born in 1995 in Noordwijk, Netherlands. He began his studies on the violin in the School for Young Talent in The Hague with Koosje van Haeringen. He continued his studies at the Conservatory of Rotterdam with Ron Ephrat and at the Conservatory of Amsterdam with Marjolein Dispa and Nobuko Imai. Mr. van Gunsteren won third prize in the International Oskar Nedbal Competition in 2023 as well as in the Triomphe de l'Arc Competition in 2024. He won special prizes in the Chamber Music Competition Gelre with Duo Van Gunsteren Keinänen in 2023 (the Grachtenfestival Prize) and the Amsterdam National Viola Competition in 2021 (the Leo Smit Prize). He has followed master classes with Isabelle van Keulen, Garth Knox, Pierre Henri Xuereb, Atte Kilpeläinen, Lilli Maijala, and Anita Mitterer, among others. Mr. van Gunsteren plays with various orchestras and ensembles, such as the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Antwerp Symphony Orchestra, The Hague Philharmonic, Combattimento, and ASKO|Schönberg. He also likes folk music, improvisation, and singing.



Polish violist **Kinga Wojdalska** is an upcoming soloist and chamber musician known for her emotional performances. She premiered John Williams' viola concerto in Europe with the Dohnanyi Budapest Orchestra in 2022. Ms. Wojdalska has won 22 competition awards, including the Karl Doctor Prize in the Lionel Tertis Competition 2019. She has received scholarships from the Hattori Foundation, Countess of Munster Musical Trust, and the Swiss Government Excellence Scholarship. A proud Varsovian, Ms. Wojdalska studied at the Zenon Brzewski Music School. Later, she completed her bachelor's degree at the Royal College of Music in London and her master's soloist diploma at the Zürcher Hochschule der Künste. Currently, she is continuing her education there under the direction of Lawrence Power and Sergey Malov. Chamber music is a significant part of her career. As a member of the Brompton Quartet, Ms. Wojdalska made her Wigmore Hall debut and recorded an album for Mathis Saunier and Noah Max. She co-founded the Polish ensemble Kameralna N - Harmonia and is a member of the Viktoria Mullova Ensemble. Ms. Wojdalska plays a modern viola by Jerzy Maślanka.



2024 Primrose International Viola Competition Competitors



Zhou Xunyu is 16 years old and is currently studying at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music under the guidance of Liu Nian. In 2017, she was admitted to the primary school department of Shanghai Conservatory with excellent results. In 2020, she was exempted from the exam and directly promoted to the junior high school department of the conservatory. Also, in 2020, she won the 21st Italian Montelosa Cavai Award at the Valcecia International Youth Music Competition and second prize in the fifth Russia Moscow International Music Competition. In 2021, she was selected for a Little Angels program and performed five

folk song concertos together with Master Tang Muhai and Shanghai Opera House Symphony Orchestra. Ms. Xunyu was admitted to the Morningside Music Bridge in 2022 and won the 11th Italy Giuseppe Raciti at the International Music Competition (Group C). In 2023, she was selected by Tabea Zimmermann to participate in the Kronberg Viola master class in Germany.



Canadian violist **Emad Zolfaghari** was accepted into the Curtis Institute of Music at age 16, where he currently studies with Hsin-Yun Huang. He is the first-prize winner of the Irving M. Klein International String Competition and the International Morningside Music Bridge Competition. He is the second-prize winner of the Johansen International String Competition and third-prize winner of the OSM String Competition. Mr. Zolfaghari has appeared as a soloist with several major symphony orchestras, including l'Orchestre Métropolitain under the baton of Yannick Nézet-Séguin, the Montreal Symphony, Toronto

Symphony Orchestra, National Philharmonic, Oakville Chamber Orchestra, and National Metropolitan Philharmonic. His previous mentors include Theresa Rudolph, Caroline Coad, and Shanda Lowery-Sachs. His other awards include grand prize at the OMNI Music Competition, first prize at the Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra Competition, Guelph Symphony Orchestra Competition and Oakville Chamber Orchestra Competition, second prize at the Ronald Sachs International Music Competition and top and special prizes at the Shean Strings Competition.

2024 Primrose International Viola Competition Orchestra Conductor

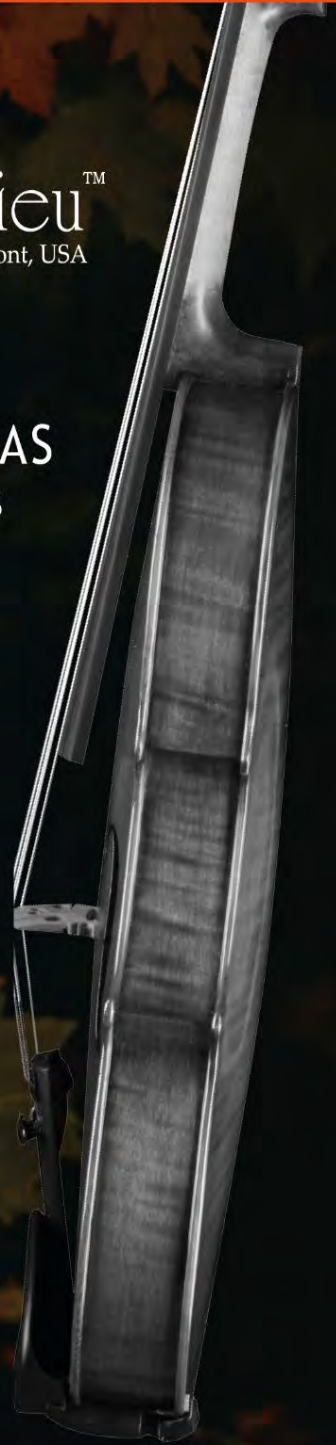


Elias Peter Brown works as a conductor, composer, improviser, and curator, seeking to create meaningful spaces for listening in and out of the concert hall. He currently serves as the Assistant Conductor for the Odense Symphony Orchestra and is a 2024 recipient of the Solti Foundation US Career Assistance Award. Brown is a recent graduate of the Nagaunee Conducting Program at the Colburn School, where he was personally mentored by Esa-Pekka Salonen and served as assistant conductor at the San Francisco Symphony.

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2024 Primrose International Viola Competition *Competitor Repertoire*

Leslie Caitlin Ashworth

Quarter-Final Round

ERNST KRENEK Sonata for Viola Solo, Op. 92, No. 3 (1st & 2nd movements)

ALEXANDER BORODIN String Quartet No. 2 in D Major (3rd movement,
arr. by W. Primrose)

JESSIE MONTGOMERY Rhapsody No. 1

Semi-Final Round

NOKUTHULA NGWENYAMA Remembrance

J.S. BACH Suite No. 6, BWV 1012 (Prelude & Courante)

REBECCA CLARKE Sonata for Viola and Piano (1st & 2nd movements)

Final Round

CLAUDE DEBUSSY Trio for Flute, Viola, and Pedal Harp

WILLIAM WALTON Viola Concerto

Keoni Bolding

Quarter-Final Round

PAUL HINDEMITH Viola Sonata, Op. 25, No. 1 (1st, 2nd, 3rd, & 4th movements)

DUKE ELLINGTON "Reflections in D"

GIACOMO PUCCINI Tosca Paraphrase (Act III)

Semi-Final Round

NOKUTHULA NGWENYAMA Remembrance

J.S. BACH Suite No. 4, BWV 1010 (Bourée & Gavotte)

REBECCA CLARKE Sonata for Viola and Piano

Final Round

CLAUDE DEBUSSY Trio for Flute, Viola, and Pedal Harp

WILLIAM WALTON Viola Concerto

Hsiang-Hsin Ching

Quarter-Final Round

ARTHUR BENJAMIN Jamaica Rumba

TÖRU TAKEMITSU A Bird Came Down the Walk

PAUL HINDEMITH Viola Sonata, No. 4 (1937)

Semi-Final Round

NOKUTHULA NGWENYAMA Remembrance

J.S. BACH Cello Suite No. 5, BWV 1011 (Prelude & Courante)

REBECCA CLARKE Sonata for Viola and Piano

Final Round

CLAUDE DEBUSSY Trio for Flute, Viola, and Pedal Harp

BÉLA BARTÓK Viola Concerto (completed by T. Serly)



2024 Primrose International Viola Competition *Competitor Repertoire*

Toby Alexander Cook

Quarter-Final Round

SERGEI PROKOFIEV Romeo and Juliet ("Juliet the Young Girl," "Dance of the Knights," & "Mercutio," arr. by Borisovsky)

ARSHIA SAMSAMINIA "In Eternity" for Viola and Piano

PAUL HINDEMITH Viola Sonata, Op. 25, No. 1 (1st, 2nd, & 3rd movements)

Semi-Final Round

NOKUTHULA NGWENYAMA Remembrance

J.S. BACH Suite No. 6, BWV 1012 (Allemande & Gigue)

PAUL HINDEMITH Sonata for Viola and Piano, Op. 11, No. 4

Final Round

CLAUDE DEBUSSY Trio for Flute, Viola, and Pedal Harp

WILLIAM WALTON Viola Concerto

Karolina Errera Pavon

Quarter-Final Round

PAUL HINDEMITH Sonata for Viola, Op. 11, No. 5 (4th movement)

WILLIAM GRANT STILL "Summerland" from Three Visions for Viola and Piano

NICCOLÒ PAGANINI La Campanella (arr. by William Primrose)

Semi-Final Round

NOKUTHULA NGWENYAMA Remembrance

J.S. BACH Cello Suite No. 5, BWV 1011 (Prelude & Sarabande)

JOHANNES BRAHMES Sonata for Viola and Piano, Op. 120, No. 1 in F Minor

Final Round

CLAUDE DEBUSSY Trio for Flute, Viola, and Pedal Harp

BÉLA BARTÓK Viola Concerto (completed by T. Serly)

Riko Eto

Quarter-Final Round

PAUL HINDEMITH Viola Sonata, Op. 25, No. 1 (1st, 2nd, & 4th movements)

TÔRU TAKEMITSU A Bird Came Down the Walk

GERGES ENESCU Concertstück

Semi-Final Round

NOKUTHULA NGWENYAMA Remembrance

J.S. BACH Cello Suite No. 3, BWV 1009 (Prelude & Sarabande)

REBECCA CLARKE Sonata for Viola and Piano

Final Round

CLAUDE DEBUSSY Trio for Flute, Viola, and Pedal Harp

BÉLA BARTÓK Viola Concerto (completed by T. Serly)



2024 Primrose International Viola Competition *Competitor Repertoire*

Annariina Jokela

Quarter-Final Round

PAUL HINDEMITH Viola Sonata, Op. 31, No. 4 (3rd movement)
FLORENCE BEATRICE PRICE Elfentanz
NICCOLÒ PAGANINI La Campanella (arr. by William Primrose)

Semi-Final Round

NOKUTHULA NGWENYAMA Remembrance
J.S. BACH Cello Suite No. 5, BWV 1011 (Prelude & Courante)
YORK BOWEN Viola Sonata, Op.22 No.2 in F Major

Final Round Final Round

CLAUDE DEBUSSY Trio for Flute, Viola, and Pedal Harp
WILLIAM WALTON Viola Concerto

Andjela Josifoski

Quarter-Final Round

MAX REGER Suite for Viola, Op. 131d, No. 2
FLORENCE BEATRICE PRICE Elfentanz
HUGO WOLFE Italian Serenade in G Major

Semi-Final Round

NOKUTHULA NGWENYAMA Remembrance
J.S. BACH Violin Partita No. 3 in E Major, BWV 1006.1 (1st & 2nd movements)
NICCOLÒ PAGANINI Sonata per la Grand Viola, Op.35, MS 70

Final Round Final Round

CLAUDE DEBUSSY Trio for Flute, Viola, and Pedal Harp
WILLIAM WALTON Viola Concerto

Yong Ha Jung

Quarter-Final Round

PAUL HINDEMITH Viola Sonata, Op. 25, No. 1 (1st, 2nd, 3rd, & 4th movements)
FLORENCE BEATRICE PRICE Elfentanz
NICCOLÒ PAGANINI La Campanella (arr. by William Primrose)

Semi-Final Round

NOKUTHULA NGWENYAMA Remembrance
J.S. BACH Cello Suite No. 2, BWV 1008 (Prelude & Courante)
HENRI VIEUXTEMPS Sonata for Viola and Piano in B-flat Major, Op. 36 (1st, 2nd, & 3rd movements)

Final Round

CLAUDE DEBUSSY Trio for Flute, Viola, and Pedal Harp
BÉLA BARTÓK Viola Concerto (completed by T. Serly)



2024 Primrose International Viola Competition

Competitor Repertoire

Mao Konishi

Quarter-Final Round

MAX REGER Suite for Viola, Op. 131d, No. 1
AKIRA NISHIMURA Sonata for Viola No. 2, "Mantra on the C string"
NICCOLÒ PAGANINI La Campanella (arr. by William Primrose)

Semi-Final Round

NOKUTHULA NGWENYAMA Remembrance
J.S. BACH Sonata for Violin Solo No. 1, BWV 1001 (1st and 2nd movements)
PAUL HINDEMITH Sonata for Viola and Piano, No. 3

Final Round

CLAUDE DEBUSSY Trio for Flute, Viola, and Pedal Harp
BÉLA BARTÓK Viola Concerto (completed by T. Serly)

Katie Liu

Quarter-Final Round

PAUL HINDEMITH Sonata for Viola, Op. 31, No. 4 (1st and 2nd movements)
GEORGE ENESCU Concertstück
EMILY LIUSHEN Tum for Viola Solo

Semi-Final Round

JOHANNES BRAHMS Sonata for Viola and Piano No. 2 in E-flat Major, Op. 120
J.S. BACH Cello Suite No. 6, BWV 1012 (Allemand & Gigue)
NOKUTHULA NGWENYAMA Remembrance

Final Round

CLAUDE DEBUSSY Trio for Flute, Viola, and Pedal Harp
BÉLA BARTÓK Viola Concerto (completed by T. Serly)

Laura Liu

Quarter-Final Round

PAUL HINDEMITH Viola Sonata, Op. 11, No. 5 (4th movement)
GEORGE ENESCU Concertstück
GEORGE WALKER Lament for Voice and Piano

Semi-Final Round

NOKUTHULA NGWENYAMA Remembrance
J.S. BACH Violin Sonata No. 1 in G Minor, BWV 1001 (1st & 2nd movements)
GEORGE ROCHBERG Sonata for Viola and Piano

Final Round

CLAUDE DEBUSSY Trio for Flute, Viola, and Pedal Harp
WILLIAM WALTON Viola Concerto



2024 Primrose International Viola Competition *Competitor Repertoire*

Wilhelm Wagner

Quarter-Final Round

FRANZ WAXMAN "Carmen" Fantasie (arr. for viola by Wilhelm Wagner)
PAUL HINDEMITH Viola Sonata, Op. 25, No. 1 (3rd movement)
FLORENCE BEATRICE PRICE Elfentanz

Semi-Final Round

NOKUTHULA NGWENYAMA Remembrance
J.S. BACH Cello Suite No. 6, BWV 1012 (Prelude & Allemande)
VALDIMIR KRYUKOV Viola Sonata, Op. 15

Final Round

CLAUDE DEBUSSY Trio for Flute, Viola, and Pedal Harp
WILLIAM WALTON Viola Concerto

David Montreuil

Quarter-Final Round

PAUL HINDEMITH Viola Sonata, Op. 25, No. 1 (1st, 2nd, 3rd, & 4th movements)
GEORGE ENESCU Concertstück
JESSIE MONTGOMERY Rhapsody No. 1

