



INTERMOUNTAIN SUZUKI  
— STRING INSTITUTE —

PROGRAM GUIDE

June 16-21, 2025

Juan Diego Catholic High School

Draper, Utah

# PIANOS FOR INTERMOUNTAIN SUZUKI STRING INSTITUTE

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## QUICK LINKS

### PROGRAM GUIDE

We are looking forward to a week full of learning and fun!  
In order to help you stay organized and informed, we have prepared a  
list of links which will help you navigate this program more efficiently.

**Welcome to Institute**

**Schedule Overview**

**Insights For Success**

**Student Honors Recital** - Monday

**Guest Artist Concert:**  
**Fry Street Quartet** - Monday

**Student Honors Recital** - Tuesday

**Guest Artist Concert:**  
**Algers Trio** - Wednesday

**ISSI Faculty & Alumni Concert**

**Guest Artist Concert:**  
**Caleb Hudson** - Thursday

**Guest Artist Concert:**  
**Rachel Barton-Pine** - Thursday

**Lower Books Concert**

**Young Artist Program Concert**

**Upper Book Concert**

**Chamber Concerts**

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**Violin Faculty**

**Viola Faculty**

**Cello Faculty**

**Bass Faculty**

**Trumpet Faculty**

**Guitar Faculty**

**Accompanist Faculty**

**Chamber Faculty**

**Enrichment Faculty**

**Teacher Trainer Faculty**

**Acknowledgements**

Clicking on the logo at the bottom of  
each page will return you to this list of links.



## Institute Administration

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Holladay, UT 84121

Phone (801) 810-5189

issisuzuki.org | issisuzuki@gmail.com

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**Tabitha Ricks, Registrar / Grant Writer / Chamber Music Assistant**

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### Executive Board

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## FOLLOW THE FUN!



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@suzukistringinstitute

**#ISSI2025**



# WELCOME TO INSTITUTE



Dear Families, Teachers, and Friends of ISSI,

Welcome to another unforgettable year at the Intermountain Suzuki String Institute! Each summer, this gathering feels like coming home—a place where bows are rosined, hearts are opened, and music carries us forward together. In a world of increasing distance and digital noise, it's these moments of physical presence—with shared sound, shared laughter, and shared purpose—that keep the Suzuki legacy alive and resonant.

We gather not just to play notes or increase skill, but to nurture the spirit Dr. Suzuki envisioned: one of collaboration, encouragement, and joy. Whether you're a parent sitting in your child's masterclass, a teacher learning from an outstanding colleague, or a student standing shoulder to shoulder with a new friend in orchestra rehearsal, this is where the tradition is reinforced. Group learning isn't a supplement to Suzuki—it is Suzuki. The social bonds formed here aren't side effects; they're the intended result.

I've come to believe that traditions like ours survive only through deliberate and intentional renewal. Events like ISSI don't just happen—they are protected, passed down, and lovingly rebuilt each year by everyone who shows up. In doing so, we not only teach May Song and scales—we shape a culture of generosity, resilience, and beauty that we can carry into the world.

To our teacher trainers and teacher workshop participants: your presence gives us inspiration for the future. To our returning students: your presence gives this event its soul and character. To our new families: you are stepping into something bigger than a camp or a class—you're becoming part of a lineage of excellence and community. Thank you for entrusting us with your time, your children, and their music.

Now, let us tune, let us laugh, and let us learn. I am so grateful to welcome you to ISSI 2025.

Warmly,

**Dr. Lauren Posey, DMA**

*Executive Director*

*Intermountain Suzuki String Institute*



# SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

## Thursday, June 12 - Saturday, June 14, 2025

First Week Teacher Workshops,  
Chamber Days with the Fry Street Quartet, and Cello Festival

### Monday, June 16, 2025

8:15	Suzuki Institute Registration
8:30-10:00	Young Artist Program students orchestra rehearsal
9:00-10:00	Play-ins for all levels
10:15-10:45	Opening Ceremonies in the Auditorium
11:00	Class
12:00	Lunch
1:00	Student Honors Recital with Faculty Orchestra
2:00-5:00	Classes
5:00	Guest Artist Concert - <b>Fry Street Quartet</b>

### Tuesday, June 17, 2025

9:00 - 12:00	Classes
12:00	Lunch
	SAU Information Lunch, Room HS:E112
1:00	Student Honors Recital
2:00 - 5:00	Classes
5:15 - 8:00	Free Night or Teen Nite
	(for everyone finished with 6th grade and older)

### Wednesday, June 18, 2025

9:00 - 12:00	Classes
12:00	Lunch
	Trumpet Lunch (Students & Teachers), Room HS:E112
1:00	Guest Artist Concert - <b>Albers Trio</b>
2:00 - 5:00	Classes
5:00	ISSI Faculty and Alumni Concert



# SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

## Thursday, June 19, 2025 - ISSI T-Shirt Day

9:00 - 12:00	Classes
12:00	Lunch
	Viola Lunch (Students & Teachers), Room HS:E112
	Cello Lunch (Students & Teachers), Room HS:E115
1:00	Guest Artist Recital - <b>Caleb Hudson</b> , <i>trumpet</i>
2:00 - 5:00	Classes
5:00	Guest Artist Recital - <b>Rachel Barton Pine</b> , <i>violin</i>

## Friday, June 20, 2025

9:00 - 12:00	Classes
12:00-12:45	Lunch
12:45	Lower Books Final Concert
2:00 - 5:00	Classes
5:15	Young Artist Program & Orchestra Final Concert

## Saturday, June 21, 2025

9:00 - 11:00	Classes
11:00	Upper Books Final Concert
1:00	Chamber Concerts

No evening concerts on Saturday.

The institute concludes at 2:00 p.m. except for Teacher Workshops.



# PLAY-IN & YAP ORCHESTRA REHEARSAL ROOMS

## MONDAY MORNING PLAY-IN ROOMS

**Violin 1-3** - HS: AUD

**Violin 4-8** - HS: AUX

**Viola** - HS:C114

**Cello 1-3** - HS:E115

**Cello 4-6** - HS:LIB

**Bass** - HS:B102

**Trumpet** - HS:C206

**Guitar** - HS:B103

## MONDAY MORNING ORCHESTRA REHEARSAL ROOMS

**YAP Orchestra 15** - HS: E112

**Orchestra 14** - HS: E110

**Orchestra 13** - EL: MPR





**PRACTICE TOOLS, INCENTIVES, GIFTS AND MORE!**

make practicing fun!



# INSIGHTS FOR SUCCESS

FOR PARENTS, TEACHERS, AND STUDENTS



**Dr. Molly Gebrian**

<https://zoom.us/j/3358873715>

Tuesday, June 17th at 10:00 a.m MST online

## **What Musicians Can Learn About Practicing from Current Brain Research**

This presentation will discuss the fundamentals of good practicing based on current research on how the brain learns. It will also include practical strategies that can be implemented immediately for students of all ages, levels, and instruments.

Wednesday, June 18th at 10:00 a.m MST online

## **The Power of Breaks: The Science of Optimal Learning**

This presentation will discuss the counterintuitive finding that not only are breaks necessary for learning, but we make the most progress during breaks. You will learn the science behind this surprising discovery as well as practical suggestions for how to use this to organize your practice time and enhance performing ability.

Thursday, June 19th at 10:00 a.m MST online

## **The Science of Memorization Part I**

This presentation will look at the neuroscience of memory in general, strategies for memorization, and give practical strategies for how musicians can improve their comfort with and mastery of performing from memory.

Friday, June 20th at 10:00 a.m MST online

## **The Science of Memorization Part II**

This presentation will build off the presentation from Thursday, as well as pull in topics from earlier in the week to discuss how they apply specifically preparing for memorized performance.



# INSIGHTS FOR SUCCESS

FOR PARENTS, TEACHERS, AND STUDENTS



Dr. Kasia Sokol-Borup

## **Nurtured By Joy: How to Help Students and Parents Find Joy and Inspiration in Learning.**

This series of four classes will explore the ideas behind joy as the driving force in learning music. In this context joy is the positive energy which fills, fulfills and uplifts. While there are many ways and means of accomplishing goals, some may leave us drained and uninspired while other approaches energize us to do more. The intention of these classes is to inspire parents to work with their children at home in the kind of a way that leaves them and their children "full", not drained. The four classes will then focus on joy as energy, a driving force in learning.

Tuesday, June 17th at 2:00 p.m. in HS B:104

### **Inspiration and Creativity**

Wednesday, June 18th at 2:00 p.m. in HS B:104

### **Grit and Discipline**

Thursday, June 19th at 2:00 p.m. in HS B:104

### **Life Long Learners**

Friday, June 20th at 2:00 p.m. in HS B:104

### **Parent Support**



# STUDENT HONORS RECITAL

MONDAY, JUNE 16TH  
1:00 P.M. IN THE AUDITORIUM

**Accompanied by Teacher Workshop Orchestra**  
**Domenick Fiore, *conductor***

Roumanian Folk Dances	Bartok
Lexi Lydiksen, <i>violin</i>	
Sonata in D Major mvt. 1 Pomposo	Purcell
Tye Oswald, <i>trumpet</i>	
Cello Concerto in C minor, in the style of J.C. Bach, mvt. 3	Casadesus
Scott Pickett, <i>cello</i>	
Introduction and Tarantella	Sarasate
Lacy Seeley, <i>violin</i>	
Cello Concerto mvt. 1	Elgar
Kate Boynton, <i>cello</i>	
Scene de Ballet	De Beriot
Lucy Zhang, <i>violin</i>	
Concerto in B minor for Four Violins, mvt. 1	Vivaldi
Ivy Glenn, Katie Giles, Brody Hart, Michael Wilson	



# GUEST ARTIST CONCERT

MONDAY, JUNE 16TH  
5:00 P.M. IN THE AUDITORIUM

## Fry Street Quartet

Robert Waters, *violin*  
Rebecca McFaul, *violin*  
Bradley Ottesen, *viola*  
Anne Francis Bayless, *cello*

*Individual movements from each piece will be announced on stage*

String Quartet in g minor, Op. 10

Claude Debussy

Arboreal

Laura Kaminsky

String Quartet in B-flat Major, Op. 130

Ludwig van Beethoven



# GUEST ARTIST PROFILE

## Fry Street Quartet



Touring music of the masters alongside exciting new works from visionary composers, the remarkable Fry Street Quartet has perfected a “blend of technical precision and scorching spontaneity” (The Strad). Hailed as “a triumph of ensemble playing” by the New York Times, the quartet has reached audiences from Carnegie Hall to London and Sarajevo to Jerusalem, exploring the medium of

the string quartet and its life-affirming potential with “profound understanding...depth of expression, and stunning technical astuteness” (Deseret Morning News). In 2018, the FSQ presented a complete Bartok Cycle over three days in the Russell Wanlass Performance Hall at Utah State University, featuring eminent Bartok scholar Peter Laki.