Semi-Final Round

NOKUTHULA NGWENYAMA Remembrance
J.S. BACH Cello Suite No. 2, BWV 1008 (Prelude & Allemand)
GEORGE ROCHBERG Sonata for Viola and Piano

Final Round

CLAUDE DEBUSSY Trio for Flute, Viola, and Pedal Harp
WILLIAM WALTON Viola Concerto

Andy Park

Quarter-Final Round

VALERIA ROMERO Anochece
PYOTR TCHAIKOVSKY None but the Lonely Heart
PAUL HINDEMITH Viola Sonata, No. 4 (1937) (1st, 2nd, and 3rd movements)

Semi-Final Round

NOKUTHULA NGWENYAMA Remembrance
J.S. BACH Cello Suite No. 4, BWV 1010 (Prelude, Bourrée I/II)
JOHANNES BRAHMS Sonata for Viola and Piano No. 2 in E-flat Major, Op. 120

Final Round

CLAUDE DEBUSSY Trio for Flute, Viola, and Pedal Harp
WILLIAM WALTON Viola Concerto



2024 Primrose International Viola Competition *Competitor Repertoire*

Haneul Park

Quarter-Final Round

PAUL HINDEMITH Viola Sonata No. 4 (1st & 3rd movements)
ERROLLYN WALLEN Lavinia
LÉON HONNORÉ Morceau de Concert, Op. 23

Semi-Final Round

NOKUTHULA NGWENYAMA Remembrance
J.S. BACH Cello Suite No. 6, BWV 1012 (Prelude & Gigue)
YORK BOWEN Viola Sonata, Op. 18 No. 1

Final Round

CLAUDE DEBUSSY Trio for Flute, Viola, and Pedal Harp
WILLIAM WALTON Viola Concerto

JungAhn Shin

Quarter-Final Round

PAUL HINDEMITH Viola Sonata, Op. 25, No. 1 (1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th movements)
FLORENCE BEATRICE PRICE Elfentanz
BAEK GO-SAN Variations on Arirang (arr. Jayeon Ju)

Semi-Final Round

NOKUTHULA NGWENYAMA Remembrance
J.S. BACH Suite No. 6, BWV 1012 (Prelude & Allemande)
YORK BOWEN Viola Sonata, Op. 18 No. 1

Final Round

CLAUDE DEBUSSY Trio for Flute, Viola, and Pedal Harp
WILLIAM WALTON Viola Concerto

Otoha Tabata

Quarter-Final Round

PAUL HINDEMITH Viola Sonata Op. 31, No. 4 (3rd movement)
OLIVER TONI Recitative VII
GEORGE ENESCU Concertstück

Semi-Final Round

NOKUTHULA NGWENYAMA Remembrance
J.S. BACH Cello Suite No. 4, BWV 1010 (Prelude & Sarabande)
JOHANNES BRAHMS Sonata for Viola and Piano No. 1 in F Minor, Op. 120

Final Round

CLAUDE DEBUSSY Trio for Flute, Viola, and Pedal Harp
WILLIAM WALTON Viola Concerto



2024 Primrose International Viola Competition *Competitor Repertoire*

Duleen van Gunsteren

Quarter-Final Round

PAUL HINDEMITH Viola Sonata, Op. 25, No. 1 (1st, 2nd, 3rd, & 4th movements)
GEORGE ENESCU Concertstück
FLORENCE BEATRICE PRICE Adoration

Semi-Final Round

NOKUTHULA NGWENYAMA Remembrance
J.S. BACH Violin Sonata No. 1 in C Minor, BWV 1001 (1st & 2nd movements)
JOHANNES BRAHMS Sonata for Viola and Piano No. 1 in F Minor, Op. 120

Final Round

CLAUDE DEBUSSY Trio for Flute, Viola, and Pedal Harp
BÉLA BARTÓK Viola Concerto (completed by T. Serly)

Guohan Tang

Quarter-Final Round

PAUL HINDEMITH Sonata for Viola and Piano, Op. 11, No. 4
CARL MARIA VON WEBER Andante e rondo ongarese (Primrose transcription)
LI ZILI "Fisherman's Harvest Song"

Semi-Final Round

NOKUTHULA NGWENYAMA Remembrance
J.S. BACH Cello Suite No. 5, BWV1011 (Prelude & Sarabande)
ARTHUR BENJAMIN Sonata for Viola and Piano

Final Round

CLAUDE DEBUSSY Trio for Flute, Viola, and Pedal Harp
BÉLA BARTÓK Viola Concerto (completed by T. Serly)

Kinga Zofia Wojdalska

Quarter-Final Round

JESSIE MONTGOMERY Peace
PAUL HINDEMITH Viola Sonata, No. 4 (1937)
GRAŻYNA BACEWICZ Polish Capriccio (arr. By K. Wojdalska)

Semi-Final Round

NOKUTHULA NGWENYAMA Remembrance
J.S. BACH Partita No. 2, BWV 1004 (1st and 2nd movements)
SERGEI PROKOFIEV Romeo and Juliet

Final Round

CLAUDE DEBUSSY Trio for Flute, Viola, and Pedal Harp
WILLIAM WALTON Viola Concerto



2024 Primrose International Viola Competition *Competitor Repertoire*

Xunyu Zhou

Quarter-Final Round

MAX REGER Suite for Viola, Op. 131d, No. 3

NICCOLÒ PAGANINI Sonata per la Grand Viola, Op.35, MS 70

FLORENCE BEATRICE PRICE Adoration

Semi-Final Round

NOKUTHULA NGWENYAMA Remembrance

J.S. BACH Cello Suite No. 3, BWV1009 (Prelude & Sarabande)

REBECCA CLARKE Sonata for Viola and Piano

Final Round

CLAUDE DEBUSSY Trio for Flute, Viola, and Pedal Harp

WILLIAM WALTON Viola Concerto

Emad Zolfaghari

Quarter-Final Round

PAUL HINDEMITH Viola Sonata, Op. 25, No. 1

JESSIE MONTGOMERY Rhapsody No. 1

FRITZ KREISLER Midnight Bells from Heuberger's "Der Opernball" (arr. by Fritz Kreisler/William Primrose)

Semi-Final Round

NOKUTHULA NGWENYAMA Remembrance

J.S. BACH Cello Suite No. 2, BWV 1008 (Prelude & Courante)

YORK BOWEN Viola Sonata, Op.18 No.1

Final Round

CLAUDE DEBUSSY Trio for Flute, Viola, and Pedal Harp

BÉLA BARTÓK Viola Concerto (completed by T. Serly)

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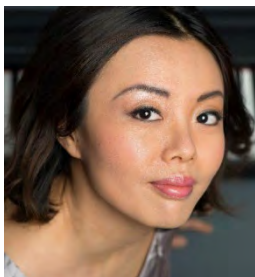
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2024 Primrose International Viola Competition Official Pianists



Vivian Fan

Dr. Vivian Fan serves as Director of Accompanying Program at the Colburn Conservatory of Music and has coached chamber music, taught Collaborative Piano at Colburn Academy, Sonata Class at Colburn Conservatory, and Piano Master Class at the Adult Studies Program at the Colburn School. Prior to this position, she was on the piano faculty at the Idyllwild Arts Academy. Dr. Fan has collaborated in recitals with renowned artists such as Andrew Bain, Roland Glassl, Paul Coletti, Roland Leonard, Arnold Steinhardt, Wen-Sinn Yang, etc. Vivian performed at Disney Hall in Los Angeles Philharmonic's "Brahms Unbound" concert in 2011. She recorded with violist Paul Coletti on Paul Chihara's Sonata released by Bridge Records in 2013. Another album "Bloch, Glinka, Bowen: Viola Works" with Coletti's former students was released in October 2015 on Soundset Records. A third album "Grand Duo" with clarinetist Cristina Mateo Sáez was released in March 2019 on Soundset Records. Dr. Fan has served as an accompanist at the 2013 and 2019 Nielson Clarinet Competition in Denmark, the 2013 ARD Viola Competition in München, the 2016 Piatogorvsky Cello Festival, and the 2018 and 2021 Primrose International Viola Competition. In summer 2015, Dr. Fan was invited to coach at the Central Conservatory of Music Middle School in Beijing, to coordinate pianists and perform at the International Horn Symposium held at Colburn, and to perform as a workshop pianist for Jim Walker's Beyond the Masterclass flute workshop. Vivian has taught a master class at the National Taiwan Normal University. In 2016, she gave a lecture and a master class on accompanying at Music Teachers' Association of California Convention. As a solo pianist, Dr. Fan has performed with conductors Jorge Master, Jung Ho Pak, Mario Miragliotta, Sharon Lavery, Peter Askim, and Marc Riley. Her solo and chamber performances have been broadcasted on KTLA and KNBC television as well as KUSC, WEMT, and "Performance Today" on APM radio.



Inyoung Huh

Lauded as, "a prominent pianist" by the Los Angeles Times, Inyoung Huh made her debut as a soloist with the Korean Youth Symphony Orchestra at age 16, performing Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 1. Huh has performed in recitals at numerous music festivals, including the Perlman Music Program, Bowdoin Summer Music Festival, Banff Center for the Arts, and Kusatsu Summer Music Festival. She has been a regular solo artist at the Sundays Live in Los Angeles County Museum of Arts since 2001. As an active chamber musician, Huh has collaborated with eminent artists such as Itzhak Perlman, Ronald Leonard, Donald McInnes, Lars Anders Tomter, Ida Levin, and Philippe Bernold. Huh has held faculty positions at the Seoul National University, University of Southern California, Perlman Music Program, and Chapman University, and has been engaged as a collaborative pianist at the Colburn School. She collaborated in the Primrose International Music Competition in 2014, 2018, and 2022 as an official pianist.



2024 Primrose International Viola Competition Official Pianists



Mitsuko Morikawa

Pianist Mitsuko Morikawa has been an active soloist, coach accompanist and chamber musician in United States as well as in Asia. She has collaborated with highly acclaimed musicians from a wide variety of genres spanning instrumental music, opera, musical theater and choral ensembles. Some of the artists that Ms. Morikawa has performed with include Julia Migenes, Rodney Gilfry, Kristinn Sigmundsson, Timothy Mussard, Michel Debost, James Walker, Denis Bouriakov, Leone Buyse, Carol Wincenc, Jean Ferrandis, Marianne Gedigian, Harvey Pittel, Martin Chalifour, Roberto Cani, David Rejano Cantero, Megumi Kanda, Randy Hawes, and Timothy Higgins. Ms. Morikawa has also recorded music for the New World Records label and has been featured on radio programs such as KUSC, WCLV, Cleveland and NHK-FM, Japan. Apart from her accomplishments as a performer, Ms. Morikawa has also distinguished herself as a unique and highly regarded coach/accompanist. She has served on the faculties at Occidental College, Santa Monica College, the Meadowmount School of Music, Idyllwild Arts Academy Summer Program, National Flute Association Annual Convention, National Cello Institute, Oberlin College Conservatory, the Oberlin Flute Institute, Baldwin Wallace College Conservatory and the ENCORE School of Strings. She is currently working at the California State University Los Angeles, Colburn School, UCLA and Los Angeles Children's Chorus. Ms. Morikawa's degrees consist of a B.M. in piano performance from the Toho School of Music, Japan, an M.M. in piano performance from the Manhattan School of Music, a Professional Studies Certificate in piano performance from The Cleveland Institute of Music and a D.M.A. in Keyboard Collaborative Arts at the University of Southern California. Some of Ms. Morikawa's teachers include Alan Smith, Norman Krieger, Sergei Babayan, Cheng-Zong Yin, Paul Schenly, Sara Davis Buechner and Hisako Ueno.



Barry Tan

Remarked in the Boston Globe for his 'mesmerizing performance,' Canadian pianist Dr. Barry Tan enjoys a multifaceted career as an active soloist, collaborative artist, and educator based in Los Angeles. He has performed as a soloist with the Vancouver Metropolitan Orchestra, the University of Southern California Symphony Orchestra, and has had collaborative performances alongside members of the LA Phil, LA Opera Orchestra, and LA Master Chorale. Barry has performed at notable venues such as Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, the Tanglewood Music Center, the War Memorial Opera House in San Francisco, the Chan Center for the Performing Arts in Vancouver, BC, in addition to numerous chamber music and festival appearances throughout Southern California. His featured performances include appearances on IPR Radio WIAA 98.7FM, the BSO-Now streaming, as well as the Violin Channel. Currently, Barry serves as a staff pianist at Santa Monica College and the Colburn School, and has been recently appointed as Assistant Professor of Piano and Theory at Pepperdine University in Malibu, CA. He earned his degrees from the University of Southern California and McGill University.



2024 Primrose International Viola Competition Primrose Laureates

2021

First: Natalie Loughran (*also BIPOC Prize and Audience Award*)

Second: Samuel Rosenthal

Third: Nicholas Swensen

Transcription Prize: Keoni Bolding

2018

First: Hae-Sue Lee

Second: Zoë Martin-Doike

Third: Leonid Plashinov-Johnson

2014

First: Zhanbo Zheng

Second: Manuel Vioque-Judd

Third: Cong Wu

Honorable Mention: Born Lau, Kei Tojo

2011

First: Ayane Kozasa

Second: Elias Goldstein

Third: Vicki Powell

Honorable Mention: Da Kyung Kwak, Matthew Lipman

2008

First: Dimitri Murrath

Second: Emily Deans

Third: Molly Carr

2005

First: Jennifer Stumm

Second: David Aaron Carpenter, David Kim

Third: *Not awarded*

Honorable Mention: Yu Jin

2003

First: Che-Yen (Brian) Chen

Second: Teng Li

Third: Nils Mönkenmeyer

Honorable Mention: Amalia Aubert, Abigail Evans

2001

First: Antoine Tamestit

Second: Ula Žebriunaitė

Third: *Not awarded*

1999

First: Lawrence Power

Second: Roland Glassl

Third: Elizabeth Freivogel

1997

First: Christina Castelli

Second: Rita Porfiris

Third: Karin Brown

1995

First: Catherine Basrak

Second: Joan DerHovsepien

Third: Scott Lee

1993

First: Nokuthula Ngwenyama

Second: Kathryn Lockwood

Third: *Not awarded*

1991

First: Kirsten Docter

Second: Kin-Fung Leung

Third: *Not awarded*

1989

First: Daniel Foster

Second: Ming Pak

Third: Kai Tang

1987

First: Lynne Richburg

Second: Carla-Maria Rodrigues

Third: Paris Anastasiadis

1979

First: Geraldine Walther

Second: Jun Takahira

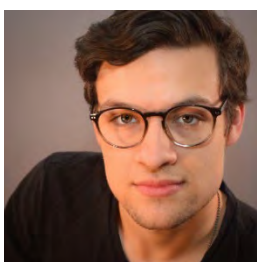
Third: Patricia McCarty

2024 American Viola Society Festival Artists



Ann Marie Brink

American Viola Society Treasurer Ann Marie Brink has performed in solo and chamber music recitals at Carnegie Hall, the Mostly Mozart Festival at Lincoln Center, Aspen Music Festival, Library of Congress, Severance Hall, Newport Music Festival, Chamber Music Chicago, and the Bravo Vail Valley Music Festival, and has been a featured soloist with the Dallas Symphony. She has coached and performed in residencies for Chamber Music America with the Cavani String Quartet and has twice been a fellow at the Aspen Center for Advanced Quartet Studies. Ms. Brink is Assistant Professor of Viola at DePaul University School of Music and teaches at Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival. She has also taught at Baylor University, Southern Methodist University, University of North Texas, Interlochen Arts Camp, and Wintergreen Academy. Ann Marie received her degrees from the Cleveland Institute of Music and the Juilliard School where her primary teachers were Heidi Castleman, and Karen Tuttle. Ms. Brink served as Associate Principal Viola of the Dallas Symphony from 1999-2019.



Richard Baxter Brown

Richard Baxter Brown spent his formative years as a musician in Kenosha, Wisc. participating in orchestras and chamber ensembles including Midwest Young Artists Conservatory Symphony Orchestra and Midwest Young Artists Conservatory I'Solisti, as well as placing in competitions such as the Racine Symphony Orchestra Young Artists' Competition, the Midwest Young Artists Conservatory Composition Competition, and the Wheaton College Chamber Music Competition. Baxter received his bachelors in viola performance at Wheaton College under the teaching of Rose Armbrust Griffin and is now pursuing a Master of Music in viola performance at Northern Illinois University under the teaching of Anthony Devroye.



Vinciane Béranger

Vinciane Béranger has performed worldwide with the Manfred Quartet and as a chamber musician: Salle Gaveau and Chopin-Pleyel in Paris, Victoria Hall in Geneva, Suntory Hall in Tokyo, Mozarteum in Salzburg and Kennedy Center in Washington. Following the success of her recent recording "Rebecca Clarke, Works for viola", Vinciane initiated research on the manuscripts of Clarke. She teaches at HEMU Lausanne in Switzerland and gives classes at the CNSM Paris. Vinciane studied at the CNSM in Paris, then with Kim Kashkashian, and at the Curtis Institute. She's a prize winner at the Washington, Valentino Bucchi, Berne, and Illzach International Competitions.



Michael Bunchman

Pianist Michael Bunchman maintains a fulfilling schedule as a collaborative pianist with both singers and instrumentalists throughout the United States. He is currently on faculty at the University of Southern Mississippi as the director of the Collaborative Piano Program, where he is honored to coach, teach and guide the next generation of collaborative pianists in both vocal and instrumental repertoire. Dr. Bunchman maintains an active performance schedule outside of his work in academia. He spent his summer as the Director of Music and Collaborative Piano at the International Performing Arts institute in Bavaria, Germany.

2024 American Viola Society Festival Artists



Deniz Çağlarcan

Deniz Çağlarcan, a composer, violist, and conductor based in Los Angeles, explores interactions among acoustic and electronic elements in his works. He creates immersive environments using audio techniques and collaborates with artists, developers, and engineers for interdisciplinary projects. His repertoire includes solo pieces, chamber music, electroacoustic works, and site-specific installations. Çağlarcan holds master's degrees in Viola Performance and Composition. Currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Composition with João Pedro Oliveira and a Master of Science in Media Arts and Technology with Curtis

Roads at the University of California, Santa Barbara.



Stephen Collins

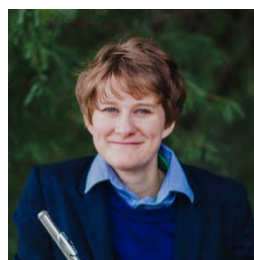
Stephen Collins is a Canadian professional violist who has been working as an orchestral musician for 35 years. His teachers included the founder of the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields, Michael Bowie. A highly trained luthier and a member of the Canadian Association of Canadian Violin and Bow Makers, Stephen Collins is a pioneer with Dmitry Badiarov in the revival of Viola da Spalla. He is excited to share this instrument with violists at this year's AVS Festival.



Heather Conner

Steinway Artist Heather Conner is Chancellor's Chair of Precollege Piano and co-chair of the Keyboard Department at the Blair School of Music at Vanderbilt University. Prior to this appointment, she was Professor of Piano at The University of Utah School of Music. Conner has won grand prizes at several international and national competitions, including the first Hilton Head Island International Piano Competition and the Kingsville International Young Performers Competition, and has performed on numerous occasions as a soloist with the Philadelphia Orchestra. Conner holds degrees from Curtis,

Yale, and the Manhattan School of Music.



Charlotte Daniel

The Brazos Ensemble

Dr. Charlotte Daniel is Assistant Professor of Flute at Baylor University. With the Austin-based wind quintet, Quin-Texas, she claimed the silver medal in the Fischhoff National Chamber Music competition, the Coleman-Saunderson prize at the Coleman Chamber Ensemble Competition, and Third Prize in the American Prize Competition in Chamber Music. Dr. Daniel has served as invited educator, performer, and adjudicator across the country.



Madeleine Darmiento

Madeleine Darmiento is co-director of Strings at Millersville University. She studied at Yale (B.A. magna cum laude), New England Conservatory (M.M.) and SUNY Stony Brook (D.M.A.) with distinguished artists John Graham, Heidi Castleman, Eric Rosenblith and Kadzuhide Isomura (Tokyo Quartet). In solo and chamber music, she has concertized in 23 states and has performed with many regional orchestras- Reading (PA), Omaha, Lincoln (NE), Charleston, Savannah Symphonies plus Orquesta Sinfónica de la Minería (Mexico). In 2009-2010, She was awarded a Fulbright to Greece, Visiting Artist at the

University of Macedonia. Previous faculty appointments include University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Bemidji State (MN).

2024 American Viola Society Festival Artists



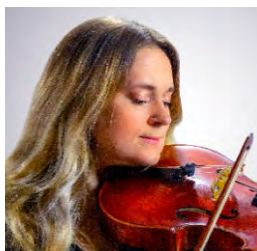
Anthony Devroye

Anthony Devroye is violist of the Avalon String Quartet and Professor of Viola at Northern Illinois University. He has performed with the quartet throughout the US and internationally. The quartet's recordings on the Cedille, Bridge, and Albany labels have garnered critical and popular acclaim. Outside of the quartet Mr. Devroye performs frequently with the Chicago Symphony and as a guest with chamber ensembles. He has spent summers teaching at the Icicle Creek Center for the Arts, Interlochen, and Madeline Island. He is a graduate of Columbia University and the Curtis Institute, where he studied with Michael Tree and Roberto Diaz.



Dominic Dousa

Dr. Dominic Dousa has been a faculty member at the University of Texas at El Paso Department of Music since 2004. His compositions have received performances at recitals, festivals, and conferences in the U.S. and in 11 countries worldwide and his works have been published by TRN Music, Dorn Publications, Grand Mesa Music, and Leading-Tones Music. Dousa remains an active accompanist and chamber musician, performing in numerous recitals with faculty, guest artists, and students, including presentations with his fellow UTEP faculty member, world renowned cellist and 2017 Grammy-award winner Zuill Bailey.



Hollie Dzierzanowski

Hollie Dzierzanowski began her viola training with Emily Watkins-Freudigman in San Antonio, Texas at the age of 12. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree and a Master of Music degree in viola performance from the Cleveland Institute of Music where she studied with Stanley Konopka and Mark Jackobs. An avid teacher and performer in the DFW area, Hollie maintains a full violin and viola studio at Dallas College as Adjunct Faculty and plays as a section violist with the Amarillo Symphony and Abilene Philharmonic. With more free time than usual during the 2020 pandemic, Hollie began addressing her chronic playing-related health problems and exploring different somatic methods. Studying with sponsoring teacher Jennifer Johnson, Hollie completed the Body Mapping teacher training and became a Licensed Body Mapping Educator.



Carrie Frey

Carrie Frey is a violist, teacher, improviser, and composer based in New York City. Frey is the violist of the Rhythm Method ("a group of individuals with distinct compositional voices and a collective vision for the future of the string quartet" - I Care If You Listen) and founding member of string trio Chartreuse and quartet Desdemona. She has appeared with many of NYC's notable new music groups, including Wet Ink Large Ensemble, AMOC*, Talea Ensemble, and International Contemporary Ensemble. Her compositions have been performed by the Rhythm Method, Arco Belo, Adrienne Munden-Dixon, and Kal Sugatski.

2024 American Viola Society Festival Artists



Misha Galaganov

Dr. Misha Galaganov, Professor of Viola at TCU, is a well-known performer and educator. He has brought to light many unknown and forgotten works for viola, and he premiered music written for him by many important composers, including Eric Ewazen, Elena Sokolovski, Richard Lavenda, and others. In addition to his teaching, performing, and coordinating duties, Galaganov is a researcher, arranger, and presenter, who is engaged in summarizing his pedagogical ideas in articles, videos, and books. Many of his former students have successful solo, teaching, and orchestra careers in the US, Asia, Europe, and Latin

America.



Aiveen Gallagher

Duo Schembri-Gallagher

Aiveen Gallagher is a violist, violinist, and composer from Ireland. She has performed extensively in Europe, the UK, and the USA. She is a multiple international prize winner as a soloist and chamber musician and has been the recipient of awards from violinist Ivry Gitlis and violist Bruno Giuranna. Gallagher has delivered masterclasses and workshops at institutions such as NYU Steinhardt School of Music, the University of Illinois, and the University of Central Florida, and has served as a string adjudicator for the European String Teachers Association. Dr. Gallagher joined the string faculty of James Madison

University in 2022.



Molly Gebrian

Dr. Molly Gebrian is a professional violist and scholar with a background in cognitive neuroscience. Her area of expertise is applying the research on learning and memory to practicing and performing music. She also investigates the intersections between music and language. As a performer, she prioritizes the works of living composers and those who have traditionally been excluded from the culture of classical music. She holds degrees in both music and neuroscience from Oberlin College and Conservatory, New England Conservatory of Music, and Rice University.



Anna Griffis

Anna Griffis made her concerto debut with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra at 16 and has performed across Mexico, Europe, and Taiwan on modern and period instruments. Principal viola of New Bedford Symphony, member of Albany Symphony, Anna also performs with Portland Symphony, Emmanuel Music, Blue Heron, BEMF, Odyssey Opera, and Boston Lyric Opera. Anna co-founded Trio Speranza and is executive director and violist of Ludovico Ensemble. She teaches at Tufts University, is an affiliate artist at MIT, and works as a graphic designer. Anna is the proud product of her Maryland public school

music program, Lawrence University, and Boston University.

2024 American Viola Society Festival Artists



Kimberly Hankins

Dr. Kimberly Hankins is an Arizona-based violist with an active chamber music and orchestral career. She has performed as a soloist and chamber musician throughout the United States, Germany, Luxembourg, and Iceland. With a passion for chamber music, Dr. Hankins has been featured as a Guest Artist and Chamber Music Faculty at Tetra Chamber Music Institute, Vianden Music Festival, and Florida Symphony Youth Orchestra's 'Stringmania.' In January 2023, she was invited to perform in a chamber music recital with Dr. Katherine McLin and Steinway Artist James D'León. Over the years, she has worked closely with the members of the Pacifica Quartet, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Juilliard String Quartet, St. Lawrence String Quartet, Brentano String Quartet, and Brooklyn Rider.



Emily Hiemstra

Emily Hiemstra (b.1991) is a real-life viola mom. She is a violist, composer, and mom to three boys under 5. A JUNO-nominated composer, she has had her music performed at festivals throughout Europe, USA and Canada. Her orchestral and operatic background as a performer has deepened her understanding of color and texture, which she readily applies in her compositions to create clear and innovative works. As a violist and dedicated chamber musician, she has performed at festivals around the world and is founder of the Charis Collective, a chamber ensemble creating family-friendly concerts in London, ON.



Dr. Enchi Anna Ho

A native of Taichung, Taiwan, Anna Enchi Ho has performed extensively in her home country as well as in Canada, Brazil and across the United States. Her piano studies began at the age of five, studying privately until 1991. After a year of academic studies at National Chung-Hsin University, Dr. Ho entered the Piano Performance program at Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa, graduating with a Bachelor of Music degree in 1995. She continued with graduate studies in piano performance at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (earning a Master of Music degree in 1997), and at Texas Tech University, where she received her Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Collaborative Piano in 2003.



Kae Hosoda-Ayer

The Brazos Ensemble

Dr. Kae Hosoda Ayer is Associate Professor of Piano at Baylor University. She holds degrees in Piano Performance with emphasis in Chamber Music and Collaborative Arts from the University of Texas at Austin; the New England Conservatory and a Bachelor of Music degree from Toho Gakuen School of Music, Tokyo, Japan. She has been on the accompanying faculty at New the Conservatory and has concertized through the United States, Canada, Japan, and Korea where she is in demand both as a soloist and collaborative pianist.



Stojan Jovanovic

As Thomastik-Infeld's Product Manager for violin and viola strings, Stojan Jovanovic has closely worked with hundreds of professional musicians, artist/educators, and luthiers worldwide seeking to find the best string technology for their instruments. He received a degree in Violin Studies from Bruckner University and a Masters in Music Management from Danube University.

2024 American Viola Society Festival Artists



Jennifer Kang

A 13-year-old rising freshman, Jennifer has been studying at the San Francisco Conservatory Music Pre-College Division under Dimitri Murrath. She has achieved numerous awards such as first place, best Bach Performance, and Best New Piece Prize at the 2023 NorCal Viola Society Young Violist Competition, as well as first place in various competitions, including the 2019 US Open Music Competition, the 2019, 2020 & 2021 US International Music Competition, and the 2020 & 2021 Silicon Valley Music Competition. Jennifer will attend the Morningside Music Bridge Program this summer and previously participated in the Music@Menlo Young Performers program and Heifetz PEG.



Sam Kelder

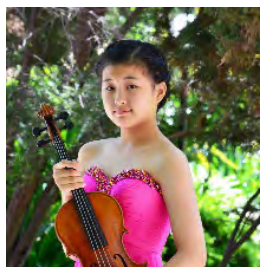
Praised by the Boston Globe as "committed and dynamic" violist Samuel Kelder's interpretations of contemporary repertoire have led him to become a sought-after soloist and chamber musician, performing widely across the United States, Mexico, and Europe. Member of Sound Icon, Boston Modern Orchestra Project, Callithumpian Consort, ECCE, and founding member of Shizuka Viola Duo, Dr. Kelder works frequently in collaboration with many prominent living composers. Samuel graduated from the University of Houston, Mannes The New School for Music, and was teaching assistant to his D.M.A. at Boston University, specializing in the Karen Tuttle Coordination Technique.

Michelle LaCourse during



Jeffrey Komar

Jeffrey Komar is an active violist and chamber musician based in southwest Ontario, Canada. He holds multiple post-secondary degrees in music performance. Most recently he completed his Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) in Viola Performance at Western University, where he studied under violist Sharon Wei of the New Orford String Quartet. Over the years, Jeff has shared the stage with such esteemed musicians as Scott St. John, Annette-Barbara Vogel, and the Juno-award-winning piano quartet Ensemble Made in Canada. Jeff is also a dedicated music teacher, and he works for multiple music education organizations in his hometown of London, Ontario.



Michelle Koo

Michelle Koo is a junior at Gunn High School and studies with Adam Smyla. She has been invited to play at the Junior Bach Festival for the past three years. She is co-principal of the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra (SFSYO) has been selected to participate in the National Youth Orchestra 2 program of 2021 and 2022 and National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America of 2023. Additionally, she was principal violist in NYO2 2022. As a soloist, she was awarded Merit by the National YoungArts Foundation. Other than music, she is a fourth-degree black belt in Taekwondo.