In addition to collaborations with acclaimed instrumentalists (including Joseph Kalichstein, Wu Han, Paul Katz, Donald Weilerstein, Misha Dichter, Andres Cardenes and Roger Tapping, among others), the Fry Street Quartet has commissioned and toured new works by a wide range of composers. Pandemonium! by Brazilian composer Clarice Assad received its Fry Street premiere with the San Jose Chamber Orchestra; Michael Ellison’s Fiddlin’ was co-commissioned by the Arizona Friends of Chamber Music Series and the Salt Lake City based NOVA series; and both Laura Kaminsky’s Rising Tide and Libby Larsen’s Emergence were commissioned especially for the quartet’s global sustainability initiative, The Crossroads Project: Rising Tide.

The quartet’s significant touring history includes performances at major venues, festivals, and for distinguished series such as Carnegie Hall and the Schneider Series at the New School in New York, the Jewel Box series in Chicago, Chamber Music Columbus, the Kravis Center in West Palm Beach, the DiBartolo Performing Arts Center at Notre Dame, the Theosophical Society in London, and the Mozart Gemeinde in Klagenfurt, Austria. The Fry Street Quartet is pleased to hold the Dan C. and Manon Caine Russell Endowed String Quartet Residency at the Caine College of the Arts at Utah State University. [frystreetquartet.com](http://frystreetquartet.com)



# STUDENT HONORS RECITAL

TUESDAY, JUNE 17TH  
1:00 P.M. IN THE AUDITORIUM

**Accompanied by Dr. Whitney Pizza**

Chamber Days Quartet	TBA
Coached by the Fry Street Quartet	
Concerto no. 4 in D Major, mvt. 1	Mozart
Ella Tasker, <i>violin</i>	
Concerto in G minor, mvt. 3	Vivaldi
Rose Glenn, <i>violin</i>	
Concerto in the Style of JC Bach, mvt. 3	Casadesus
Samantha Molling, <i>viola</i>	
Concerto no. 23, mvt. 1	Viotti
Sage Marvin, <i>violin</i>	
Meditation from Thais	Masset
Preston Rule, <i>violin</i>	
Scherzo	van Goens
Hannah Harrison, <i>cello</i>	
Violin Concerto in D Major, mvt. 3	Tchaikovsky
Samantha Ricks, <i>violin</i>	



# GUEST ARTIST CONCERT

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18TH  
1:00 P.M. IN THE AUDITORIUM

## Albers Trio

Laura Albers, *violin*

Becca Albers, *viola*

Julie Albers, *cello*

Romance & Gavotte de Mignon

A. Thomas,  
arr. P. Sarasate

Laura Albers

Sonata for Solo Viola, Op. 25 No. 1

P. Hindemith

IV. Rasendes Zeitmass. Wild. Tonschönheit ist Nebensache

Becca Albers

[take what you need.]

R. Esmail

Becca Albers

Pezzo Capriccioso

P. Tchaikovsky

Julie Albers

Serenade in C major Op.10

E. Dohnanyi

Albers Trio





# GUEST ARTIST PROFILE

## Albers Trio



The Albers Trio is a string trio composed of the Albers sisters: Julie (cellist), Laura (violinist), and Rebecca (violinist). They are all accomplished musicians with solo careers and have performed with major orchestras and in various chamber music festivals.

Julie Albers is a cellist who currently holds the principal cellist position with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra. She also performs with the Cortona Trio and regularly participates in chamber music festivals. Julie is known for her "radiant performing style and intense musicianship". She was awarded the Grand Prize at the XIII International Competition for Young Musicians in Douai, France.

Laura Albers is a violinist and the Associate Concertmaster of the San Francisco Opera. She also studied at the Cleveland Institute of Music and The Juilliard School. Laura is a Colorado native who began Suzuki violin studies at age two.

Rebecca Albers is the Principal Viola of the Minnesota Orchestra. She also studied at Juilliard and has performed throughout the United States, Asia, and Europe. Rebecca joined the Minnesota Orchestra as assistant principal viola in 2010 and won the position of principal viola in 2017.

The sisters have noted that their strong familial bond translates to a strong artistic connection, allowing them to intuitively understand and anticipate each other's musical intentions. They regularly play together, and their shared musical passion and love for each other are what keep them performing.



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**Visit our booth to enter. Winners will be announced at the final concert on Saturday, June 21st. All entries must be submitted before then.**

**Must be present to win. Entrants must fill all sections to be eligible. One winner per prize. One entry per family. No cash value. Non-transferrable. Valid only on purchases of at least 50% greater value than the certificate amount.**



# ISSI FACULTY & ALUMNI CONCERT

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18TH  
5:00 P.M. IN THE AUDITORIUM

## Bugler's Holiday

Leroy Anderson  
arr. Charles Metzger

Trumpet Ensemble  
Kyra Sovronsky, Natalie DeJong,  
Ann-Marie Sundberg, Fred Sienkiewicz

## Eclectic Suite (1984)

Malcolm Forsyth

III. Ripsnorter Finale: Full-Blooded, Tongue-in-Cheek

Carey Cheney, cello  
Larry Gee, piano

## Fiddleresque Fiddle Variations on a theme of Humoreque

Dvorak

arr. Derek and Lisa Deakins

Lisa Deakins, violin  
Derek Deakins, guitar

## Trio KV 546, Allegretto

W.A. Mozart

Kasia Sokol-Borup, violin  
Lauren Posey, cello  
Nicholas Maughan, piano

## Trio Magico

Roland Dyens

Guitar Ensemble:  
Ben Lougheed, Stephen Bondy, Sophie Stanley

## Rainbow Variations

arr. Lisa Deakins

Violin and Viola Faculta of ISSI Ensemble



# GUEST ARTIST CONCERT

THURSDAY, JUNE 19TH  
1:00 P.M. IN THE AUDITORIUM

**Caleb Hudson**, *trumpet*  
**Ahmed Alom**, *piano*

*To be selected from:*

Scherzo in C Minor

G. Johannes Brahms,  
arr. Hudson

Concerto in D Minor (BWV 974)

Alessandro Marcello / J.S. Bach

Vignette No. 20

Remy Le Boeuf

Lyric Pieces

Edvard Grieg, arr. Hudson

Road Movies

III. 40% Swing

John Adams,  
arr. Hudson

GG

Shai Maestro

Sonata in D Major, HWV 371

Georg Friedrich Handel,  
arr. Hudson



# GUEST ARTIST PROFILE

## Caleb Hudson, *trumpet*



Caleb Hudson, trumpet, has been a member of Canadian Brass for 10 years. Originally from Kentucky, Hudson graduated from The Juilliard School with both Bachelor and Master of Music degrees. Acclaimed by The New York Times as 'brilliantly stylish,' Hudson performs as an international soloist, including a recital that was broadcast nationally on NPR's Performance Today.

Hudson is known for his mastery of Bach's infamous Brandenburg Concerto No. 2, and has performed it around the world with ensembles including Philadelphia Orchestra, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Orchestra of St. Luke's, Israel Philharmonic Soloists,

Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, and Handel and Haydn Society. Hudson has also performed with early music ensembles such as Philharmonia Baroque, Trinity Baroque Orchestra, American Bach Soloists, and the American Classical Orchestra.

Possessing a wide range of musical styles, his experience ranges from soloing in Carnegie Hall to appearing on Jimmy Kimmel Live! His orchestral experience includes guest principal trumpet with the Philadelphia Orchestra as well as performing with the Seattle Symphony and New York City Ballet. He is an alumnus of Interlochen Arts Academy and Ensemble Connect, a fellowship program of Carnegie Hall. Recently, Hudson was selected as the recording artist for the Suzuki Trumpet School, Volume I, published by Alfred Music, endorsed by the International Suzuki Association and the first of its kind for trumpet.

Hudson is also an avid writer and arranger. In 2015, his original composition "White Rose Elegy" was premiered at Lincoln Center by the Canadian Brass and New York Philharmonic Principal Brass.

Hudson is Associate Professor of Trumpet at the Butler School of Music, University of Texas at Austin. Previously, he held positions at the University of North Texas and Colorado State University.

Hudson resides in Texas with his wife Amanda and their three children.



# GUEST ARTIST PROFILE

## Ahmed Alom, *piano*



Ahmed Alom is a pianist, composer, and conductor whose artistry bridges classical and popular traditions, earning him recognition as “one of the most versatile artists in the Western Hemisphere” (*Diario de Mallorca*). His unique voice blends the rigor and structure of classical training with the rhythmic and harmonic richness of his Cuban heritage, forging connections between the past and the music of today.

Alom’s compositions have been performed by world-renowned musicians, including Yuja Wang, who premiered his *Displaced Etude No. 1* at the New York Philharmonic. As a soloist, he has appeared with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, Louisville

Orchestra, New World Symphony, Orquesta Filarmónica de México, and Britt Festival Orchestra. He is also the youngest Artistic Director of the Washington Square Music Festival, where he champions inclusive and innovative programming, premiering works by Julian de la Chica, Dante Cucurullo, Dick Hyman among others,

Deeply engaged in collaboration, Alom works across genres with leading artists such as Michael League, Antonio Sánchez, Teddy Abrams, Steve Hackman, Miguel Zenón, Mark Dover, Brandon Ridenour and Pedrito Martinez. His debut album, *Exilio* (2023), explored themes of displacement through the works of six Hispanic composers, including the first complete recording of Luis A. Calvo’s *Four Intermezzos*. His chamber trio, *Triple Cortado*—with Caleb Hudson and Achilles Liarmakopoulos—blends classical virtuosity with new contemporary works, while his duo *CrossCurrents* with Pedrito Martinez navigates the intersection of Afro-Cuban music and European classical traditions.

Beyond the stage, Alom is a sought-after educator, having given masterclasses and lectures at Berklee College of Music, the San Francisco Conservatory, Dartmouth College, Peabody Institute, and the National Jazz Museum in Harlem. His passion for new music has led to collaborations with visionary composers and projects, including performances with Steve Hackman, the Pedro Giraudo Tango Quartet, and Ballet Hispánico’s *Doña Perón*.

Born in Cuba, Alom trained in both piano and percussion before earning his Bachelor of Music from the Manhattan School of Music under Dr. Solomon Mikowsky. He continues his studies in conducting and composition with Dr. Ford Lallerstedt while actively expanding his artistic collaborations worldwide.