2024 American Viola Society Festival Artists



Hsiaopei Lee

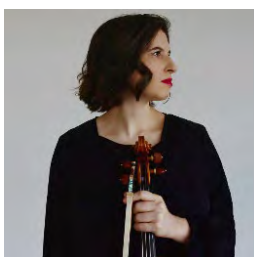
A graduate of Columbia University and the University of Cincinnati, violist Hsiaopei Lee has performed in numerous venues as a soloist, recitalist and orchestra player throughout three continents. Dr. Lee is Professor of Viola at the University of Southern Mississippi, where her excellence in teaching has been recognized by several awards. She is also a recipient of an Artist Fellowship awarded by Mississippi Arts Commission in 2011, 2017 and 2022. A passionate chamber musician, Hsiaopei collaborates extensively in various chamber music settings. Her album, *ODYSSEY: Viola Music Written by American Female*

Composers, is available on the Centaur label.



Namgon Lee

Multi-instrumentalist and arranger Namgon Lee is an active performer and arranger specializing in historical performance. As a performer-scholar, Lee has been investigating historically approached arrangements to expand early string literature. Namgon holds a bachelor's degree from the Manhattan School of Music and a master's degree from Peabody Institute. Currently, he is a doctoral candidate at McGill University. When he is away from the work desk, Namgon is a passionate home cook and enthusiastic fiddler.



Hannah Levinson

"Violist Hannah Levinson is an in-demand performer and educator of both contemporary and classical repertoire. She is a founding member and Executive Director of the violin/viola duo andPlay, described as "a four-limbed ensemble of visceral intensity and nonchalant virtuosity" (Peter Margasak). Hannah is also a member of the Talea Ensemble, the Albany Symphony Orchestra, and frequently performs with ensembles including the International Contemporary Ensemble, Either/Or, and counter) induction. Hannah currently serves as Assistant Professor of Viola at Bowling Green State University and was formerly Music Artist

Faculty at NYU Steinhardt and Viola Faculty at the Manhattan School of Music Precollege.



Nicholas Lindell

Nicholas Lindell studied both violin and viola under Michael Heald and Maggie Snyder at the University of Georgia and is presently pursuing a doctorate at Rice University with Ivo-Jan van der Werff. He served as principal violist and soloist with the National Repertory Orchestra in Breckenridge in 2021 and regularly plays viola with the Houston Symphony and the Houston Grand Opera. A man of many hats, Nicholas also loves composing, arranging, and performing cross-genre styles. He also spent a summer researching classified cryptographic problems for the National Security Agency and has earned a graduate

degree in mathematics with a thesis on mathematical music theory.



Sarah Manasreh

PoCo Duo

Sarah Manasreh is the Assistant Professor of Clarinet and Music Theory at the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point and principal clarinet of the La Crosse Symphony Orchestra and Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra. Sarah is active with the International Clarinet Association serving as editor for *The Clarinet* [Online]. She is a Backun artist, performing exclusively on Lumiere clarinets. Prior to her appointment at UWSP, she was the Instructor of Clarinet at Alma College and Albion College.

2024 American Viola Society Festival

Artists



Becky May

Becky May began playing the viola in 1975 in Ypsilanti, Michigan, the same year and location of the first International Viola Congress! Her neighbor was her first teacher. As a member of New World Symphony, she performed at the Bastille Opera House (Paris), Teatro Colon (Argentina), Carnegie Hall (NY) and Symphony Center (Chicago). Becky has a bachelor's degree (Cincinnati) and Master's Degree (Michigan) in Viola Performance as well as a second Master's Degree in Library Science. Her recent project, researching 18th century women composers and transcribing their music for solo viola, combines elements from both her master's degrees.



Christina McGann

Christina McGann is faculty at the Blair School of Music at Vanderbilt University and Concertmaster of the Nashville Opera Orchestra. McGann was awarded prizes from the Johansen International Competition, National Symphony Orchestra Young Soloist Competition, the Lennox Competition, Ackerman Chamber Music Competition, Chamber Music Yellow Spring, and the Fiscoff Chamber Music Competition. McGann holds both BM and MM from The Juilliard School where she was accepted with Presidential Distinction, and received her doctorate from SUNY Stony Brook where she received the Samuel Baron Prize. McGann was the violist of the Blair String Quartet from 20-23.



Julie Michael

Violist Julie Michael strives to bring the same spirit of sincerity to the performance of music of all eras, for all audiences. A passionate interpreter of new music, Julie has collaborated with many composers to commission and premiere new solo viola and chamber works. Julie has performed throughout Europe and North America as former violist of the Tana Quartet and Amaranth Quartet, and through guest appearances with ensembles including Alarm Will Sound and Ensemble Intercontemporain. Currently based in Brussels, Julie holds degrees from McGill University and the University of Michigan and is pursuing doctoral studies at KU Leuven (Belgium).



Alex Molina Shawver

Alex Molina Shawver is a composer and educator based in Austin, Texas. Native to North Texas, he is a proud Tejano and band kid at heart. Influences on his compositional style include Popular music, Impressionism, and the American Minimalist and post-Minimalist movements. Inspiration for his work often comes from natural landscapes and current events. Recently he gave a solo recital at the Latino Cultural Center in Dallas to inaugurate their new multi-form performance space. Alex holds degrees in Piano Pedagogy, Theory Pedagogy, and Composition, and is currently pursuing a DMA in Composition from the University of Texas at Austin.

2024 American Viola Society Festival

Artists



Mary Moran

PoCo Duo

Mary Moran is a music performer, educator, and collaborator based at the Aber Suzuki Center within the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Her teaching responsibilities include private and group lessons with young beginners, advanced students, and adults, as well as the ASC's String Adventures program for upper elementary students. Mary is principal viola of the Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra, with which she frequently performs as part of the CWSO's education and community engagement programs. In addition to her teaching and performing roles, she is the Coordinator for the American Suzuki Institute, held every summer on the campus of UWSP.



Pearl de la Motte

Pearl de la Motte, 19, is the second of ten children in a musical family and is currently pursuing undergraduate studies at the Juilliard School where she studies viola with Hsin-Yun Huang. She began playing the violin at the age of two then switched to viola when she was ten. After being inspired by the viola's deep and expressive voice, she became very passionate about music and decided that she wanted to pursue a career as a musician while honoring God with her playing.



Mark Neumann

Dr. Mark Neumann is Professor of Viola at the University of Oklahoma and held previous appointments as viola professor at Texas Tech University and the University of Georgia. He studied at the University of Victoria (Canada), the Cleveland Institute of Music, and The Juilliard School, where he earned his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in 1995. Formerly a member of symphony orchestras in Montreal, Calgary, and Victoria, he currently performs regularly with the Oklahoma City Philharmonic and the Brightmusic Chamber Ensemble. Dr. Neumann has presented numerous recitals and masterclasses in China, Taiwan, Brazil, Argentina, Peru, Canada and across the USA.



Sarah Niblack

Sarah Niblack, founder of SPARK Practice and active freelance violist based in Paris, France, is a former Division-1 scholarship rower with several titanium screws and a passion for helping people find their spark. After viola performance and arts-administration degrees from CCM (Cincinnati), a collection of international wins on the viola and racecourse, as well as autoimmune, ADHD, and injury challenges, her depth of experiences in elite sports, top musical training, neuroscience, and mindfulness came together into SPARK Practice: the neurologically-aligned Intentional Practice System for Healthy Performance Excellence. Sarah's principal teachers include Laurent Verney, Masao Kawasaki, Paul Cortese, and Irv Eisenberg. www.sparkpractice.com

2024 American Viola Society Festival

Artists



Elianna Nielsen

Elianna Nielsen is a recent graduate of Northern Illinois University where she received her Bachelor of Music degree in Viola performance. Growing up, Elianna studied at the Wheaton College Community School of the Arts and was a member of the Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra, and ILMEA All State Orchestra in Illinois.



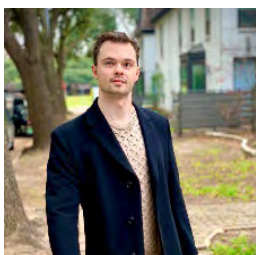
Stephen Nordstrom

Dr. Stephen Nordstrom is currently Associate Professor at the University of Texas at El Paso, where he teaches violin, viola, and graduate string pedagogy. He has recently presented solo and chamber music recitals in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and Colorado, and internationally in Lithuania, Latvia, Mexico, and Belgium. In 2017, his album of new works for viola with composer and pianist Dominic Dousa, entitled *A Musical Portrait of the American Southwest*, received critical acclaim in *American Record Guide* and *Gramophone Magazine*. The Nordstrom-Dousa duo has performed these works for numerous universities and arts organizations across the Southwestern United States.



Northern California Viola Society

The Northern California Viola Society is a non-profit, volunteer-run organization with a mission to enhance the musical lives of violists of all ages and levels in the Northern California region through performance, education and viola-centric activities. The NCVS's annual Young Violists Competition and the Composition Contest have been a central part of the Society's work over the past decade.



James Palmer

Houston-based pianist James Palmer regularly performs throughout the city, appearing as a soloist and chamber musician in the Music in Context Chamber Series, Musiq̃a, and numerous recitals in Houston and throughout the United States. He is a featured performer for the Houston Public Library's Houston in Harmony series for the Museum of Fine Arts Houston's Summer Nights Gallery Exhibit. Palmer is the Secretary for the Scriabin Society of America, a national organization dedicated to promoting the music and legacy of Alexander Scriabin. He helped organize and gave a lecture-recital at the International Scriabin

150 Festival, celebrating the composer's sesquicentennial anniversary.



Amanda Perez

Amanda Perez is a graduate of Northern Illinois University where she studied with Anthony Devroye and earned a bachelor's in music in 2024. Amanda first developed a love for music in the Sphinx Performance Academy and soon after was selected as an inaugural fellow in the Chicago Musical Pathways Initiative where she studied with Helen Callus. She is an alumna of the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra where she was awarded a Luminarts Scholarship in 2020. Amanda was a winner of the Illinois American String Teachers Association Competition in 2021, and in 2023 was awarded a Sphinx

Empower Artist Grant.

2024 American Viola Society Festival Artists



Dwight Pounds, Ph.D.

Dwight Pounds received his Ph.D. from Indiana University where he studied viola with William Primrose and Irvin Ilmer and is Professor of Music (Emeritus) from Western Kentucky University. Consultant to JAVS, he is a frequent contributor of articles, reviews and photographs. He is author of *The American Viola Society: A History and Reference* and a pedagogical book, *Viola for Violinists*. The Dwight Pounds AVS Service Award was inaugurated in 2014 in his honor. He retired as colonel following 30 years with the U.S. Air Force Reserve Forces. His PowerPoint presentations include *The Dalton-Primrose Collaboration* and *Five Decades of the PIVC*, among many

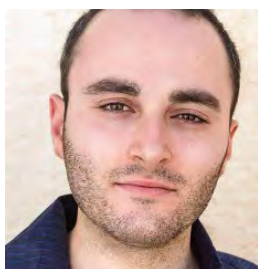
others.



Kathy Reilly

Kathy Reilly owns and operates Vermont Violins, a full-service violin shop with locations in Vermont and New Hampshire. In addition to its other activities, Vermont Violins is the maker of the V. Richelieu line of violins and violas, creator of the GaiaTone fittings and North American distributor for Sonowood. In Vermont, Sonowood and GaiaTone are crafted into fingerboards, tailpieces, nuts, and saddles using these sustainable, alternates-to-ebony, petroleum-free, materials. Her interest in using sustainable, eco-friendly, materials stem from work done early in her career. Having studied Environmental Studies (in addition to Viola Performance) at Oberlin College, she launched her

career at Friends of the Earth in Washington DC working on issues relating to the tropical timber trade. She returned to Vermont to study Field Science at the University of Vermont where, as a Switzer Fellow, she continued her environmental work with the Vermont Chapter of The Nature Conservancy where she designed and managed wilderness preserves as part of the science team. She returned to music, launched Vermont Violins and thirty years later is now making instruments, the V. Richelieu violas and violins, using woods and materials that are sustainably sourced and eco-friendly. Bringing her career full circle, she now serves as Governor of the International Alliance of Violin and Bow Makers for Endangered Species. She lives with her husband, dog, cat, and a random selection of donkeys on her sometimes farm in the Green Mountains of Vermont.

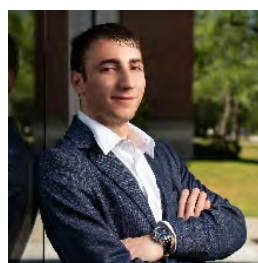


Kristian Schembri

Duo Schembri-Gallagher

Kristian Schembri is a composer, conductor, and percussionist from the Republic of Malta. His music has been performed by orchestras such as the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra, the Cleveland Chamber Symphony, and the University of Delaware Symphony Orchestra, and has been featured at the Symphonic Middle East Festival and the Victoria International Arts Festival. Schembri studied percussion with Gene Koshinki and Tim Broschious and performed for nine years with the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra. Schembri is the Donald Erb Scholar in

Composition at the Cleveland Institute of Music where he is a Doctor of Musical Arts candidate.

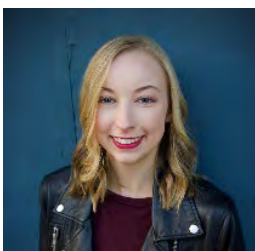


Sami Seif

Sami Seif is a Lebanese composer and music theorist praised as "a distinctive compositional voice" who creates "intoxicating and fascinating soundworld[s]." His music is inspired by the aesthetics, philosophies, paradigms and poetry of his Middle Eastern heritage. His work has been described as "very tasteful and flavorful" with "beautiful, sensitive writing!". His latest musical concerns center around the phenomenology of time. Originally from the town of Ashkout in Lebanon and is currently pursuing his doctoral studies at the CUNY Graduate Center. Seif's music has been performed by world-renowned

artists and has been recognized internationally by numerous institutions.

2024 American Viola Society Festival Artists



Alice Sprinkle

Alice Sprinkle is a violist and doctoral researcher originally from University Park, Maryland. She earned a Bachelor of Music in Viola Performance with Highest Honors (University of Colorado Boulder), a Master of Studies in Musicology (University of Oxford), and a Master of Arts in Music Education with Distinction (University College London). Currently, she is earning a PhD in Music Education at UCL. Having won first prize in the 2018 David Dalton competition, her article "Bach's Slurs: Abandoned by the Editors" was published in the Spring 2020 issue of JAVS. She also presented her research at the 2021 AVS

Festival.



Gina Stonikas

Violist Gina Stonikas is an accomplished performer. She collaborated with Joshua Bell for Michelle Obama's Classical Music Workshop in 2009. Her recordings for Naxos Records include Kevin Puts' Symphony No. 2, conducted by Marin Alsop. Gina holds a BM degree in Viola Performance from The Peabody Institute, studying with Victoria Chiang, and earned her Master of Music in Viola Performance and String Pedagogy under Erika Eckert, Geraldine Walther, and Richard O'Neil from the University of Colorado. Gina is currently pursuing a Performer's Certificate at Northern Illinois University with Anthony

Devroye.



Martine Thomas

Martine Thomas, violist, performs internationally as a soloist, chamber musician, and improviser. She has appeared at the Berliner Philharmonie, Carnegie Hall, BBC Proms, and Lucerne Festival and has performed with Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble, the International Contemporary Ensemble, and Ghost Ensemble. Martine has recently premiered works by Tyshawn Sorey, Catherine Lamb, and Miya Masaoka. She looks forward to solo recitals this season in New York City, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, and upstate New York. Martine studied in the Harvard-NEC dual degree program, is currently

working on her doctorate in viola performance at CUNY Graduate Center and is on the string faculty at Brooklyn College Conservatory. For more of her music and writing, please visit www.martinethomas.com.



Joyce Tseng

Joyce Tseng is an experienced performer in a diverse range of musical styles and ensembles. Her past orchestral experiences include performances at the Heifetz International Music Institute, Aspen Music Festival and School, the American Viola Society Festivals, and with the Eastman Philharmonia. As a dedicated chamber musician, she has performed at festivals such as the Heifetz International Music Institute as one of the violists of the Ashkenasi/Kirshbaum Chamber Music Seminar. She has also collaborated with Eastman faculty – Margery Hwang, Peter Kurau, Renee Jolles, and George Taylor, playing the Mozart Horn Quintet in one of the If Music Be the Food concerts. She

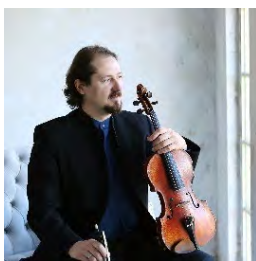
has also performed chamber music at St. John Fisher College as part of their Music Appreciation class. Additionally, she has given numerous solo performances at the American Viola Society Festivals and at the Eastman School of Music, where she earned her Master of Music and Bachelor of Music degrees. In 2022 and 2019 respectively, Joyce was the recipient of the Robert L. Oppelt Viola Prize, which is presented annually to an outstanding violist at the Eastman School of Music.

2024 American Viola Society Festival Artists



Ben Ullery

Violist Ben Ullery enjoys a multifaceted performing career as a soloist, chamber musician, orchestral leader and educator. In 2023 he was chosen by Music Director Gustavo Dudamel for the position of Associate Principal Viola of the LA Philharmonic and previously held the position of Assistant Principal in the same orchestra since 2012. Ullery has also performed across the country and abroad in the role of Guest Principal Viola with the Chicago Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony, Minnesota Orchestra, Detroit Symphony, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, and Australian Chamber Orchestra. He has also been featured as a recitalist and chamber musician at Mozaic, Music in the Vineyards, Mainly Mozart, Emerald City, Music at Millford, Leksand, Grand Teton, and Aspen festivals, among others, and his performances have been heard frequently on NPR's Performance Today. Since 2013, Ullery has been on the faculty of the Colburn School where he teaches orchestral repertoire as well as coaching the Colburn Orchestra's viola section. Many of his former students have gone on to hold positions with top orchestras in the US, Europe, and Asia. More info at www.benullery.com.



Boris Vayner

Trio Lawrence

Originally from Novosibirsk, Russia, Boris Vayner has been enjoying a diverse career in music as a violist, educator, and conductor. As a member of the Grammy nominated St. Petersburg String Quartet since 2005, he has been intensively touring throughout North America, South America, Europe, and Asia. Boris Vayner joined the faculty of the University of Kansas in August 2017. Prior to this, he served as an adjunct faculty and a member of the quartet-in-residence at the Wichita State University. He has also been a member of the New Ear Contemporary Chamber Ensemble and Trio Lawrence.



Daniel Velasco

Trio Lawrence

Daniel Velasco is an award-winning flutist whose "standout" and "vibrant" performances (Miami Herald) have taken him around the world. He is the first prize winner of the National Flute Association's Young Artist Competition, WAMSO Minnesota Orchestra Competition, MTNA Young Artist Competition, Claude Monteux Flute Competition, second prize winner of the William C. Byrd Competition and finalist at the Concert Artists Guild Victor Elmaleh International Competition. He served on the faculty at the University of Akron from 2016-2018 and is currently the flute professor at the University of Kansas. He is a Yamaha performing artist.



Tim Washecka

Tim Washecka is a dedicated viola and violin teacher in Central Texas. In 2005, Tim and his wife founded the Bluebonnet Suzuki Studio. His students consistently earn high ranks in their All-Region and All-State orchestras, as well as earning spots in the National Youth Orchestra and other highly competitive summer programs, as well as various local solo competitions. Tim is currently a member of the Austin Opera viola section, and in the past has enjoyed performing with the Houston Grand Opera.

2024 American Viola Society Festival Artists



Sydney Whipple

Sydney Whipple from Oakland, California, began violin lessons at age 5 and switched to viola at 10. She spent her high school years studying with Dimitri Murrath at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music Pre-College Program and is currently a student of Carol Rodland at The Juilliard School where she is the proud recipient of a Kovner Fellowship. Sydney has a passion for chamber music and has taken part in music programs including Bowdoin International Music Festival, The Perlman Music Program, Music@Menlo, and Young Chamber Musicians. Sydney also has an interest in the brain and how music

cultivates empathy.



Molly Wise

Violist Molly Wise maintains a versatile performance portfolio that includes innovative projects promoting music by women and other underrepresented groups. Her playing has taken her to the Kennedy Center, Sarasota Opera House, and more across the United States and Canada, not to mention countless engagements across Houston in concert halls, museums, and classrooms. She has performed alongside members of the Miró and New Orford quartets, Milena Pajaro-van der Stadt, and Vietnamese instrumentalist Vân-Anh Vo. She made her solo debut performing Penderecki's Viola Concerto, has been guest principal with the Amarillo Symphony, and is currently pursuing her

DMA at Rice University.



Erin Wood

Trio Lawrence

Erin Wood joined the faculty of University of Kansas in 2011, having previously taught at University of Nevada Reno, Indiana University Southeast, and the Arts Institute in New Albany Indiana. She has served as the principal harpist of the Reno Chamber Orchestra and the Utah Festival Opera. Erin has enjoyed performing as a soloist and chamber musician for the Seventh World Harp Congress in Prague, the American Harp Society Summer Institute in Los Angeles, and the Harp Carnivale in New Orleans. She was a prize winner in the Prix Renie and National Society for Arts and Letters.

2024 American Viola Society Festival Competition Finalists

Orchestral Audition Competition Finalists



Devin Burgess

Phelps, NY

*Student of Ann Marie Brink, Arnaud Ghillebaert,
Lembi Veskimets, & Wilfredo Deglans*

Devin received her bachelor's in music performance from Baldwin Wallace University studying viola with Lembi Veskimets. During her master's degree in Viola Performance and Pedagogy at the University of Oregon Devin held a graduate assistantship playing with the Eugene Symphony Orchestra and teaching through the University's Community Music Institute. A student of Arnaud Ghillebaert, she was awarded Outstanding Graduate Performer in Strings upon graduation. She

received her post master's Graduate Performance Certificate from DePaul University, where she studied with Ann Marie Brink. During her time at DePaul University Devin also served as an associate member for the Chicago Civic Orchestra.

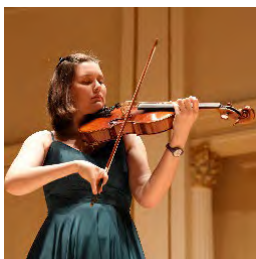


Sumin Cheong

South Korea

Student of Stephen Wyrzynski

Sumin Cheong recently earned her master's degree from Indiana University, where she studied with Stephen Wyrzynski.



Gina Gravagne

Gina Marie Gravagne is a twenty-year-old violist from Waco, Texas, known for her dynamic orchestral section leadership. Born with a limb difference known as symbrachydactyly, her playing continues to defy expectations. Currently, Gravagne studies viola performance at Baylor University under Kathryn Steely and DJ Cheek. She serves as principal in the Baylor Symphony Orchestra and recently won contract positions in the Waco Symphony Orchestra and the Abilene Philharmonic. She performed as a soloist with multiple symphony orchestras within the past year and made her debut performance in Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in May with collaborative pianist Byunghee Yoo. This summer, she will attend the

Aspen Music Festival on a fellowship.



Eleanor Hammersly

Santa Monica, CA

Student of Roger Myers and Josephine Liu Moerschel

Hailing from Los Angeles, 22-year-old violist Eleanor Hammersly has performed as a versatile orchestral, chamber, and solo musician across three continents. Since earning her bachelor's degree from the University of Texas last spring, she has enjoyed performing with several ensembles, including the American Youth Symphony, California Young Artists Symphony, and the Civic Orchestra of Los Angeles. Eleanor has participated in festivals including the Trentino, Green Mountain, and Tanglewood Institute, and most recently the Round Top Institute. Her

former teachers include Josephine Moerschel and the late Roger Myers. She currently resides in Los Angeles, her hometown, where she regularly teaches at Youth Orchestra Los Angeles and teaches privately. This Fall, she will begin her master's degree program at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, studying with Jonathan Vinocour.

2024 American Viola Society Festival Competition Finalists

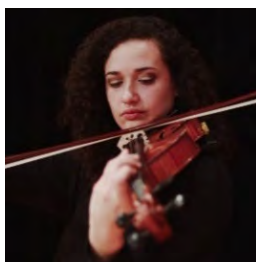


Jay Julio

New York City, NY

Student of Karen Ritscher, Heidi Castleman, and Misha Amory

Originally from Uniondale, New York, first-generation Filipino American Jay Julio (b. 1997) is a multi-instrumentalist, teacher, and composer-arranger starting as Violin III / Viola on the North American tour of Broadway's *Hamilton* this July. Jay has performed with the Dallas Symphony, the American Composers Orchestra, the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, and other orchestras across the US. After taking their first viola lesson at age 14 at the Mannes Preparatory Division, Jay graduated from the Interlochen Arts Academy at 16 studying with Renee Skerik with their highest musical honor, the Young Artist Award, received their BM in Viola Performance from the Manhattan School of Music under Karen Ritscher on full scholarship, and received their MM at the Juilliard School on a full-tuition Susan W. Rose Fellowship under the tutelage of Heidi Castleman and Misha Amory.



Isabella Marques

Brazil

Student of Hsiaopei Lee, Elisa Fukuda and Silvio Catto

Isabella Marques started on the violin when she was 12 years old in her hometown Itu, São Paulo, Brazil, with Mr. Fernando Andrade at ASSATEMEC. Concluding her undergrad in violin in 2016 at UNICAMP (State University of Campinas) with Dr. Esdras Rodrigues, she continued on as Ms. Elisa Fukuda's violin and viola student. Before coming to the USA, she was Mr. Silvio Catto's student at EMESP (São Paulo State Music School). She was a member of OFI (Filarmonic Orchestra of Itu), Camerata ACAFI, OJESP (Young State Orchestra of Sao Paulo), Camerata Fukuda, and Orquestra Experimental de Repertorio. Currently, she plays at Meridian and Gulf Coast Symphony and where she pursues a master's degree in Viola Performance with Dr. Hsiaopei Lee at the University of Southern Mississippi.



Angela Rubin

Rochester, NY

Student of Masumi Per Rostad

Angela Rubin performed in distinguished performance venues around the world including Carnegie Hall in New York City as principal of the New York String Orchestra Seminar and Kitara Hall in Sapporo, Japan as associate principal of the Pacific Music Festival Orchestra. Other orchestral engagements include performances with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, the Rochester Oratorio Society, the Syracuse Orchestra, the New World Symphony, the Brevard Music Center Orchestra, and the Butler County Symphony. Angela holds a Master of Music degree from the Eastman School of Music and a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Carnegie Mellon University with University Honors and College Honors. She is a teaching assistant at the Eastman School of Music where she is pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Viola Performance under the tutelage of Masumi Per Rostad.



Joyce Tseng

South Korea

Student of Stephen Wyczynski

Joyce Tseng is currently pursuing her Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) in Viola Performance and Literature under the tutelage of Phillip Ying. Her past teachers include George Taylor, Masao Kawasaki, Roberto Díaz, Robert Vernon, and Jutta Puchhammer-Sédillot for summer studies. In recent years, she has attended the Heifetz International Music Institute, Aspen Music Festival, and the Karen Tuttle Viola Workshop. In 2019 and 2022, Joyce was the recipient of the Robert L. Oppelt Viola Prize, awarded annually to an outstanding violist at the Eastman School of Music. In 2018, she won second prize at the American Viola Society Solo Competition (Collegiate).

2024 American Viola Society Festival Competition Finalists

Collegiate Solo Competition Finalists

**Alice Ford**

*Bloomington, IN
Student of Atar Arad*

Alice Ford is a violist from Bloomington, Indiana, and a recent graduate of the IU Jacobs School of Music, where she studied with Atar Arad. During her time at IU, she won the principal position of the school's Philharmonic and Chamber orchestras, and pursued chamber music studies with members of the Pacifica Quartet and Emile Naoumoff. In recent summers, she has attended Madeline Island Chamber Music's fellowship quartet program, the Heifetz International Music Institute, Festival Del Lago, and Domaine Forget International Music Academy.

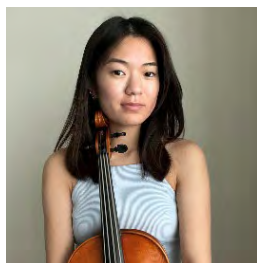
This fall, she will begin her graduate studies at the Juilliard School with Steven Tenenbom.

**Seth Goodman**

*Lexington, MA
Student of Philip Kramp and Katherine Murdock*

Seth Goodman is passionate about chamber and orchestral music and has been a chamber musician since age 11. In high school, he wrote "I am a Viola" – an essay about the match of his personality with the instrument. Seth finds inspiration in musical collaboration. He has performed with the Apollo Orchestra, Annapolis Opera Company, and Great Falls Philharmonic, and played at the Apple Hill Center for Chamber Music for years. He studied with Katherine Murdock and Philip Kramp at the University of Maryland and will begin his master's under Wesley Collins at the Cleveland Institute of Music.

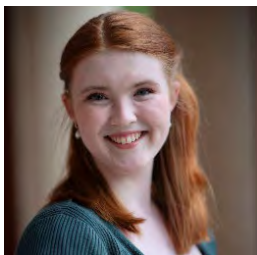
This fall, she will begin her graduate studies at the Juilliard School with Steven Tenenbom.

**April Kwon**

*Maryland
Student of Elias Goldstein and Loretta Kitko*

April Kwon, a 20-year-old Korean American violist from Maryland, started playing the viola at age 10 and was self-taught for 5 years. She was principal violist in the Baltimore Symphony Youth Orchestra and was the first in her high school to be accepted in the NAFME All-Eastern Orchestra. She has also won multiple state competitions throughout high school and college. This summer, April is studying at the Round Top Festival Institute. April currently attends the University of Delaware, where she is studying under Elias Goldstein with a full tuition music merit while pursuing a dual

degree in cognitive science and a minor in neuroscience.

**Grace Leonard**

*Murrells Inlet, SC
Student of Jeffrey Irvine, Renee Skerik, and Clark Spencer*

Grace Leonard, age 20, is a violist currently studying at the Cleveland Institute of Music under the tutelage of Jeffrey Irvine. She has graduated from Interlochen Arts Academy as a Dr. Scholl Foundation Scholar and was a Young Artist Award recipient. Grace won 3rd prize of the 2022 AVS Youth Competition Senior Division and was the winner of the 2020 Long Bay Youth Symphony Concerto Competition. She is a member of the Long Bay Symphony and a guest musician of the Charleston Symphony Orchestra. She has participated in the Bowdoin International Music Festival, the Castleman Quartet Program, and the Kinhaven Young Artist Seminar. Previous teachers include Renee Skerik and Clark Spencer.

This fall, she will begin her graduate studies at the Juilliard School with Steven Tenenbom.