# GUEST ARTIST CONCERT

THURSDAY, JUNE 19TH  
5:00 P.M. IN THE AUDITORIUM

**Rachel Barton Pine**, *violin*

**Dr. Keenan Reesor**, *piano*

6 Minuets

No. 2. in G Major

L. Beethoven

arr. M. Powell

Humoresque

No. 7. Poco lento e grazioso in G-Flat Major

A. Dvorak

arr. M. Powell

Romance, Op. 23

A. Beach

Suite for Violin & Piano

W. Still

I. African Dancer

II. Mother and Child

III. Gamin

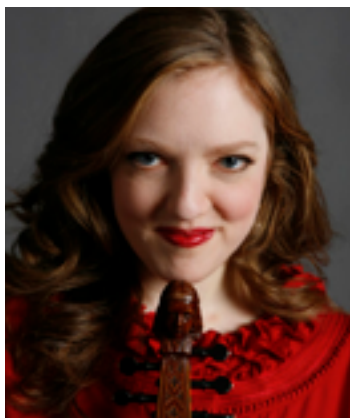
Le Streghe, Op. 8, "The Witches"

N. Paganini



# GUEST ARTIST PROFILE

## Rachel Barton Pine, *violin*



The acclaimed American concert violinist Rachel Barton Pine thrills international audiences with her dazzling technique, lustrous tone, and emotional honesty. With an infectious joy in music-making and a passion for connecting historical research to performance, Pine transforms audiences' experiences of classical music. She is a leading interpreter of the great classical masterworks as well as groundbreaking contemporary music.

Pine performs with the world's foremost orchestras, including the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Camerata Salzburg, and the Chicago, Vienna, and Detroit symphony orchestras. She has worked with renowned conductors that

include Teddy Abrams, Marin Alsop, Daniel Barenboim, Semyon Bychkov, Neeme Järvi, Christoph Eschenbach, Erich Leinsdorf, Nicholas McGegan, Zubin Mehta, Tito Muñoz, and John Nelson. As a chamber musician, Pine has performed with Jonathan Gilad, Clive Greensmith, Paul Neubauer, Jory Vinikour, William Warfield, Orion Weiss, and the Pacifica and Parker quartets.

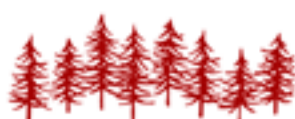
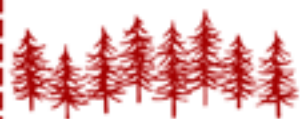
Highlights of Pine's 2024–25 season include the Chicago Symphony Orchestra premiere of José White's Violin Concerto in F-sharp Minor; a tour of Israel with the Tel Aviv Soloists Ensemble; Lalo's *Symphonie Espagnole* with the Puerto Rico Symphony Orchestra; the world premiere of Haralabos [Harry] Stafylakis' Violin Concerto with the Winnipeg Symphony; Billy Childs' Violin Concerto No. 2 with the Rhode Island Philharmonic; and the French premiere of Earl Maneein's violin concerto *Dependent Arising* with the Orchestre National de Bretagne. Over the season, Pine will also perform concertos by Brahms and Sibelius, in addition to other notable works by Wynton Marsalis, Jessie Montgomery, and Mark O'Connor, among other living composers.

She performs on the "ex-Bazzini, ex-Soldat" Joseph Guarnerius "del Gesù" (Cremona 1742), on lifetime loan from an anonymous patron.

[www.rachelbartonpine.com](http://www.rachelbartonpine.com)







INTERMOUNTAIN SUZUKI  
— STRING INSTITUTE —



## Portraits

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station to capture a  
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photo in your  
concert attire!

Friday: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM  
Saturday: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM



## Video

Throughout the week, DB Productions Utah will be professionally recording student performances. Relive these unforgettable moments and share them with loved ones—video recordings will be available for purchase after the event.



[www.DBProductionsUtah.com](http://www.DBProductionsUtah.com)

# LOWER BOOKS

## CONCERT INSTRUCTIONS

### **Concert Dress - Sunday Best - NO jeans or sneakers**

*All students should arrive in the auditorium at  
12:30 p.m. for tuning and set up.*

### **Cases should be left with parents, if possible, or the cafeteria.**

All instruments will have marked seating in the auditorium.

**Bass** will be on stage the entire concert.

**Trumpet & Guitar** will be set up on stage before the concert begins. They will return to marked sections in the audience when they are finished performing.

**Violinists** will be seated by classes.

**Violists** will be in the hallway and backstage. They will stay on the stage for the entire concert after entering.

**Book 1 Cellists\*** will be seated in the north corner of the auditorium

**Book 2-3 Cellists\*** will be in the hallway by the stage door. They will stay on the stage for the rest of the concert.

**Book 3 Cellists\*** will be in the north wings backstage. Chairs will be set up for them on the audience floor.

*\*Cellists should bring cellos, bows, chairs and rockstops clearly labeled with student's names. Small cello chairs will be set up by stage crew and parents. Rockstops or endpin straps are a necessity!*



# LOWER BOOKS CONCERT

FRIDAY, JUNE 20TH  
12:45 P.M. IN THE AUDITORIUM

**Denise Farrington**, *piano*

## **GUITAR**

Meadow Minuet  
Allegretto  
A Toye

## **TRUMPET**

Old McDonald  
May Song  
Swedish Folk Song  
I Hear the Mill Wheel

## **BASS**

Lament

## **VIOLA**

Gavotte in G Minor

## **CELLO**

Lully Gavotte

## **VIOLIN**

Bach Minuet

## **VIOLA, CELLO, BASS**

The Two Grenadiers



# LOWER BOOKS CONCERT

FRIDAY, JUNE 20TH  
12:45 P.M. IN THE AUDITORIUM

## **VIOLIN**

Witches' Dance  
Chorus from Judas Maccabaeus

## **VIOLA**

Musette

## **CELLO**

Minuet No. 1

## **VIOLIN, VIOLA, CELLO, BASS**

The Happy Farmer

## **BASS**

O Come, Little Children

## **CELLO**

Rigadoon

## **VIOLIN, VIOLA, CELLO, BASS**

May Song

## **VIOLA**

Bohemian Folk Song

## **VIOLIN**

Allegro



# LOWER BOOKS CONCERT

FRIDAY, JUNE 20TH  
12:45 P.M. IN THE AUDITORIUM

## CELLO

French Folk Song

**VIOLIN, VIOLA, CELLO, BASS, TRUMPET, GUITAR**

Lightly Row

**VIOLIN, VIOLA, CELLO, BASS, TRUMPET, GUITAR**

Twinkle Variation A and Theme

Kindermusik  
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# YOUNG ARTIST PROGRAM CONCERT INSTRUCTIONS

## **Concert Dress - Sunday Best - NO jeans or sneakers**

There will be space taped off for you to sit with your class during the concert. You will be called onto the stage when it is your turn to perform.

Young Artist Program students can store their cases in **HS:E112** or **HS:E115**.

**Are you in the Young Artist Program or will be next year?  
Would you like to be part of the most dynamic and  
FUN activity at ISSI?**

JOIN US AT  
**CHAMBER DAYS!**

June 11-20, 2026



Join the **Fry Street Quartet** for 9 days of music-making! Chamber Days offers an in-depth exploration of the art of chamber music, focusing on the great masterpieces for string quartet.

Eight quartets spend the first three days immersed in rehearsals and coaching with the FSQ, along with seminars, master classes, and performances. Chamber Days students continue to work closely with the members of the FSQ throughout the regular institute week, and come away inspired and energized!

# YOUNG ARTIST PROGRAM & ORCHESTRA FINAL CONCERT

FRIDAY, JUNE 20TH  
5:15 P.M. IN THE AUDITORIUM

## **CELLO - C10**

Julie Albers, *instructor*

Schumann Five Pieces in Folk Style:  
Langsam and Stark und markirt (mvmts 2 &5)

## **CELLO - C9**

Dr. Yoshika Masuda, *instructor*

Requiem for Three Cellos and Piano by Popper  
Papillon by Fauré

## **CELLO - C8**

Dr. Meredith Blecha-Wells, *instructor*

Gnomentranz by Popper  
Fantasiestucke 1st mvt. by Schumann

## **CELLO - C7**

Zach Sweet, *instructor*

Sicilienne by von Paradis  
Nearer My God To Thee arr. Piano Guys

## **BASS - B4-5**

Matt Gold, *instructor*

Eccles Sonata in G minor, I. Largo  
Beethoven Recitative and Chorale from Symphony No. 9

## **VIOLA - Q6**

Rebecca Albers, *instructor*

Haydn Divertimento (transcribed by Piatigorsky)  
Dimitrescu Romanian Peasant Dance, arr R. Vidas and B. Barber

## **TRUMPET - T6**

Caleb Hudson, *instructor*

Sonata for Cornet and Piano, mvt. 1 by Thorvald Hansen  
Zandunga by Rafael Méndez



# YOUNG ARTIST PROGRAM & ORCHESTRA FINAL CONCERT

FRIDAY, JUNE 20TH  
5:15 P.M. IN THE AUDITORIUM

## **VIOLIN - V9**

Rachel Barton-Pine, *instructor*

Concerto in A Major, Op. 5 No. 2, mvt 3 by Joseph Bologne  
(Chevalier de Saint-Georges)  
Romance No. 2 by Clara Schumann

## **VIOLIN - V10**

Koen Rens, *instructor*

Largo by Veracini  
Obertass by Wieniawski

## **VIOLIN - V11**

Laura Albers, *instructor*

Salut d'amour by Edward Elgar  
Tango (Por Una Cabeza) by Carlos Gardel, arr. John Williams

## **ORCHESTRA 13 - Cello Orchestra**

Dr. Yoshika Masuda, *conductor*

Barber of Seville by Rossini

## **ORCHESTRA 14 - Chamber Orchestra**

Michael McLean, *conductor*

Mozart Divertimento 136, mvt. 1  
Oompa Loopa fugue  
12 Days of Christmas

## **ORCHESTRA 15 - Symphony Orchestra**

Emmett Drake, *conductor*

Anthem, Mephisto Masque





# UPPER BOOKS CONCERT INSTRUCTIONS

**Concert Dress - Sunday Best - NO jeans or sneakers**

**When you enter the concert hall, please be quiet  
and don't play your instruments.**

Find your seat quickly so we can start as early as possible. The front half of the auditorium will be used to seat the viola (all books) and violin students in book 4 and above. Rows will be identified and taped off for the violin groups at 10:00 a.m.

Seats cannot be saved by placing objects on them. We will need to move them to make space for student classes.

Faculty who will be in the faculty orchestra should go to the stage when called. You do not need to help students tune instruments.

Go to the following rooms to place your cases in after classes end at 10:50. All violas and violins should leave their cases in the rooms and pick them up after the concert. You will then return to the auditorium with your instrument.

## **BASSES**

HS:D102

## **GUITAR**

HS:Cafeteria

## **CELLOS**

HS:E110

## **VIOLINS**

V4 - HS:F113

V5 & V6 - HS:E112

V7/8 - HS:D104

## **VIOLAS**

HS:E115



# UPPER BOOK CONCERT

SATURDAY, JUNE 21ST  
11:00 A.M. IN THE AUDITORIUM

*All selections will be announced from the stage*

## **GUITAR - G3-5**

Ben Lougheed, *instructor*

Arietta by Joseph Kuffner  
Wallflower by Maria Linneann

## **CELLO - C6**

Ben Kulp, *instructor*

Trantella by Squire  
Isa Oluwa from a Suite of Nigerian Songs by Godwin Sadoh

## **CELLO - C5**

Dr. Carey Cheney, *instructor*

Danse Rustique by Squire  
Fond Recollections by Popper

## **CELLO - C4**

Dr. David Evenchick, *instructor*

Sonata in C Major, mvt. 1 by Bréval  
Stormy Weather by Goltermann

## **VIOLA - Q4-5**

Sarah Smale, *instructor*

Teleann Viola Concerto in G Major, mvt. 4  
Siciliano arr. Michael McLean

## **TRUMPET - T3**

Fred Sienkiewicz, *instructor*

Hunters' Chorus  
The Swan by Saint-Saens



# UPPER BOOK CONCERT

SATURDAY, JUNE 21ST  
11:00 A.M. IN THE AUDITORIUM

## VIOLIN - V7-8

Laura Albers, *instructor*

Bach Largo  
Hoedown by Copland

## VIOLIN - V4b

Koen Rens, *instructor*

Vivaldi A minor, mvt. 1  
Spijtighen Duval arranged by GH

## VIOLIN - V4a

Wilfried van Gorp, *instructor*

Seitz Concerto No. 5, mvt. 1  
Song of Seaside

## VIOLIN - V4c

Annalise Ohse, *instructor*

Vivaldi A minor, mvt. 3  
Hungarian Dance #5

## VIOLIN - V5a

Allison Woerner, *instructor*

Vivaldi A minor, mvt. 2  
Csardas by McLean

## VIOLIN - V5b

Sylvia Khoo, *instructor*

Country Dance by Weber  
Cavatina by Raff

## VIOLIN - V6

Susan Crawford, *instructor*

La Folia by Corelli  
Syncopation by Kreisler



# CHAMBER CONCERTS

SATURDAY, JUNE 21ST  
1:00 P.M. IN CHAMBER ROOMS

Every chamber group performs on Saturday afternoon.

All students enrolled in chamber groups should proceed to the room assigned for their chamber concert immediately following the final concert. Please find your chamber group number next to each instructor's name.

*We will not begin the chamber concerts until after the conclusion of the final concert.*

<b>Little Chapel</b>	Bayless (04, 05), McFaul (03, 06), Ottesen (02, 08), Waters (01, 07)
<b>Auditorium</b>	Yu (73, 76), Bayless (49), Bedoya (72a), DeJong (09, 11), Sokol-Borup (37, 69)
<b>HS:LIB</b>	T. Johnson (19, 29, 44, 45, 46), M. Johnson (75), McFaul (67), Sundberg (10)
<b>HS:F113</b>	Godfrey (17, 21, 50, 66), Johansen (36, 56), McLean (40, 43)
<b>HS:F106</b>	Hofer (41, 63), Jones (24, 42, 51, 61), Masuda (74), Schifter (65)
<b>HS:E115</b>	Reesor (14, 28, 34, 47, 54), Bondy (12), Regauer (32, 59)
<b>HS:E112</b>	Macias (15, 55, 57, 70), Gold (16), Loughheed (13), Smale (38, 64)
<b>HS:E110</b>	Mason (62), Casey (23, 58), Drake (33), Romney (77), Crawford (31, 71), White (53)
<b>HS:C105</b>	Abegg (26, 48, 52, 60, 68), Mattaliano (20, 25)
<b>HS:B205</b>	Blackner (27), Deakins (18, 30, 35, 39, 72), Gardner (22)



# SAVE THE DATE

ISSI 2026

## SAVE THE DATE!

Thanks for a fabulous week of music,  
learning, and friendship!

*We are looking forward to seeing you again next year!*

**Student Week**  
June 15-20, 2026

**Chamber Days, Cello Festival,  
and Teacher Training**  
June 11-20, 2026

## ANNOUNCING THE 2026 GUEST ARTISTS



Will Hagen, *violin*  
ISSI Guest Artist



Riana Anthony, *cello*  
Cello Festival & ISSI Guest Artist



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# FACULTY DIRECTORY

June 12-21, 2025

Juan Diego Catholic High School

Draper, Utah

# VIOLIN FACULTY

## 2025



**Rachel Alvarado** (TX) serves as Middle School Orchestra Director at St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Austin, Texas. Previously, she served as head orchestra director at Cedar Ridge High School in Round Rock ISD, earning sweepstakes awards at UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Contest. Mrs. Alvarado also maintains a private Suzuki violin and viola studio through the Austin Suzuki Music School and is a regular clinician at Suzuki institutes and music festivals throughout the United States.

Additionally, she conducted the Camerata Orchestra in the Austin Youth Orchestra program and enjoys performing regularly in the Austin area.



**Rebekah Blackner** (UT) is from Salt Lake City, Utah. She grew up attending ISSI each summer! Inspired by the Fry Street Quartet during Chamber Days, she attended Utah State University where she earned a BM in Violin Performance. She served as Assistant Director of USU String Academy and as an Adjunct Violin Instructor at USU. She later earned an MM in Violin Performance from the University of Utah, performing in the Honors String Quartet and New Music Ensemble.

In 2013, she moved to Austin, Texas, to teach with the University of Texas String Project. Rebekah also taught at Austin Chamber Music Center, Austin SoundWaves, and Monarch Suzuki Academy. While in Austin, she performed with the Austin Opera, the Texas Baroque Ensemble, Tectracts New Music, and the San Antonio Symphony, among others. Rebekah has a thriving private violin studio in Salt Lake City and performs as a freelance musician with ensembles such as Ballet West. As a studio recording musician for commercials, movies, and video games, her students have loved to hear that she recorded for Minecraft! When Rebekah isn't teaching or performing, she loves spending time with her niece, Lula, catching up on pop culture, listening to podcasts, and riding her bike.



**Alicia Casey** (NH) is an internationally sought-after Suzuki educator and concert violinist originally hailing from Australia. Alicia directs the Suzuki Program at the Upper Valley Music Center, where she has taught since 2010, and oversees a program of 120 students in cello, viola, and violin.

Alicia has been a guest clinician for both summer institutes and



workshops throughout the United States and Internationally. Alicia has been published in the American Suzuki Journal and has presented at national conferences. She has registered formal Suzuki training with the Suzuki Association of the Americas in Violin Books 1-10 and was awarded the Certificate of Achievement from the Suzuki Association of the Americas in 2018.

Having started violin at age 3, Alicia has now experienced all three sides of the Suzuki triangle, Suzuki student, Suzuki teacher and proud Suzuki parent to her two children. Alicia received her Bachelor of Music Performance and Pedagogy from the Queensland Conservatorium of Music in Australia, where she was a student of Elizabeth Morgan, and her Masters in Violin Performance from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, where she was a student of Elizabeth Chang and was a recipient of the Lark Chamber Music Award. Alicia has performed with orchestras, quartets and as a soloist throughout the United States, Australia and Europe. Alicia currently lives in New Hampshire with her husband Ben, daughter Elizabeth, and son Jack.



**Susan Crawford** (MN) teaches violin and viola at Carleton College and is on the Suzuki faculty for both MacPhail Center For Music and Northern Lights School for Strings in Minnesota's Twin Cities. After many rewarding music festival experiences as a participant, Susan is delighted to be a frequent clinician at institutes and workshops fulfilling her dream of furthering talent education. Her students have won many awards and are continuing their studies at programs including Juilliard, Northwestern and Oberlin. She is a member of Minnesota

Sinfonia, has been the concertmaster for the Ordway Music Theater's Broadway series for many years, and enjoys an active freelance career.



In demand as a pedagogue, **Winifred Crock** (MO) has been the featured string clinician across the country and abroad. She was the Director of Orchestras at Parkway Central High School for almost 30 years and has maintained a private violin studio in St. Louis for many decades as well. She is a graduate of the Talent Education Institute under the tutelage of Shinichi Suzuki and is a SAA teacher trainer. She is also a certified Kodaly instructor. She is passionate about Suzuki

education for all children and has been active in Suzuki in the schools for decades. She has received numerous teaching awards and is the author/composer of popular music publications. Her publications include the Learning Together Series, Alfred Music, and the Pattern Play and Rhythm Play Series, Forrester Press. She is dedicated to the betterment of education for all children.







**Dr. Derek Deakins** (SC) is a violinist, fiddler, guitarist, banjoist, and National Board Certified teacher originally from Kingsport, Tennessee.

Derek's musical journey began with Suzuki violin lessons as a young child and has taken him around the world as a professional musician. He has performed with major recording artists including Blake Shelton, The Osborne Brothers, and Miranda Lambert. Derek graduated from Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee, with a Bachelor of Music degree in Instrumental Music Education. He also holds a Master of Music degree in Orchestral Conducting with a Suzuki pedagogy emphasis and a Doctorate in Music Education, where his research centered on aligning Suzuki instruction with bluegrass fiddle pedagogy. Derek performs regularly with Gravel Road Bluegrass Band and is a teaching artist and multi-instrumentalist for Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida. Recently, Derek played fiddle on the #1 bluegrass single, "Forever Young," featuring Dolly Parton and Paul Brewster. He holds the title of Fiddle Champion in the Coastal Carolina Fair's fiddle contest for both 2021 and 2023.

Derek enjoys performing with his musician wife and his music-loving son and is proud to be experienced in all three points of the Suzuki triangle: student, teacher, and parent!



**Colleen Fitzgerald** (WI) is a teacher trainer for the Suzuki Association of the Americas and executive director of the Barcel Suzuki String Academy. She teaches violin and Suzuki Early Childhood Education classes at BSSA. Ms. Fitzgerald earned a Bachelor of Music degree in Violin Performance with Suzuki Pedagogy Emphasis under mentor, Professor Carol Dallinger at the University of Evansville and a Masters of Arts in Teaching degree from Cardinal Stritch University. She has also received supplemental Suzuki teacher training with Kay Collier-McLaughlin, Ed Kreitman, Tom Wermuth, and Alice Joy Lewis and acquired her Early Childhood Education training with Dorothy & Sharon Jones.