2024 American Viola Society Festival Competition Finalists



Victoria Skinner

*Tampa, FL
Student of Rictor Noren*

Victoria Skinner is a violist and violinist currently pursuing a master's degree in music performance at the Boston Conservatory under Rictor Noren. She is an avid performer of chamber music, being the founding violist for the Ancroft String Quartet and the Burbank String Quartet. In March 2024, she made her Carnegie Hall debut with the Burbank String Quartet, performing a world premiere of a quartet by Grigori Balasanyan. Alongside her chamber music activities, she also has a passion for teaching, and runs a private studio of young violinists and violists aged 11 to 21. She has earned a Bachelor of Music Performance degree with a minor in Entrepreneurship from the University of South Florida.



Nilli Tayid

*Cincinnati, OH
Student of Jeffrey Irvine*

Nilli Tayidi is a rising 3rd year student at the Cleveland Institute of Music, where she is pursuing a B.M. in Viola Performance under the tutelage of Jeffrey Irvine. As an orchestral musician, she has had the opportunity to play under esteemed conductors such as Leonard Slatkin, Carl Topilow, and Octavio Más-Arocas. Nilli's summer festival experiences at Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival and the Meadowmount School of Music have allowed her to study with prolific teachers such as Sheila Browne, Susan Dubois, Patricia McCarty, among others.

Senior Solo Competition Finalists



Dustin Breshears

*San Francisco, CA
Student of Jonathan Vinocour*

Dustin, age 17, is a violinist and violist studying at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, Pre-college Division. He studies violin with Nancy Zhou and viola with Jonathan Vinocour. Dustin has soloed with 14 different orchestras since the age of six. Dustin's sibling quartet, the Breshears String Quartet, won the Silver Medal in the 2024 Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition. He has won numerous solo awards, including winner Parnassus-San Francisco Conservatory of Music Concerto Competition, 1st Place MTAC State VOCE Competition, winner Palo Alto Philharmonic Concerto Movement Competition, 1st Place Bay Philharmonic Young Artist Competition, 1st Place Mary Jane Beck Young Artist Competition (Nova Vista Symphony), 1st place California Youth Symphony Young Artist Competition, among other notable competitions.



Sumin Cheong

*South Korea
Student of Stephen Wyczynski*

2024 American Viola Society Festival Competition Finalists



Kayla Kim

*Irvine, CA
Student of Gina Coletti*

Kayla Kim is a 9th grader living in Irvine, CA and attends the Orange County School of the Arts. She studies under the tutelage of Gina Coletti at the Colburn school. Currently, she is a violist for the Pacific Symphony Youth Orchestra and served as assistant principal violist in OCSA's Symphony Orchestra. She was accepted to the California All State Symphony Orchestra, attending for her third year. She won in VOCE Chamber State Finals, and after 5 years as an honors member for the Junior Chamber Music program, was selected as a 2023-2024 Debut

Artist. She also participates in the Colburn Honors Chamber program, and recently placed first in the ASTA LA finals solo competition.



Mason Jay Lee

*Tarrytown, NY
Student of Karen Ritscher*

Mason Jay Lee, 16 years old, is a Korean American violist who studies under Karen Ritscher at the Manhattan School of Music Pre-College, and Monica Gerard. He is currently the principal violist for the MSM Pre-College Philharmonic Orchestra. Mason has participated in workshops and masterclasses with top violists such as Carol Rodland, Jeffery Irvine, Hsin-Yun Huang, and Molly Carr. He has won first prize at the VIVO International Music Competition, Prima Volta Music Competition, American Protégé International Piano & Strings Competition, New York

Artists International Competition, AMTL New York Young Performers Competition, and more.



Sophia Nam

*Fort Lee, NJ
Student of Ms. Sophie Arbuckle and Dr. Hyun Jung Joo*

Sophia Nam is a 17-year-old violist from Fort Lee, NJ. She is currently studying at the Juilliard Pre-College with Ms. Sophie Arbuckle as a viola major and attending Bergen County Academies. She spent her two summers at the Perlman Music Program in Shelter Island, NY (2022, 2023), their 2023 winter residency in Sarasota, FL, and will be returning this summer. As the 2023 Youth Concerto Competition Winner, Sophia has made her viola solo debut with the Delaware County Symphony and has recently performed with the Seattle Symphony at the Benaroya Hall as the

2024 Seattle Symphony Young Artist. She has also recently won 1st prize and the Scott Sullivan prize (best performance of a piece written post-1950) at the Ronald Sachs International Music Competition.



Logan Purser

*Lehi, Utah
Student of John T. Posadas*

Logan Purser is a violist from Lehi, Utah, and is a recent graduate of the Gifted Music School's pre-college Conservatory Program in Salt Lake City. Logan has been a soloist with the Utah Symphony and was also a semi-finalist at the 2023 Fischhoff Competition. Other accomplishments include placing 1st in the 2021 Utah ASTA chamber competition, placing 2nd in the string division of the 2022 Utah OPUS competition, earning an Honorable Mention in the 2021 Southern California Viola Society's Youth Competition, and landing an essay on Mars aboard the Perseverance

Rover. Logan is a student of John T. Posadas.

2024 American Viola Society Festival Competition Finalists



Lillianna Wodzisz

Grosse Pointe, MI

Student of Renee Skerik, Hang Su, and Hai Xin Wu

Lillianna Wodzisz is from Grosse Pointe, Michigan and is a rising senior at Interlochen Arts Academy where she studies with Renee Skerik. Her former teachers include Hang Su and Hai Xin Wu of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Lily has performed in masterclasses for Jeffrey Irvine, Lynne Ramsey, Masumi Rostad, Jodi Levitz, and others. She was selected for the Michigan All-State Orchestra and was a finalist in the Interlochen Concerto Competitions. With her string quartet she won the Michigan ASTA Chamber Music Competition and was a finalist in the Glass City Chamber Music Competition. In her free time, Lily enjoys downhill skiing with family.

Junior Solo Competition Finalists

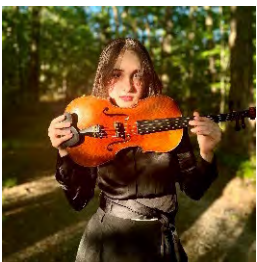


Neena Agrawal

Chicago, IL

Student of Sang Mee Lee

Neena Agrawal is a scholarship fellow at the Academy of the Music Institute of Chicago where she studies viola with Sang Mee Lee. She is also a fellow of the Chicago Musical Pathways Initiative for musicians from underrepresented backgrounds. Neena served as principal viola of the 2024 National Pathways Festival Orchestra culminating in a performance with the Nashville Symphony. Recent solo performances include the Evanston MLK Celebration, Reena Esmail Showcase, and Music Institute of Chicago Gala. She is the rotating principal of MIC Chamber Orchestra, performs in a trio and string quartet, and played in the Chicago Youth in Music Festival.



Anya Gilchenok

Columbia, CT

Student of Steve Larson

Anya Gilchenok is a 14-year-old violist from Columbia, Connecticut. She is a Jorgenson Outreach for Youth Scholar and is principal of the Opus orchestra at the Hart School of Music's Community Division. In 2023, she won second place in her age group in the Connecticut Bach Festival, celebrating one of her favorite composers. With her quartet and her trio, Anya has played in chamber music masterclasses for Molly Carr of the Juilliard String Quartet and Emma Frucht of the Aizuri Quartet. Anya studies viola with Steve Larson.



McKayla Hwang

Wilmington, DE

Student of Shelley Beard

McKayla Hwang currently attends Archmere Academy in Claymont, DE, and she is a student of Shelley Beard at the Settlement Music School. She has been playing violin for 9 years and viola for 4 years. McKayla joined the Settlement Advance Chamber Snitzer Quartet in 2023, and this past academic year, she was also the Principal second for Philadelphia Sinfonia Youth Orchestra. Living with her parents and their beloved dog Cersei only 45 minutes outside of Philadelphia, McKayla has had many opportunities to experience what the city has to offer. Besides her musical pursuit, McKayla is an avid reader and enjoys running, traveling, and visiting art museums.

2024 American Viola Society Festival Competition Finalists

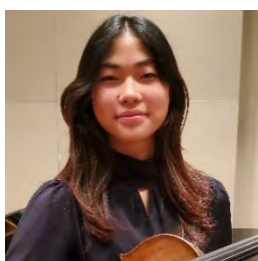


Jennifer Kang

*Mountain View, CA
Student of Dimitri Murrath*

Jennifer Kang is a 14-year-old violist studying under Dimitri Murrath. Passionate about chamber music, she participates in the Young Chamber Musicians program. Jennifer has won numerous awards, including 1st prize at the 2024 US Open Music Competition, KAMSA Music Competition, and the 2023 NorCal Viola Society Young Violist Competition. In summer 2024, she'll attend the Perlman Music Program and has participated in the 2023 Morningside Music Bridge Program, the 2022 Music@Menlo Young Performers program, and Heifetz PEG in 2021.

Beyond her musical pursuits, Jennifer is also a recognized writer, winning gold keys in the Scholastic Awards.

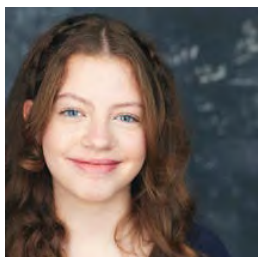


Aria Kim

*Bloomington, IL
Student of Katherine Lewis*

Aria Kim began her violin career at age 9 when she joined Illinois State University String Project. She began private lessons with Dr. Katherine Lewis at age 11 and went on to become concertmaster of String Project for two years before graduating middle school. She started learning viola in 2022 and is actively involved in her high school orchestra and chamber ensemble where she plays both instruments. Aria has qualified for ILMEA District and All-State orchestras as a violist this year and is currently concertmaster of the Central Illinois Youth Symphony and a dedicated

member of the Bloomington-Normal Youth Symphony.



Ellie Washecka

*Round Rock, TX
Student of Nicolette Solomon, Dr. Laurie Scott, Kristi Manno, and Tim Washecka*

Born into a musical family, Ellie Washecka began her musical studies playing the violin at the age of 2. She began playing viola when an opportunity arose to join a string quartet and made the permanent switch shortly after. In addition to performing with her All-Region orchestras throughout middle school, Ellie has been a member of her local youth orchestra and still enjoys performing with her string quartet. Ellie also plays piano. In her free time, she loves to travel, bake, and play with her golden retriever.

2024 American Viola Society Festival Competition
Finalists

2024 Ensemble Invitational
Collegiate

Desert Violas

Samuel Rodriguez, Elina Kim, Ana Tovo, & Hadley Griffin
Students of Molly Gebrian

NIU Viola Studio

Amanda Perez, Richard Baxter Brown, Elianna Nielsen, & Gina Stonikas
Students of Anthony Devroye

Schwob Viola Ensemble

Janelle Glass, Jane Henager, & Eva Ruiz
Students of Katrin Meidell

USM Violas

Ana Sofia Suarez, Isabella Carvalho Marques, Christian Avila, Nicole Herrera, & Adelle Paltin
Students of Hsiaopei Lee

Senior

CCM Prep Viola Quartet

Grace Yu, Maeve Henderson, Ben Truong, & Isabella Wang
Students of Joyce Chan Grabell

Settlement Music School Viola Choir

Lucas Lauprasert, McKayla Hwang, Freya Price, David Park, Marcos Riera, & Antonella Tarsia
Students of Shelley Beard

Junior

Viola Voce Ensemble

Alexander Makarov, Anna Makarov, Stephanie Vargas, & Lucy Zhou
Students of Naomi Graf

2024 American Viola Society Festival Competition Jurors



Elitsa Atanasova

Elitsa was born in Bulgaria. After finishing her BM degree, she decided to continue her education in the United States. She received a MM and an Artist Diploma in Viola Performance, from the Texas Christian University, in Fort Worth, studying with Dr. Misha Galaganov, and a DMA degree in Viola Performance from the University of Georgia in Athens, studying with prof. Maggie Snyder. After spending nearly ten years studying and freelancing in the US, in 2020 she decided to return to Bulgaria. Currently Elitsa holds a full-time position in the orchestra of the National Opera and Ballet in Sofia, Bulgaria and enjoys taking part in various other projects like the New Symphony Orchestra and the Sofia Session Orchestra.



Martha Carapetyan

Martha has been playing the viola since age 12. She is a member of the Austin Symphony Orchestra and an avid chamber musician, playing in every conceivable genre and instrumental combination that includes a viola. In addition to her performing career, Martha loves teaching. Her fascination with how the brain works, as well as how the body moves with ease, has led her through many fields of study including the Alexander Technique, the Feldenkrais Method, Body Mapping, yoga, meditation, and a number of other disciplines.



Matthew Dane

Matthew Dane serves as Principal Violist of the River Oaks Chamber Orchestra in Houston and Associate Principal for Arizona MusicFest. Dane has appeared as soloist with the Oklahoma City Philharmonic, the Baroque Chamber Orchestra of Colorado, ROCO, and the St. Martin's Chamber Choir among others; his chamber performances have been broadcast on NPR's Performance Today and BBC's Channel 3. A committed teacher, Dane has served on the faculties of the University of Colorado, Metro State College of Denver, and was tenured at the University of Oklahoma; he now actively maintains a private studio in Boulder. His viola d'amore was finished in December, 2013 by Martin Biller in Chicago. www.daneviola.com



Julie Edwards

Julie Edwards has been a member of Utah Symphony in the fall of 2000. Prior to her appointment in Utah, she played in the viola section of The Louisville Orchestra, and free-lanced extensively throughout the Midwest. Julie enjoys a varied musical life in Salt Lake City, ranging from orchestral performances to playing chamber music and teaching, maintaining an active private studio as well as teaching at the University of Utah. She has enjoyed serving on the boards of the Utah Viola Society and American Viola Society, and currently serves on the American Federation of Musicians Local 104 Board. Born and raised in Rapid City, South Dakota, Julie began her music studies in the public schools, starting the viola in 4th grade. She received bachelor's and master's degrees in music performance from Indiana University, where she studied with Csaba Erdelyi and Atar Arad. Julie plays a Hiroshi Iizuka viola that was commissioned by her in 2010.

2024 American Viola Society Festival Competition

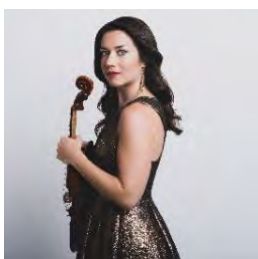
Jurors



Christiana Fortune-Reader

Christiana Fortune-Reader is a multi-faceted musician, passionate about the intersection of teaching, performing, community building, and arts advocacy. She is an Assistant Professor of Music at SUNY New Paltz in the Hudson Valley, teaching violin, viola, and serving as orchestra director. Her research interests consider music as a tool for social change and community building. She works with people of all ages from early childhood to college-aged students, and within

larger groups of community and professional ensembles. She has presented at national conferences and performed internationally, studying with Jeff Irvine, Lynne Ramsey, Donald McInnes, Karen Ritscher, and Carol Rodland.



Caroline Gilbert

Caroline Gilbert, born in Bloomington, IN, grew up playing the violin in the pre-college program at Indiana University. After a little soul searching at Vanderbilt University where she double majored in music and pre-med, she transferred to Indiana University where she completed her Bachelors of Music with Atar Arad. While at the University, she won the concerto competition and performed Hindemith Der Schwanendreher as a soloist with the Indiana University chamber orchestra and

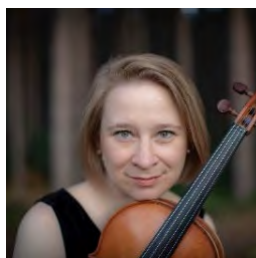
was asked to represent the school at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., performing in the "Conservatory Project" concert series. She studied with Samuel Rhodes and Rodger Tapping at The Juilliard School, and after completing her degrees, she moved to Miami Beach to join the New World Symphony until winning the Principal Viola position with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra in 2017. She is now a regular member in the Arizona Music Festival and Grand Teton Music Festival orchestras.