Colleen was awarded the Certificate of Excellence in Studio Teaching from the Civic Music Association of Milwaukee. She has been featured on local TV and radio programs as well the Beyond the Music Lesson podcast to discuss the Suzuki Method. Colleen travels throughout the United States to serve as a guest clinician at various Suzuki workshops and summer Suzuki institutes. Students of Ms. Fitzgerald have won MSO's Bach Double Violin Competition, numerous MYSO Concerto Competitions, the UWM Concerto Competition, as well as many college scholarships and received Honorable Mentions in the Young Artist Auditions with the MSO.





**Melodie Gardner** (AZ) is a highly respected violin instructor with over 20 years of experience. She has been a clinician for the Suzuki Association of Washington Festival and mentored the Salt Lake City group Vivace, which has toured internationally in China, Singapore, and Thailand. Melodie's mission is to inspire students to achieve excellence beyond what they believe possible while developing leadership skills through music.

Known as "Miss Melodie," she has maintained thriving private studios in Salt Lake City, Seattle, and Gilbert. She also taught a music-based preschool starting in 2017, combining her passion for early childhood education with her love of music. Her students have performed at Carnegie Hall, received music scholarships, and have earned many music leadership roles. Melodie also founded Violin for Kids, an online program providing quality violin instruction to children worldwide.

She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Violin Performance from the University of Utah and is Suzuki-certified in violin training, Suzuki Principles in Action, Solos for Young Violinists, and Suzuki Early Childhood Education. Melodie has performed with the Orchestra at Temple Square, collaborating with artists like David Archuleta, Angela Lansbury, and Steven Sharp Nelson of The Piano Guys.

Melodie lives in Gilbert, Arizona, with her husband, Josh, and their seven children. She enjoys being outdoors and hosting family movie nights with popcorn.



**Ruth Godfrey** (UT) received her Bachelor of Music in violin performance from San Francisco State and her Master of Music from the University of Arizona. Her career has taken her from California where she was a member of the Santa Rosa and Sacramento Symphony orchestras to the Tucson Symphony and then Rome, Italy where she played for the Teatro dell' Opera for nine years. She lived in Michigan where she performed in the Ann Arbor, Flint, Saginaw, Lansing, and Toledo symphony orchestras and the Michigan Opera Theatre. She began her Suzuki training at Stevens Point, Wisconsin followed by continued training in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Ithaca, New York, and Salt Lake City, Utah. Since 1996 Ruth has made her home in Salt Lake City where she played in the Ballet West Orchestra for 22 seasons, maintains a full Suzuki studio, and participates in the Suzuki Association of Utah. Ruth is a co-director of the advanced violin performing group, Rocky Mountain Strings. Her interests include skiing, hiking, and scuba diving. Ruth has five stepchildren with her husband Kevin, and nine adorable grandchildren.





**Helen Higa** (HI) comes from a family with 3 generations of Japanese and Western music teachers. Her Suzuki Teacher Training includes a 2.5-year study with Dr. Shinichi Suzuki at the Talent Education Institute in Matsumoto, where she received her Teacher Certification from him in 1973. Helen continued with her long-term Suzuki Teacher Training at the University of Tennessee with William Starr, and then Louise Behrend at the School for Strings, where she taught violin and became a Certified Teacher of the Alexander Technique at the American Center for the Alexander Technique in NYC. In 2006, she gave a joint SAA Heritage Night Keynote Presentation called, "Okagesamade (in your honorable shadow) Suzuki Sensei". During the SAA Conference in 2018, Helen was one of the panelists to give a presentation entitled, "To Study is to Change".

From 1990 -1998, she was honored to teach with Hiroko Primrose, founder of the Suzuki Violin Program at Punahou Music School. Helen recently retired from her 34-year tenure as the Director of Punahou Music School's Suzuki Violin Program, ([www.stehawaii.org](http://www.stehawaii.org)). She loves being outside in beautiful nature, teaching at summer institutes (like ISSII!), teaching at the Singapore International String Festival and visiting Japan, Shanghai and Korea.



**Dr. Jakob Hofer** (VA) is the director of the Camerata Orchestra and the violin instructor at Southern Virginia University, and currently serves as the concertmaster of the Rockbridge Symphony. As a founding member of the Rosco String Quartet he won first place in MTNA's National Chamber Music Competition and was a finalist in the American Prize Competition. Dr. Hofer has received instruction from many of the world's most renowned chamber musicians including members of the Takacs, Juilliard, Emerson, Tokyo, and Muir String Quartets. Most recently, he was invited to the Conductor's Retreat at Medomak to work with conductor Kenneth Kiesler. Jakob has performed with the Utah Symphony, Sinfonia Salt Lake, the Ballet West Orchestra, and the York Symphony. He holds Bachelor and Master degrees in violin performance from the Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University, and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Utah.



**Marguerite Jayasimha** (CA) began her training as a violinist at age five, developing a lifelong love of music. She is a trained Suzuki Early Childhood Education Teacher and Suzuki Violin Teacher, having completed training in Units 1-10. She also has training and experience in Kodaly, Music Mind Games, Creative Ability Development, and enjoys teaching alternative styles and improvisation. She holds an Engineering degree and loves applying science and engineering to Suzuki teaching, from developing bow holds to parent education.



Marguerite has performed with the La Jolla Symphony, Redwood Symphony, numerous string quartets and served as asst. conductor of the International Women's Choir of Singapore. She has served on many Suzuki and cultural performing arts boards. Marguerite loves Indian classical music and plays fusion with her husband, an accomplished Tabla player. She is happy to be back in San Diego at the San Diego Suzuki School of Music, which she co-founded in 2005. She is a former director of the Advanced Suzuki Institute at Stanford and is a current co-director of the San Diego Suzuki Institute. Ms. Jayasimha also enjoys directing middle school orchestra in her local school district and performing fiddle with her folk rock band the Salty Eddies.



Violinist, **Tina Cho Johnson** (UT) is originally from the Chicago area, where she studied with Roland and Almita Vamos. Tina later attended The Juilliard School, where she received her bachelor's and master's degrees in violin performance.

Currently, Ms Johnson lives in Salt Lake City, UT where she maintains a private teaching studio. Prior to living in Utah, Ms. Johnson was a member of the Kansas City Symphony for nine seasons. She frequently performs with the Utah Symphony and is married to Utah Symphony, Acting Principal Cellist, Matthew Johnson.



**Calida Jones** (CT) is a seasoned multi-hyphenate musician, educator, and social justice advocate with over 25 years of experience in performance, curriculum development, and community engagement. She has worked with arts and cultural organizations nationwide to uplift equity, diversity, inclusion, and access, particularly through social change music programs. Committed to providing children with the least resources with access to musical opportunities, Calida links

teaching to life skills and community building. Formerly Vice President of Planning at Arts Consulting Group, she is now an internationally sought-after entrepreneur, speaker, coach, violinist, and conductor. Her global reach includes speaking engagements in India and at prestigious institutions like Yale University and Duke University. Calida has received numerous accolades, including a Grammy Music Educator Award nomination, the Connecticut Arts Hero Award, and the Father Thomas H. Dwyer Humanitarian Award. She holds degrees in violin performance from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and The Hartt School.





**Gail Johansen** (AK) is associate concertmaster of the Fairbanks Symphony and performs both violin and viola with the Alaska Chamber Players. She teaches violin, viola and chamber music in her private studio. As a registered Teacher Trainer with the Suzuki Association of the Americas, Dr. Johansen is on the faculties of summer music institutes across North America. She is a founder of the Fairbanks School of Talent Education and the Artistic Director of the Fairbanks Suzuki Institute, for which she received the SAA 2008 "Creating Learning Community" award. In 2009 Dr. Johansen was honored with the prestigious Cleveland Institute of Music Alumni Achievement award.

Dr. Johansen holds a MMus degree in violin performance from the Cleveland Institute of Music and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Stanford University and is a past-president of the Alaska Chapter of the American String Teachers Association. Her distinguished students are alumni of the Juilliard School, Cleveland Institute of Music, Royal College of Music, New England Conservatory of Music, Shepherd School of Music, The Meadowmount School, Aspen Music Festival, Encore School for Strings, Interlochen, National Repertory Orchestra and Kneisel Hall.



**Dr. Sigrid Karlstrom** (NM) enjoys a career as a violinist and violist, chamber musician, Suzuki teacher, and school orchestra director based in Albuquerque, New Mexico. In 2024, she founded Violapalooza NM, a workshop and concert that brought together 50 professional and student violists from all over the state. Her doctoral research and interest in contemporary works and works by underrepresented composers culminated in two albums of pieces for viola and piano by the American composers Marion Bauer, Vivian Fine and Miriam Gideon. A portion of this research is published as a "Foreword" to the American Composer Alliance's edition of Miriam Gideons Sonata for Viola and Piano. Dr. Karlstrom's performance of the Marion Bauer Sonata for Viola and Piano, op. 22 was featured on the American Viola Society's "Emerging Artists" recital in 2019. From 2013-2017, she played as a tenured member of the New Mexico Philharmonic viola section. She was a Regents Honor Award winner and graduated on full merit scholarship with a doctoral degree from The Hartt School in 2019.



Born in Penang, **Sylvia Khoo** (Singapore), a much sought after violin teacher, who won her first National piano competition (Malaysia) when she was 15. She subsequently earned her Master of Music in performance and teaching with the internationally acclaimed Suzuki string pedagogue, Mr John Kendall, at the Southern Illinois University, under the Singapore PSC-SSO Scholarship.



Upon her return, she played with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra before embarking on a 40-year teaching career with the Ministry of Education, Singapore. After her stance as a Music Elective Programme (MEP) teacher in Raffles Junior College, Sylvia proceeded to pioneer MEP, covering a wide curriculum of music history, analysis and composition, practical and ensemble playing, ethnic music, etc, in Raffles Girls Secondary School. In addition, her passion in music teaching is evident through her many creative music learning initiatives: establishing a strings ensemble, including dance, handbells, and computer music (which was a breakthrough those days!) Into her music curriculum, raising the joy of music-making to a new level of vibrancy!

With 45 years of violin teaching and thousands of students passing through her hands, Sylvia maintained her passion in teaching and produced outstanding string players, many of whom served as concert masters/mistresses, and principal chair of the Singapore National Youth Orchestra, winners of local and international music competition, high distinctions/scorers in the ABRSM final grade exams. Her advanced

students have been accepted into highly regarded conservatories like Peabody, Curtis, Juilliard, Eastman, Northwestern, Berklee, Manhattan and Mannes.

Her violin teaching experiences span internationally, serving as adjudicator for international and local competitions, and as teaching faculty in the Intermountain Suzuki String Institute in Utah. Locally, she is more than a violin teacher, she mentors her students from toddlers to adulthood, imparting the beauty of music while building character in them.