Federico Andrés Hood Pérez

Federico, born in Bogotá, Colombia, into a family of musicians, began violin lessons at a young age. At 15, he joined professionally the "Orquesta Sinfónica del Valle". He later studied in the US at TCU and IU Bloomington, obtaining his bachelor's degree and a Performer's Diploma. In 2003, he moved to Spain, joining the Castilla y León Symphony Orchestra, eventually becoming principal viola soloist in the Monte-Carlo Philharmonic Orchestra. Federico is also part of

the renowned Trio Goldberg, which has received numerous accolades and recorded numerous albums. He is active in teaching and is a founding member of the Nelli Shkolnikova Academy.



Andrea Priester Houde

Andrea is Associate Professor of Viola at West Virginia University. Her genuine love and dedication to her craft can be seen in performances around the world and in the unique environment of her teaching studio. Specializing in viola pedagogy, Houde combines performance and teaching in clinics and presentations, including WVU Viola Days and WVU Viola Bootcamps. She is on the faculty of the Interlochen Arts Camp and is a former board member of the American Viola Society. Her recording, *The American Viola*, was released by Albany Records and features the historic world premiere of the first American viola compositions.

2024 American Viola Society Festival Competition Jurors



Katherine Lewis

Dr. Lewis has been Professor of Viola at Illinois State University since 2006 where she also serves as Master Teacher and Director for the ISU String Project. A passionate educator of a thriving multi-level college and pre-college studio, she was recently recognized by Illinois ASTA as the 2022 Outstanding Studio Teacher. Her current research involves studying the ways in which technology, including virtual reality, can help us conceptualize the bow arm. In addition to teaching, Dr. Lewis performs regularly as a soloist and chamber musician and has premiered new works on recitals at several AVS festivals and congresses.



Gloria Lum

Gloria Lum, a native of Berkeley, California, attended both the University of California at Los Angeles and the University of Southern California, graduating from the latter institution magna cum laude. A student of Gabor Rejto and Ronald Leonard, she was a member of the Oakland Symphony and the Denver Symphony before joining the Los Angeles Philharmonic cello section in 1985. She currently holds the Linda and Maynard Brittan Chair. A frequent participant of the LA Phil's Green Umbrella series, Gloria has been involved in tributes to Elliott Carter, György Ligeti, and Witold Lutoslawski, and most recently appeared in a solo work by David Lang. On the Chamber Music series, she has appeared with André Previn, Emanuel Ax, Lars Vogt, and Joshua Bell. In the summer of 2015, she was a featured artist in the Cactus Pear Music Festival in San Antonio, Texas. Gloria currently teaches cello and chamber music at Occidental College.



Melissa Matson

Melissa is well known to Rochester audiences as the principal violist of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, as well as a versatile chamber musician. She has been a frequent performer since 1987 with Chamber Music Rochester and the Skaneateles (NY) Festival. She is the artistic director of First Muse Chamber Music, a series of concerts at First Unitarian Church of Rochester (FirstMuse.org). Matson is a member of the Amenda Quartet (with violinists David Brickman and Patricia Sunwoo, and cellist Mimi Hwang) whose "Project Ludwig" aims to study and perform all of the Beethoven string quartets (AmendaQuartet.org). After her tenure with the Quartet she joined the RPO and also the faculty of the Eastman School of Music. Her current duties as an associate professor at Eastman include teaching viola orchestral repertoire classes, for which she has written numerous guides to preparing orchestra excerpts. Matson presented two sessions on orchestral excerpts and audition preparation at the 2004 ViolaFest in Binghamton, NY. She also mentors the violists of the Rochester Philharmonic Youth Orchestra.

2024 American Viola Society Festival Competition Jurors



Katrin Meidell

Violist Katrin Meidell, DMA, enjoys a prolific career as a performer, pedagogue, and lecturer. She has been published in *American String Teacher* and the *Journal of the American Viola Society (AVS)*. She was highly involved in the AVS for eight years— first as a volunteer, then a board member—culminating in her organizing and hosting the 2022 American Viola Society Festival & 47th International Viola Congress (June 2022). She is a Karen Tuttle Coordination pedagogue, and is

interested in musician's health and wellness, both physical and mental. She teaches at the Schwob School of Music, Columbus State University, in Georgia.



Amir Nasser

Nasser is a violinist and composer. He received his Bachelor's in Music Performance from Tehran University and Master's in Music Performance from the University of Maryland. Amir has collaborated with orchestras such as Annapolis Symphony, Avanti, and Parsian Chamber Orchestra, and ensembles such as Balance Campaign, Tehran Baroque Music Atelier, and red fish blue fish. He is currently a member of ensembles Yasnaa and En Route. He is a two-time awardee by Nahal Short Film

Festival for his film compositions and first prize winner of the National Festival of Youth Music in Tehran in 2015. From 2022-2023, Amir was a fellow at the Roshan Institute of Persian Studies where he researched Khorasani Maqam music. He is currently pursuing a DMA in contemporary performance at the University of California San Diego under Erik Carlson.



Aurélien Pétilot

Violist Aurélien Pétilot is a versatile performer and pedagogue. A passionate chamber musician, and an advocate for living composers, he is a founding member of Camerata Oceana, and of the Chiaroscuro Trio. He holds degrees from the Sorbonne University, the Mannes College of Music, and UT-Austin. He lives in Bordeaux, teaches at the Tulle conservatoire and is principal violist with the Bordeaux virtuosi. Previously, he taught at UW-Eau Claire, SIU Carbondale, and the University of

Mary Hardin-Baylor. An avid researcher, he has presented many lectures on Shostakovich, music and the arts, humor in music, and under-represented composers and repertoire.



Matt Pickart

Pickart is Director and Co-founder of Clazz International Music Festival in Arcidosso, Italy, and Assistant Professor of Music at Webster University in Saint Louis, where he serves as Director of Chamber Music and teaches violin, viola, improvisation, and music entrepreneurship. Dr. Pickart has performed and recorded in multiple genres internationally as a soloist, chamber musician, and ensemble member, and he has had the distinct honor and privilege of having performed at both Jazz at Lincoln Center and Carnegie Music Hall's Weill Recital Hall.

His students have gone on to attend prestigious institutions on scholarship such as Belmont University, Berklee College of Music, and the New England Conservatory.

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Wendy Richman

Richman has been celebrated internationally for her compelling sound and "absorbing," "fresh and idiomatic" interpretations with "a brawny vitality." (The New York Times, The Washington Post). As soloist and chamber musician, she has performed at Carnegie Hall, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Mostly Mozart Festival, Phillips Collection, and international festivals in Europe, Asia, and across North America. Dr. Richman is an academic lecturer at UCLA and the viola instructor at California State University at Northridge (CSUN).

She is a founding member of the International Contemporary Ensemble; her debut solo album, "vox/viola," was released on New Focus Recordings in 2020.



Rachel Riese

Riese is a Baltimore-based violist currently completing a Graduate Performance Diploma at the Peabody Institute with Victoria Chiang. She actively teaches and performs around the D.C. area with ensembles including Mount Vernon Virtuosi, District Strings, and the Great Falls Philharmonic, and she has been a substitute musician for the New World Symphony in Miami Beach. Rachel earned her Master of Music at Peabody studying viola with CJ Chang and pedagogy with Rebecca

Henry. She earned her Bachelor of Arts with Distinction at the University of Wisconsin-Madison studying with Sally Chisholm and earning additional degrees in linguistics and German.



Karen Ritscher

Karen Ritscher is an American violist and academic. She is on the faculties of the Manhattan School of Music, New York University and Boston University. She has performed and taught in the United States, Asia and Europe. She is a certified 5Rhythms® Movement teacher, she has led workshops and clinics, often combining the exploration of movement with the art of self-expression as a musician. Ritscher served as the Principal Violist for both the Dallas Opera and the Houston

Grand Opera and the Assistant Principal for the American Composers Orchestra. She has performed with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, the Houston Symphony, New York City Ballet Orchestra and the New York City Opera Orchestra. She has been a member of the Aureus Piano Quartet the Azure Ensemble as well as playing in many other chamber music ensembles and festivals. She has commissioned and performed new works by composers such as by Chen Yi, Bruce Adolphe and Gabriela Lena Frank. Ritscher has served on the faculties of Rice University, the Mannes College of Music, Oberlin Conservatory and the Eastman School of Music. She has served on the faculty of the Karen Tuttle Coordination Workshop since its inception. She was the string consultant for Madeline Bruser's book, "The Art of Practicing; A Guide to Making Music from the Heart."

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Jacob Shack

Violist Jacob Shack is based in Baltimore, Maryland, where he is Associate Principal Viola of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. Appointed to this position in 2022, Jacob was previously Fourth Chair Viola of the BSO. He maintains a highly varied career of orchestral, contemporary, and chamber music performance. When not performing, Jacob is a devoted educator. In addition to maintaining a private studio in Baltimore, Jacob has been an instructor of viola at Baltimore School for the Arts since 2018. He is also an artist-faculty member of the Charles Ives Music Festival, in Ridgefield, Connecticut. A native of Andover, Massachusetts, Jacob earned his bachelor's degree in Comparative Religion from Harvard University in 2014. While an undergraduate, Jacob studied with Martha Strongin Katz of the New England Conservatory. He went on to pursue a master's degree at The Juilliard School under the tutelage of Heidi Castleman and Misha Amory.



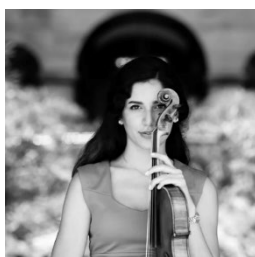
Peter Slowik

Profiled by the *Strad* magazine as "a man of limitless energy and purpose - he mentors high achievers who make their mark in top positions the world over," Peter Slowik is Professor of Viola at Oberlin Conservatory and Artistic Director of Credo Music. Recent master class appearances include Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, England, Europe, New Zealand, the leading US conservatories. His students perform in virtually every major American orchestra, many in principal positions, and hold university appointments throughout the country. Slowik has received top teaching awards at Oberlin and Northwestern and is the recipient of AVS Maurice Riley Viola Award.



Meredith Snow

Meredith Snow is a native of Long Island, New York, and received her bachelor's and master's degrees from the Juilliard School of Music, where she was a student of Paul Doktor and Samuel Rhodes. A former member of the Colorado String Quartet, she has also participated in the Tanglewood, Aspen, and Marlboro Music Festivals. Snow played three seasons with the San Francisco Opera Orchestra before joining the LA Phil in 1986, and she often appears with the Philharmonic Chamber Music Society and the Green Umbrella Series. She currently serves as Chairperson of the International Conference of Symphony and Opera Musicians (ICSOM), a players' conference within the American Federation of Musicians (AFM).



Niloofar Sohi

An Iranian musician, Niloofar has studied with great teachers of Iranian and American backgrounds, such as Korey Konkol, Setareh Beheshti, and Taha Abedian. She ranked first among all students while studying music and performance at the University of Tehran. She was also distinguished as an Elite student in National Elite Foundation and won the first award from the University of Tehran to continue her studies for a master's degree in Performing Arts. Niloofar is a co-founder of Lyrelran and is pursuing a viola performance DMA at the University of Minnesota.

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Kathryn Steely
The Brazos Ensemble

Dr. Kathryn Schmidt Steely is an avid chamber musician, dedicated pedagogue, and experienced orchestral violist. Currently she serves as Baylor University Professor of Viola and performs regularly with Philharmonie Austin, a period instrument ensemble. Formerly a core member of Florida's Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra, she has also performed with the Joffrey Ballet of Chicago, Fort Worth Symphony, Dallas Chamber Orchestra, and Wichita Symphony. She has presented master classes across the country. Steely served as President of the American Viola Society and Editor of the *Journal of the American Viola Society*.



Sharon Wei

Sharon Wei is a multi-faceted musician, establishing herself as one of the most respected violists on the scene today. She has appeared as soloist with orchestras including Sinfonia Toronto, San Francisco Chamber Orchestra, and premiered Mascall's "Ziigwan" with London Symphonia. She performs with the acclaimed New Orford String Quartet and co-founded Ensemble Made in Canada which won a 2021 JUNO for Classical Album of the Year. She performs regularly at Marlboro Music Festival, Curtis Summerfest and with Verbier Chamber Orchestra. Sharon was on Faculty at Stanford University. She is currently Associate Professor at Western University and Acting Dean of Research where she has collaborated with the Northern Tornadoes Project and Ivey Business School to create innovative campus-wide programming.



Molly Wilkens-Reed

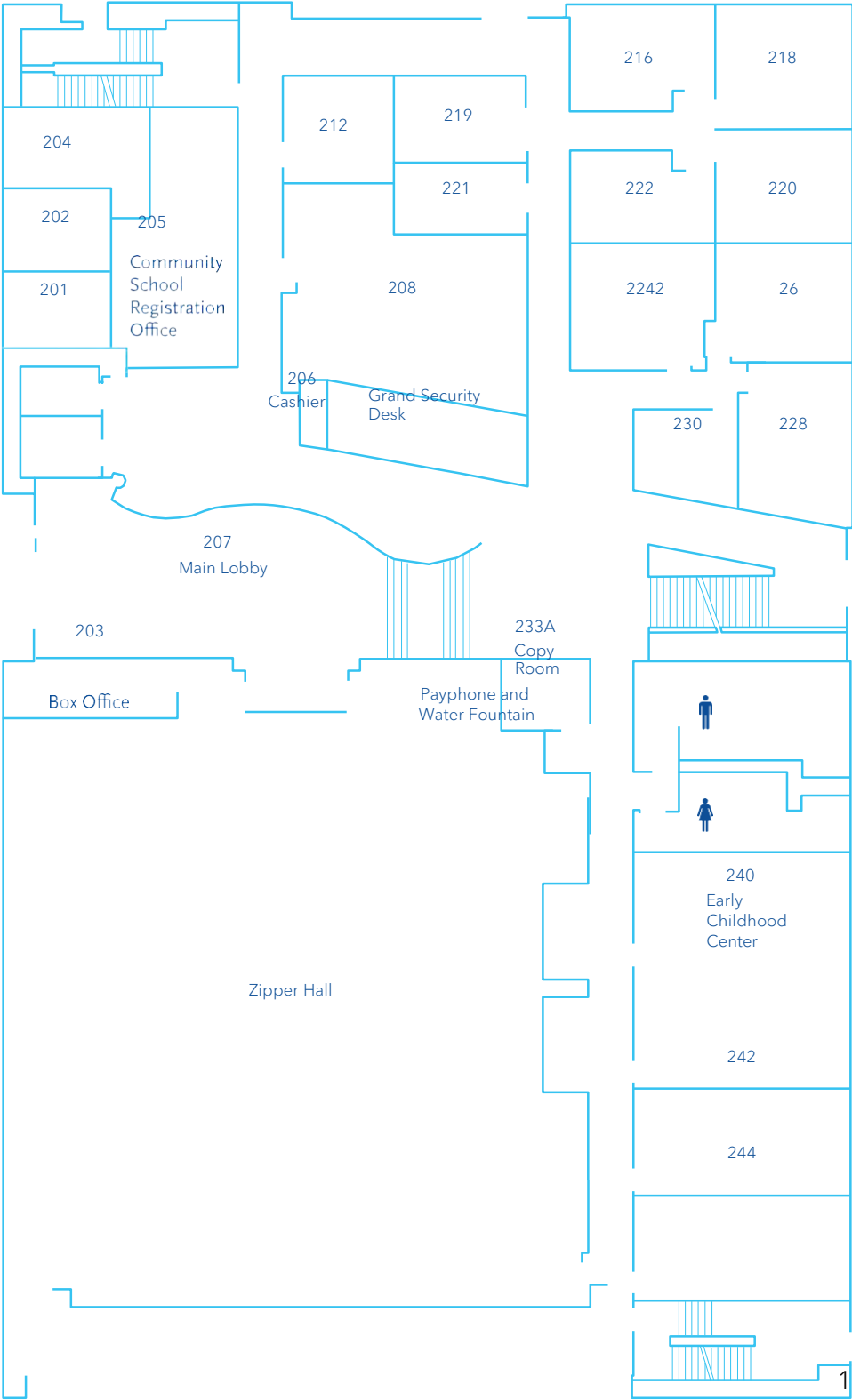
Molly is a viola instructor at Virginia Tech and the director of the Virginia Tech String Project, as well as summer faculty at Interlochen Arts Camp. Wilkens-Reed earned Bachelor of Music degrees in Music Education and Viola Performance from the University of Memphis; a Master of Music degree in Viola Performance with a concentration in String Pedagogy at the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University; and is a certified Suzuki violin and viola teacher. She resides in Blacksburg, VA with her husband and their two young sons.



Gregory K. Williams

Dr. Gregory K. Williams teaches viola at the Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College, CUNY, and was a visiting viola faculty member at the Eastman School of Music, and University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He also teaches at the National Music Festival in Chestertown, MD, and at NYU SummerStrings. He is Principal Violist for Parlando. He co-founded the Golden Williams Duo, a viola-cello duo committed to performing new music written by underrepresented composers. His debut album, *The Solitary Journey* featuring the unaccompanied viola sonatas of Günter Raphael was released in 2023. For more information, please visit <https://gregorykwilliamsviolist.com/>.

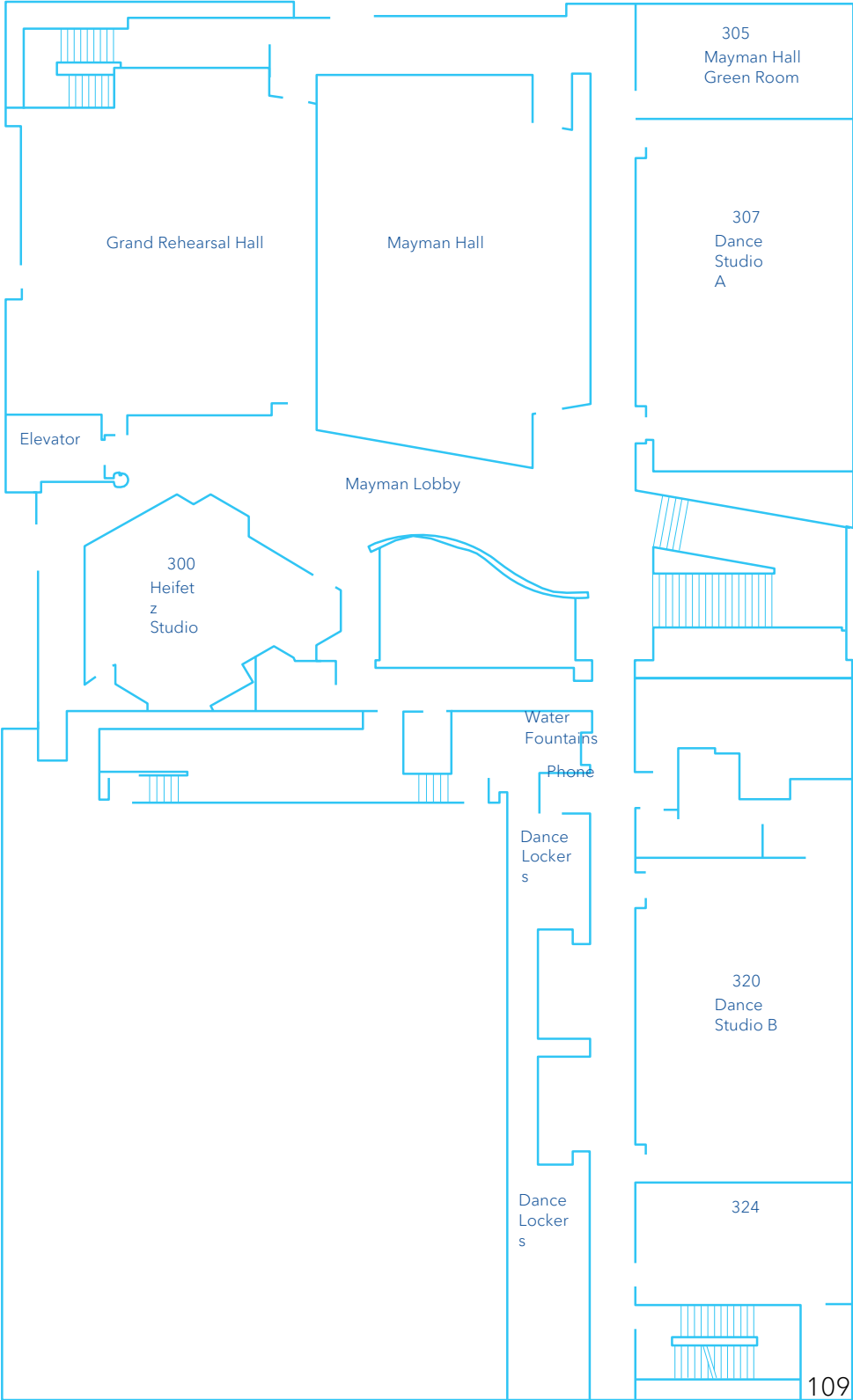
Grand Building, Main (Plaza) Level



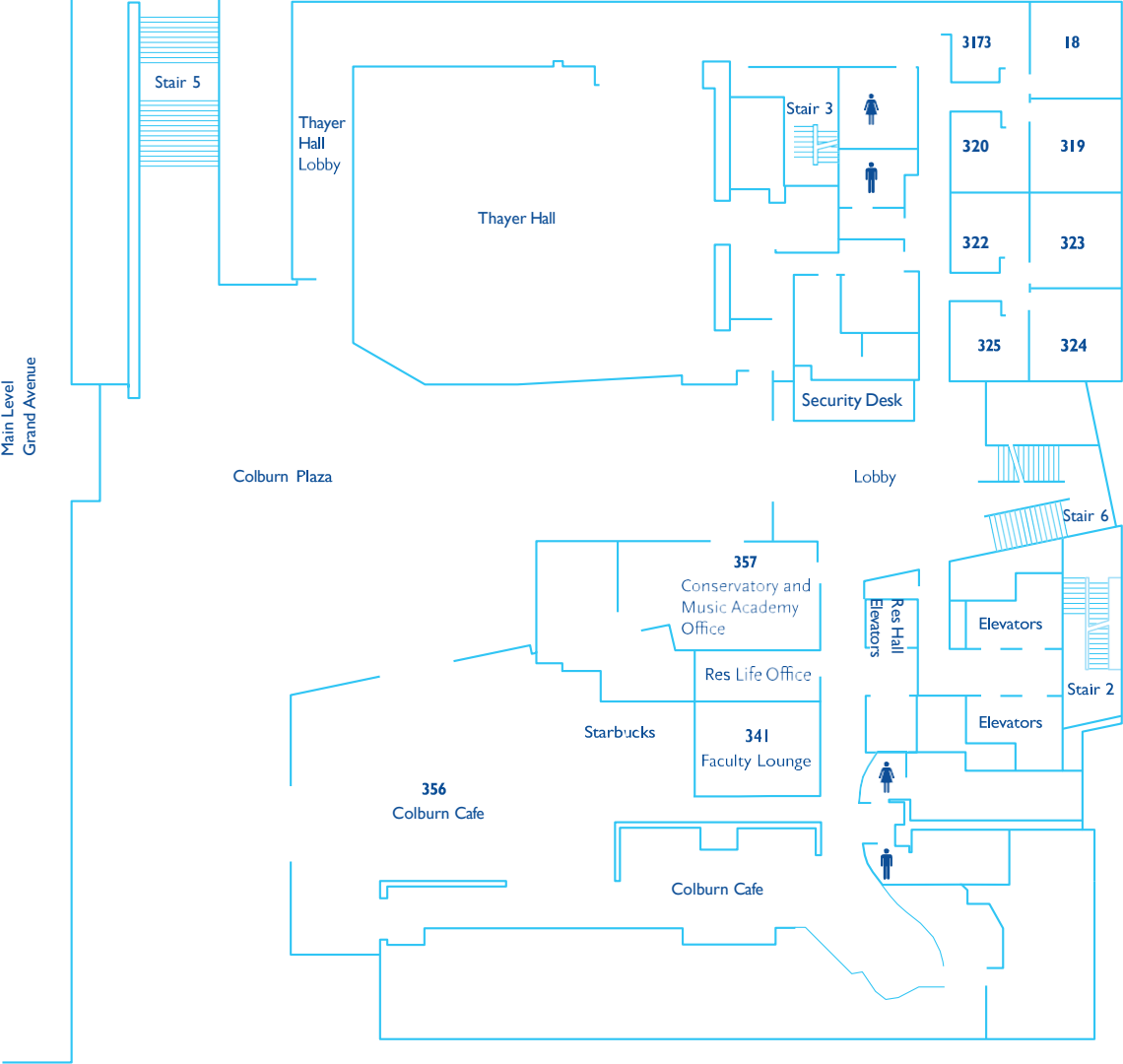
Grand Building, Lower Level



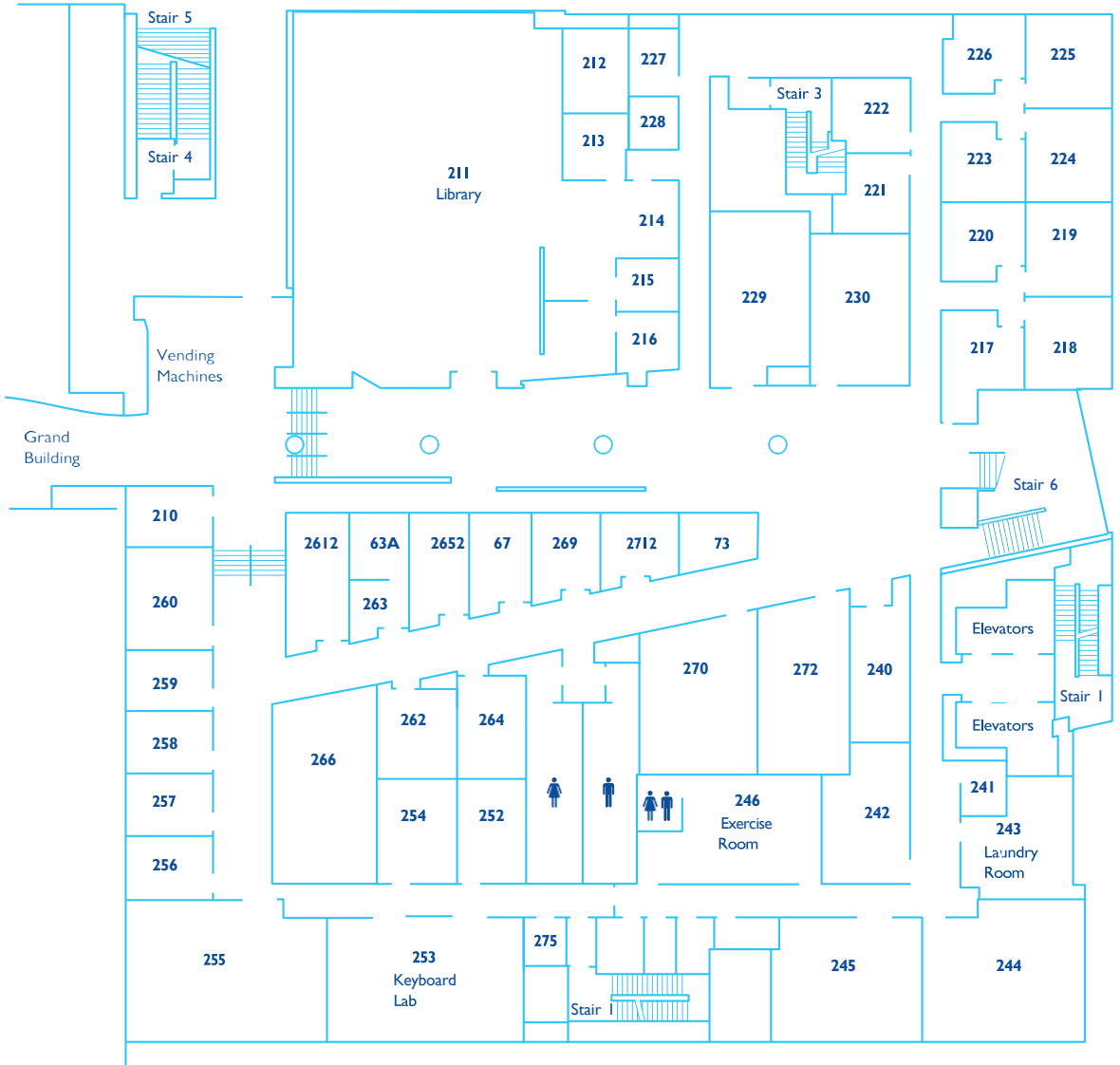
Grand Building, Upper Level



Olive Building, Third (Plaza) Level



Olive Building, Second Floor



2024 Primrose International Viola Competition & American Viola Society Festival General Information

General Information

Registration and Tickets

Registration Desk / Daily Passes and Evening concert Ticket Sales

Grand Building Main Lobby

Registration Desk Hours

Tuesday, June 18, 2024	12:00 pm - 7:30 pm
Wednesday, June 19, 2024	8:00 am - 7:30 pm
Thursday, June 20, 2024	8:00 am - 7:30 pm
Friday, June 21, 2024	8:00 am - 7:30 pm
Saturday, June 22, 2024	8:00 am - 12:00 pm

2024 American Viola Society All-Inclusive Festival Badge

Provides admission to all festival and competition presentations and performances, including all Primrose International Viola Competition Rounds and evening concerts. Admission to evening concerts located in Zipper Hall is included in the cost of registration. Your All-Inclusive Festival badge serves as your admission to the evening concerts.

Daily All-Inclusive Festival Badge

Provides admission to all events located for a single day, including all Primrose International Viola Competition Rounds and evening concerts.

Ticket Sales

Additional tickets for the evening concerts will be sold at the door for the community at large and will be available 30 minutes prior to the concert.

Exhibits

Exhibition Space

The Acre

Exhibitor Breaks

Wednesday, June 19, 2024	12:00 pm, <i>exhibits open</i>
Thursday, June 20, 2024	9:00 am - 6:00 pm
Friday, June 21, 2024	2:15 pm - 3:30 pm
Saturday, June 22, 2024	2:15 pm - 3:30 pm

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Susan Dubois & Daphne Gerling, *viola faculty*

UNT application opens 07.01.24

[GOAPPLYTEXAS.ORG](https://goapplytexas.org)

College of Music application opens 09.01.24

[MUSIC.UNT.EDU/ADMISSIONS](https://music.unt.edu/admissions)

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Integrity



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We Care



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Fire



The Colburn School welcomes
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Primrose International Viola Competition and the American Viola Society Festival

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