**Erika Lord-Castillo** (IL) is the current Interim Director of the Suzuki Program at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. She has been a faculty teacher in the SIU-Edwardsville Suzuki Program since 2009 and became a Suzuki Violin Teacher Trainer in 2021. Originally from Iowa City, Iowa, Erika earned a Bachelor of Music degree in Violin Performance and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Literature, Sciences and Arts from the University of Iowa. She holds a Master's in Music

Education from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, and studied Suzuki pedagogy Violin Books 1-10 with Vera McCoy-Sulentic. Erika has also completed Suzuki teacher training with Michelle Higa George, Moshe Neumann, Judy Bossuat, Nancy Jackson, Christie Felsing, William Preucil, Senior, and Alice Joy Lewis. Erika taught in Corvallis, Oregon through Corvallis Youth Symphony's Elementary Strings Program and taught elementary through high school orchestra in the Ferguson-Florissant School District in North St. Louis County. Erika has performed with numerous community orchestras in Iowa and Oregon, with the St. Louis Philharmonic Orchestra, the Illinois Symphony, and is a regular member of the Edwardsville Symphony and the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Orchestra. Erika's violin teachers include Annette-Barbara Vogel, Katie Wolfe, and Lenora Anop. Erika presented her Masters Thesis at the American String Teachers Association national conference, is a regular contributor to the American Suzuki Journal,



and has also presented at the Suzuki Association of the Americas conference. She is a past director of SIUE's Summer String Camp and of the SIUE Suzuki Viola Camerata, part of the larger SIUE Suzuki Tour Group. Erika received the Suzuki Association Certificate of Achievement Level 1 in the summer of 2015.



**Nicole Macias** (UT) started out as a 3 year old Suzuki Student, studying with Hiroko Primrose, and graduated from the Suzuki program at 11. At the suggestion of her school orchestra teacher, she began teaching as a high school freshman, fell in love with it, and has been teaching ever since.

Nicole graduated from the University of Utah, and she was awarded the Suzuki Certificate of Achievement, which recognizes committed excellence in Suzuki Pedagogy, in 2013. Currently Nicole teaches 60 violin and viola students in her home studio and directs the Utah Peaks Players, a Suzuki performance group. She is on the board of the International Suzuki String Institute, and is a member Board of the Suzuki Association of Utah where she served as President from 2021-2024.

Nicole is married to Robert Macias, and they have five children, two of which still live at home, where someone is playing the violin, piano, or discussing Star Wars nearly all the time.



**Chris Mattaliano** (TX) is a Suzuki Strings Specialist for the Hurst-Euless-Bedford Independent School District maintaining a studio of over 50 students, ages 4-17, and is the Director of the HEBISD Advanced Violin Choir aptly named Violin Fine Tuners. As a professional violinist, he currently serves as the concertmaster of the Mesquite Symphony Orchestra. In past seasons, Chris has appeared as a soloist in numerous performances with the Texas Chamber Music Project, and as a

featured guest artist with the Fort Worth Chorale, and is a weekly contracted musician at White's Chapel MC. Chris has distinguished himself as a music educator, presenting multiple poster sessions at the 2018 Suzuki Association of the Americas Conference, and is in growing demand as a guest clinician at workshops and Suzuki Institutes around the state and country. With a passion for arts administration, Mattaliano has served on the executive board of directors for many orchestras in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex and is the former vice president of the North Texas Suzuki Association. Mattaliano started his studies in violin at the age of 4 in the Suzuki Method, and holds two degrees from Ithaca College as well as a dual masters degree from the University of Minnesota in violin performance and Suzuki pedagogy. While completing his studies, Mattaliano held principal and concertmaster chairs of the University of Minnesota Symphony Orchestra for several projects. In his spare time, he enjoys playing jazz guitar with multiple big bands around the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex.







**Marisa McLeod** (CA), violinist, a native of Newark, New Jersey, began her studies of the violin at the age of three. She received her Bachelor of Music degree at Montclair State University, and her Master of Music degree from the University of Rochester's Eastman School of Music.

She was a member of the Anderson String Quartet for ten years. She has studied the art of string quartet playing with the Cleveland Quartet with Peter Salaff as her private teacher, Juilliard String Quartet, American String Quartet, and William Fitzpatrick of Le Quatuor de Deux Monde, in Fontainebleau, France.

She is a co-concertmaster with Channel Islands Chamber Ensemble and performs with various orchestras in Southern California. She is a Suzuki and Strings instructor at the Viewpoint School in Calabasas and Suzuki Music Program of Los Angeles. She also conducts the Camerata and Philharmonia Orchestras for the Education Division of the Santa Barbara Symphony.



**Annalise Ohse's** (TN) teaching style has been described as a "rigorous focus on technique with a sense of panache, whimsy and bold musicality." She is "warm and engaging" and "a perfect bridge between parent and child in the early stages of learning the instrument."

Annalise holds degrees from the University of Texas at Austin and the Hartt School of Music in Hartford, Connecticut. Annalise formerly taught for the Blair Academy of Music at Vanderbilt University and was the string instructor for Harding Academy in Nashville, TN. Annalise currently serves as Executive Director of Franklin Suzuki Academy, a not for profit music school providing a pure Suzuki experience for neighboring communities all across Nashville, TN. Annalise is an active clinician, teaching workshops across the country. In the summers, she enjoys teaching combinations of fiddle and Suzuki classes at the Hartt Suzuki Institute, Ogontz Suzuki Institute, Greater Austin Suzuki Institute, Nashville Suzuki Institute, and Intermountain Suzuki String Institute.



**Nonie Reesor** (UT) has been training young Suzuki students for over two decades. She thanks her early teachers, Ramona Stirling and Jack Ashton, for nurturing her love of the violin and preparing her to earn a violin performance degree from Utah State University in 2004. She also thanks her Suzuki teacher trainers for inspiring her love of teaching through the beautifully connective Suzuki philosophy. Nonie has served as adjunct lecturer at USU (2006–2008), artistic director for the

USU String Academy (2006–2008), on the faculty of Suzuki Talent Education of Pasadena





(2008–2016), and concertmaster of the Rockbridge Symphony (2016–2023) while also directing her performance group, Shenandoah Strings. Having relocated to her native Utah in 2024, Nonie continues to teach and perform, and loves having so many close Suzuki colleagues! She recently co-founded the performance group, Maple Mountain Camerata, with her colleague, Tammy Barney. A mama of five musical, barefooted boys, she dons the hat of practice parent and loves playing with her husband, pianist Keenan Reesor. Outside of mothering and music-making, Nonie might be found wandering in the woods, piling up books to read, watching her chickens, or playing with sourdough.



**Charles Regauer** (LA), originally from Brazil, began his musical journey on the violin and later took up the viola. He holds a bachelor's degree in music from the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul in Brazil and a master's degree in music from the University of New Mexico, with concentrations in Viola Performance and Violin Pedagogy. There, he completed long-term Suzuki training for all Violin and Viola Suzuki Books. Recently, he earned the SAA Certificate of Achievement in

violin.

Currently, Charles teaches violin and viola and serves as an administrator at the Centenary Suzuki School in Shreveport, LA. He is also director of the Centenary Suzuki Institute and regularly performs in the viola section of the Shreveport Symphony Orchestra.

Charles has taught in Suzuki workshops and institutes across the USA, Brazil, and Mexico, where he enjoys bringing fun to learning, sometimes even dressed as a T-Rex! In his free time, Charles enjoys making coffee and experimenting with beans from around the world, biking, gardening, baking, barbecuing, and reading.



**Koen Rens** (Belgium), started violin lessons as a Suzuki student with Jeanne Janssens in Turnhout, Belgium. Later on, as a student of Dirk Lippens, he won the degree of excellence in the Conservatorium of Bruges, where he made his debut as a soloist with orchestra. He then studied at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Brussels and won first prizes in violin and chamber music in 1989, studying with Katalyn Sébèstyen and Guido De Neve. After long term teacher training with

Jeanne Janssens obtained the final diploma of the European Suzuki Association in Suzuki pedagogy in 1992.

He played with the chamber orchestra of the European Community, the Sallinen String quartet and the Rubens piano trio, and with the folk band Galley Head. He was appointed as a Teacher Trainer for ESA in 2000. He also serves as a Teacher Trainer for the Asian Suzuki Region.



In 2002 he went to study violin, psychology and pedagogy in the Conservatoire Royal de Liège and got the final diploma in 2003 with a thesis on the development of autonomy in Suzuki-trained students.

Koen Rens has a thriving studio for over 30 years now and is teaching violin at the Academy of Music in Turnhout, Belgium. He has been invited to teach and perform in most European countries, South Africa, Mexico, Canada, United States, Japan, Taiwan, New Zealand and Australia. He taught, conducted and lectured at the 14th Suzuki Method World Conference in Italy in 2006 as well as at the 16th Suzuki Method World Convention in Matsumoto, Japan and was invited to teach on the Australian and SAA National conferences. He was teaching and lecturing at the first All-American Conference in Cancun. He lectured, amongst others, at the University of Alcalá de Henares (Madrid), the Grieg Akademiet (Bergen, Norway), the High school for Music and Pedagogy in Kaunas (Lithuania), the Aristoteles University in Macedonia (Greece) and the Royal Conservatory of Brussels as well as the Utah State University.

For more than 15 years he was the Belgian deputy on the Board of Directors of the European Suzuki Association and secretary and later Chairman of the Talent Education Suzuki Institute Belgium. From 2009 to 2011 he served as Chairman of the European Suzuki Association and worked as such towards a more active role of the Suzuki Philosophy in the everyday workings of the European Suzuki Community. In 2020 he was appointed as Chair of the ESA violin committee and in that role also a member of the ISA violin committee.

Together with Wilfried Van Gorp he founded and directed the Belgian Suzuki Chamber Orchestra.

Since 2005 he is director of a Suzuki violin Teacher training program for the Lithuanian Suzuki Association and since 2014 for the LSA in Latvia. Since 2015 he also trains teachers for the Catalanian Suzuki Association in Barcelona (Spain). He serves on the Faculty of the AP Royal Conservatory of music in Antwerpen teaching a Postgraduate Course in Suzuki Pedagogy, in collaboration with Veerle Van Gorp and Wim Meuris.



**Robert Richardson** (Canada) is the Director of the Suzuki Talent Education Program at Brandon University's Eckhardt-Grammatté Conservatory of Music. While maintaining a studio which includes students on both violin and viola he also conducts string orchestras and coaching chamber music. He is an active clinician teaching at workshops, institutes and festivals throughout North America and beyond. Robert has presented at the Suzuki Association of the

Americas Teachers' conference, leadership retreats, International Suzuki Conferences and regional conference on various topics. Robert performs regularly on both violin and viola in numerous chamber ensembles, including the Brandon Chamber Players of which he is a founding member. Mr. Richardson is honoured to have served in various capacities in the SAA and recently as a leader in the formation of the Suzuki Music/Musique Canada



which is celebrating its first year as an national association for the development of Suzuki Education in Canada.



**Tal Schifter** (NY) is the co-director of the Suzuki Strings of Long Island. Mr. Schifter has been on the faculty of Sound Encounters and the Mid-Southwest Suzuki Institute in Kansas, the Texas State Suzuki Institute, the Ithaca Suzuki Institute Advanced Program, the Advanced Suzuki Institute of Stanford, the Intermountain Suzuki String Institute in Salt Lake City, and the Hartt Suzuki Institute in West Hartford. He has served as a guest clinician throughout the United States at various

workshops.

Mr. Schifter began violin at the age of 3 as a Suzuki student at The School for Strings in New York City. He continued his studies at The Juilliard School and the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. As a violinist, he has performed at several music festivals including the Aspen Music Festival, Manchester Chamber Music Festival, and Meadowmount School of Music.

The Suzuki Strings of Long Island has performed at various venues including Carnegie Hall in November 2007 as guests of a Gala Benefit hosted by Rob Reiner which included performances by Natalie Cole and other celebrities. In the summer of 2017, Suzuki Strings of Long Island teamed up with the Hartt Suzuki Strings to perform on tour in Alaska. In Fairbanks they were joined by the Fairbanks School of Talent Education for the final concert. All three groups were selected to perform at the 2018 Suzuki Conference in the International Ensembles Concert.



**Sarah Smale** (CT) received her BA (hons.) in viola performance at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, continuing postgraduate work at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, gaining the Postgraduate Diploma. Sarah obtained her MM in viola performance from the Hartt School where she was assistant to and studied with the Emerson String Quartet. Sarah has played with various ensembles as principal viola, recorded television and radio for work for the BBC and

Radio Suisse and performed for many years with the Orchestre des Jardins Musicaux in Switzerland as principal and assistant principal viola. Sarah's long term Suzuki Training was with Linda Fiore and Teri Einfeldt. She took further Suzuki training from Ed Kreitman and Tom Wermuth while teaching at the Western Springs School of Talent Education. Sarah is currently Associate Director at the Suzuki Music Schools in CT, chair of the Norwalk Symphony Orchestra Young Artists Festival and former co-director of the Ogontz White Mountain Suzuki Institute in New Hampshire. Sarah enjoys teaching all ages, including at the university level and is a frequent guest teacher at educational workshops and Suzuki Institutes around the country.





**Dr. Kasia Sokol-Borup** (UT) is a native of Lublin, Poland. Having been born onto a musical family, she began playing the violin at age six. At age twelve she had won her first award at a national Polish competition and won a Scholarship for Gifted Children. Over the next few years, she competed in several Polish national competitions as well as international competitions, and received numerous awards. At age seventeen she travelled the US as a scholarship winner for the Interlochen Arts Camp, Interlochen, MI. Subsequently, she received a full scholarship to study at the Interlochen Arts Academy.

Dr. Kasia Sokol - Borup holds a DMA degree from Indiana University, a MM degree from Northwestern University and a BM degree from Western Michigan University. In the course of her studies she has worked with such prominent musicians as Miriam Fried, Almita Vamos, Menahem Pressler, Renata Knific and Mimi Zweig. Dr. Sokol - Borup earned her Masters Degree from IU on a full scholarship in conjunction with Chicago Civic Orchestra, a professional training orchestra to Chicago Symphony. While at IU she has earned her doctoral degree as an assistant to Miriam Fried and worked at the Jacobs School of Music Pre -college School under the direction of Mimi Zweig.

In 2006, Dr. Sokol- Borup begun her work as an Assistant Professor at Fort Lewis College in Durango, CO, where she taught violin, viola, chamber music and orchestra. While living in Durango, she was also the director of the Durango Youth Orchestra as well as a concertmaster of the San Juan Symphony and a director of the Durango Chamber Music Festival.

In 2010, Dr. Sokol - Borup moved to Salt Lake City, UT, where she teaches violin, chamber music and string pedagogy at the University of Utah. Her diverse music education and experience as a performer and a teacher lead her to create a pre - college strings program at the University of Utah, the U of U String Preparatory Division, which she directs. Dr. Sokol - Borup was also leading the effort to design a MM degree in String Performance and Pedagogy at The U of U, which was implemented in 2012. Graduates from this program have been successfully employed in positions around the country.

Dr. Sokol - Borup is an active chamber musician, she performs solo concerts and gives clinics. Her clinics, master classes and lectures focus on violin technique, teaching the violin, leading sting group classes and youth orchestras. She has trained and worked with teachers in the United States and in Europe at festivals such as the Moab Music Festival and Saarburg Festival, Germany.

Dr. Sokol - Borup lives in Salt Lake City with her husband - violinist, Hasse Borup and their two children Sophia and Christopher. She plays on a violin made by luthier Ryan Soltis in 2008.





**Nicolette Solomon** (TX) is the Director of the Monticello Talent Education School of Music. She was the Executive Director and President of the Suzuki Music Institute of Dallas for 20 years

Ms. Solomon was born in Laingsburg, South Africa to musician parents. She began her violin studies with Neil McKay, followed by Pierre de Groote at the College of Music in Cape Town and her University studies under the tutelage of Alan Solomon. In 1975 she played at the International Festival of Youth Orchestras in Scotland and has twice toured Europe as well as and performed in Israel, Taiwan and Hong Kong with Harmonia Juventia. Ms. Solomon founded and directed the Solomon Suzuki School in Johannesburg, South Africa, which was the first Suzuki Music School in Africa.

Nicolette Solomon obtained a Bachelor of Music (Honors) and Higher Education Diploma (Post Graduate) at University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa, continuing Suzuki training with Christophe Bossuat in Lyon, France. then with Dr. Shinichi Suzuki at the Talent Education Research Institute in Matsumoto, Japan. During that time, she taught at a private studio in Nagano City, Japan and at Shinshu University.

Ms. Solomon played in the Eduard Melckus Baroque Ensemble in 1993. She has taught in South Africa, Ireland, New Zealand and throughout the USA and Central America. She is married to Carl van Wyk, has 2 adult children and two grandchildren, Leonardo and Julia. She loves gardening, architecture, hiking, film, reading, art, food and wines.



**Lionel Thomas** (DE) currently resides in Wilmington, Delaware where he teaches violin and viola as Suzuki Academy Associate Department Head at the Music School of Delaware. Mr. Thomas also teaches music courses as Associate Adjunct Professor at Delaware State University.

Educational background includes Master of Music from University of Cincinnati and Bachelor of Music cum laude in violin performance and music education from University of Oregon. He was also a recipient of an American Suzuki Institute Shinichi Suzuki Teacher Trainer Scholarship. Principal teachers include Kathryn Lucktenberg, Kurt Sassmannshaus, and Marc Rovetti.

Mr. Thomas currently performs with Black Pearl Chamber Orchestra and has been a member of multiple professional ensembles including Oregon Mozart Players and Gateways Music Festival Orchestra.

Mr. Thomas has a strong passion for teaching and is committed to achieving optimal results. His teaching experience spans from young beginners to advanced students, who have excelled in prestigious ensembles and competitions. He is an active member of the Suzuki Association of the Americas and volunteers as president of the Greater Philadelphia Suzuki Association.



Reading, running, and walks with his pug are a few of Lionel's spare time activities. He has completed three half marathons and hopes to run a full marathon.



**Wilfried van Gorp** (Belgium) started his Suzuki violin lessons in 1971 in Turnhout with Jeanne Janssen. He had the luck to grow up with the first generation of European Suzuki Teachers, besides his own teacher Jeanne Janssens. As one of the first Suzuki students in Europe, he obtained his professional diploma in violin and chamber music at the Royal Conservatory for Music in Brussels. For many years he played in different chamber orchestra's, but being a Suzuki teacher became his passion and it is still... Never ending. Since 1987 he is Suzuki violin teacher in Turnhout at the academie for music and he teaches also in Leuven.

As teacher, speaker or member of jury he has been invited to attempt at national and international workshops, in Europe (as Poland, Spain, Finland, Great Britain, Switzerland, Sweden, Ireland, Denmark, UK, Italie, France, etc. ) as well in Amerika and Australia. In his own studio, Wilfried Van Gorp, teaches all levels. From age 4 up to 18. From Twinkle to Mozart. He is organizing courses for students and teachers and is Suzuki Teacher Trainer in Belgium and Turkey.



**Rebecca White** (OH) is a second-generation Suzuki violin teacher who has been on all three sides of the Suzuki Triangle, giving her a deep understanding and unique perspective for her students and families. She is currently the Director of Pickerington Suzuki Strings, which she founded in 2004. Twenty years later, Pickerington Suzuki Strings continues to thrive, providing her students with the highest standard of playing, strong connections, and local outreach opportunities.

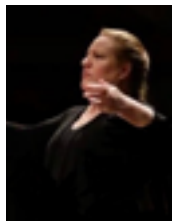
Rebecca also teaches at Denison University in their Suzuki Program as the co-director of their Advanced Performance Group and helps to organize and run their weekend workshops. In addition to her home teaching, she has served on faculty at the Intermountain Suzuki Strings Institute and the American Suzuki Institute for twenty plus years, as well as been an esteemed clinician at numerous other weekend and summer workshops. This past year she added international clinician to her experience, teaching at the Singapore International String Conference.

Rebecca is a member of the Newark-Granville Symphony and her past playing experience includes being a member of the Lexington Philharmonic and the Capital University String Quartet.

Rebecca holds a Bachelor of Music in Violin Performance from the University of Illinois and a Master of Music Education from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point where she completed long-term Suzuki training with Patricia D'Ercole.



In her spare time, Rebecca loves to practice yoga, read, and spend time with her family and friends.



**Allison Huebner-Woerner** (MO) is the Director of the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE) Suzuki International Tour Group and a faculty violin and viola instructor in the SIUE Suzuki Program since 1994. She is also Director of Ballwin Suzuki Strings, as well as a frequent performer in the Saint Louis metropolitan area. Additionally, she has served as Conductor of the Edwardsville Youth Orchestra and the Advanced Chamber Ensemble at SIUE.

Ms. Huebner-Woerner earned advanced degrees from the University of Missouri (UM) and SIUE in Music Performance and Education. She served as a graduate assistant to John Kendall at SIUE, completing long term training in Suzuki pedagogy. Following this, she served as doctoral assistant to Dr. John McLeod at UM, heading up the Missouri String Project Laboratory School, as well as performing as concertmaster and soloist for the UM Philharmonic Orchestra.

Ms. Huebner-Woerner is an active adjudicator and a regular clinician at workshops and institutes. She is a frequent contributor to the American Suzuki Journal as both an author and photographer. Ms. Huebner-Woerner has presented multiple times at the Suzuki Association of the Americas (SAA) Conference. She is also the SAA Conference coordinator for International Ensembles, for Special Needs Education, and for Photography.



**Griet Wytynck** (Belgium) began her musical education at the School of Art in Ghent, where she studied piano, and violin at the Academy of Music in Sint-Niklaas with André Delcourte. There, she earned the prestigious government medal with honors. At the age of 17, she won the First Prize in Solfège at the Conservatory of Ghent.

Griet continued her studies at the Conservatory of Ghent, where she studied violin with Mikhail Bezverkhny and piano with Johan Duijck. In 1998, she completed her master's degree in violin at the Conservatory of Antwerp with Guido De Neve. She then spent two years refining her skills at the Musikhochschule Köln with Johannes Prella.

As a freelance violinist, Griet has performed with various orchestras and ensembles, giving concerts across Belgium, Germany, France, the UK, Pakistan and beyond.

Trained as a Suzuki teacher by Jeanne Janssens, Griet received her final diploma from the European Suzuki Association (ESA) in 2008. She teaches students of all levels, from pre-Twinkle to advanced repertoire, and is deeply committed to the Suzuki philosophy.



After more than 10 years of growing through great opportunities in teaching, developing further in Suzuki philosophy, and having the experience of being a Suzuki mother in Koen Rens' studio for 14 years, she decided to become a violin instructor.

In August 2023, Griet was appointed as a Teacher Trainer by the European Suzuki Association (ESA), a role that allows her to share her teaching experience and knowledge with the next generation of Suzuki teachers.

Currently, Griet teaches violin at the Academy of Music in Zottegem, where she works with over 70 students. She is also regularly invited to Suzuki workshops in Belgium and internationally, continuing her mission to inspire, educate, and foster the love of music in all those she encounters.





# VIOLA FACULTY

## 2025



**Megan Mason** (VA) is Chair of the Division of Fine and Performing Arts at Southern Virginia University, where she is Assistant Professor of Music, teaching in the music core and directing all instrumental chamber music. She developed her love of the Suzuki Method first as a child and then as faculty at the Gifted Music School in Salt Lake City, Utah, where she also directed summer camps aimed at fostering a love of the arts and life skills in young children. While there, she co-

founded the community-based Viola Band—an interactive, improvisatory performance group for young violists. Ms. Mason currently holds the position of Orchestra Coordinator for the Intermountain Suzuki String Institute. A sought-after violist, she has been Principal Violist of the Ballet West Orchestra, a member of the Orchestra at Temple Square, a composer/arranger for several organizations, a busy recording artist, soloist, and Founding Violist of the internationally-renowned Tesla Quartet, with whom she won the Gold Medal at the 2012 Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition and prizes from the 2012 London and 2013 Bordeaux International String Quartet Competitions. Ms. Mason has been a guest performer, educator, and presenter at festivals in Maine, Utah, Colorado, Nevada, Michigan, Montreal, New York, California, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, France, Mexico, and Germany. She holds degrees from the University of Michigan and the Juilliard School and completed a three-year professional residency at the University of Colorado at Boulder, studying under the world-renowned Takacs Quartet.



**Robert Richardson** (Canada) often serves as clinician, speaker, and conductor at conservatories, workshops, and festivals across North America. He regularly presents at Suzuki conferences and leadership retreats in North America and has also presented at several Suzuki Conferences in Europe. Along with maintaining a violin/viola studio in the Suzuki Talent Education Program at Brandon University's Eckhardt-Grammatté Conservatory of Music, he also conducts string

orchestras and coaches chamber music. Robert performs regularly on both violin and viola in numerous chamber ensembles, including the Brandon Chamber Players of which he is a founding member. He is honored to have served as chairperson of the Canadian Suzuki e-Newsletter, Suzuki Music/Musique Canada committee as well as co-chair of the interim board of SMMC to help connect the Suzuki community across Canada.





**Sarah Smale** (CT) received her BA (hons.) in viola performance at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, continuing postgraduate work at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, gaining the Postgraduate Diploma. Sarah obtained her MM in viola performance from the Hartt School where she was assistant to and studied with the Emerson String Quartet. Sarah has won awards including the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire string quartet prize and the Herbert Lumby Viola prize. Sarah has played with various ensembles as principal viola, recorded television and radio for work for the BBC and Radio Suisse and performed for many years with the Orchestre des Jardins Musicaux in Switzerland as guest principal viola. Sarah's long term Suzuki Training was with Linda Fiore and Teri Einfeldt. She took further Suzuki training from Ed Kreitman and Tom Wermuth while teaching at the Western Springs School of Talent Education. Sarah is currently Associate Director at the Suzuki Music Schools in Westport, CT, co-Director of the Ogontz White Mountain Suzuki Institute in New Hampshire, chair of the NSO Young Artists Festival and teaches viola at Fairfield University. She is a frequent guest teacher at educational workshops and Suzuki Institutes around the country.



**Dr. Rafael Videira** DMA (NM), has a diverse career as a teacher, performer, and conductor, with appearances in the USA, Mexico, Brazil, and Germany. He has taught violin and viola to students of all levels, leading them to success in competitions and acceptance into prestigious schools. Currently residing in Albuquerque, NM, he directs the orchestras at Manzano High School, and conducts two groups with the Albuquerque Youth Symphony Program. Dr. Videira holds a

Doctoral degree in viola performance and pedagogy from the University of Oregon and a Masters degree in performance from the University of New Mexico. In 2018, he received the Suzuki Association of the Americas Certificate of Achievement for his dedication to excellence in teaching within the Suzuki philosophy. Additionally, he was featured in the 2023 album by the American Viola Society, promoting music by underrepresented composers.



# CELLO FACULTY

## 2025



**Chris Bedoya** (CT) began his cello studies at the age of 9 through the Greenwich Suzuki Academy where he was first introduced to the Suzuki method. In 2012, he attended Baylor University graduating with a Bachelor's in Cello Performance under Dr. Gary Hardie in 2016. He joined the faculty of the Central Texas String Academy in 2012 under Suzuki teacher trainer and violist Dr. Julia Hardie and became the director of CTSA's cello department in 2016. While in Texas, he also joined the faculty of the Academie Musique of Temple. Christopher later moved back to the Northeast where he studied with Julia Lichten and Tommy Mesa to earn a Master's degree from SUNY Purchase College, graduating in 2022. From 2019-2021, he also received further teacher training from Pam Devenport at New York's premiere Suzuki program, The School for Strings. Chris is currently on faculty at the Greenwich Suzuki Academy as well as the Greenwich Country Day School. Chris is also a lifelong grappler. As a brown belt in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, he is the lead kids instructor at the Greenwich Jiu-Jitsu Academy and a wrestling coach at GCDS. Chris LOVES seeing how each discipline strengthens and impacts the other.



Praised for her "beautifully full and lyrically strong tone" by Gramophone Magazine, **Dr. Meredith Blecha-Wells** (CO) is a sought-after performer and instructor. She has played throughout much of the United States, as well as Europe, Australia, South America, and Asia. Currently based in Colorado, Dr. Blecha-Wells recently joined the faculty at Colorado State University.

Dr. Blecha-Wells previously served as the Professor of Cello at Oklahoma State University where she was awarded the College of Arts and Sciences Junior Faculty Award for Scholarly Excellence as well as the First Lady of OSU Distinguished Music Professor award. A passionate pedagogue, Dr. Blecha-Wells is committed to raising the efficiency and joy in learning. Her students have gone on to remarkable programs including the Juilliard School, the New England Conservatory, the Eastman School of Music, Rice University, the University of Michigan, the Manhattan School of Music, the San Francisco Conservatory, Northwestern University, Indiana University, among others.

Dr. Blecha-Wells received a bachelor's and master's degree in Cello Performance from Indiana University and holds a Doctor of Musical Arts in Performance and Literature from



the Eastman School of Music. Her teachers have included Janos Starker, Alan Harris, Emilio Colon, Helga Winold, Richard Hirschl, and Marc Johnson.



**Andrew Bukowinski** (NE) serves as Cello Artist-Faculty at the Omaha Conservatory of Music, performs, and teaches a large roster of students in both the Suzuki and String Sprouts programs. Prior to moving to Omaha, Andrew lived in Chicago for 9 years, where he maintained an active freelancing schedule and a large and diverse teaching roster. Andrew has completed extensive Suzuki teacher training with Barbara Wampner, Avi Friedlander, Tanya Carey, Dr. Shu-Yi Scott, Abbey Hansen, Carey Beth Hockett, and Nancy Hair, and has registered training through Book 10. Andrew's primary teachers were Thomas Landschoot and Stephen Balderston, and he holds a Bachelor of Music, summa cum laude from Arizona State University, and Master of Music, with distinction from DePaul University. When not teaching or playing cello, Andrew enjoys drinking a good cup of coffee, running, high-intensity interval training, hiking, and exploring new places. He lives in Omaha with his wife, dog, and two cats.



**Ben Kulp** (NH) is the cello instructor at Upper Valley Music Center in Lebanon, NH. He graduated from St. Olaf College with a Bachelor of Music in Music Performance, and a Master of Music from Ball State University, with further studies with Tsuyoshi Tsutsumi and Brant Taylor. He is an active solo and chamber performer in the Upper Valley. He is a former member of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago and the Miami Symphony Orchestra, and teaches at workshops and institutes across the United States.



Well known as a Suzuki cello workshop and institute clinician, **Avi Friedlander** (IL) teaches a variety of methods from classical to jazz and rock. Mr. Friedlander is the director of the Barston Suzuki Center at the Music Institute of Chicago, a Suzuki teacher trainer and teaches string pedagogy at the University of North Florida and Northwestern University. Mr. Friedlander is the former Assistant Principal cellist of the Atlanta Opera, former member of The New World Symphony and former professor of Cello at Emory University in Atlanta. In his free time, Mr. Friedlander loves to read, play hockey and spend time with his family. His cello students have gone on to win multiple competitions and have been accepted into numerous music programs around the country. On top of his cello teaching career, Mr. Friedlander is also a level 3 USA Hockey certified coach and coaches youth travel hockey. His hockey teams have won numerous medals in tournaments and more recently, an Illinois state championship in 2024.





Praised for his “undoubted artistry” (The Strad) and as “one of the finest cellists of his generation” (Chopin Magazine Japan), **Dr. Yoshika Masuda** (CA) has performed widely as a soloist and chamber musician across Australia, Japan, China, South Korea, Mexico, the USA, Canada, and Europe. He has won national competitions in Australia, Japan, and the US and was awarded the YAMAHA Music Foundation of Europe String Award.

Chamber music forms the core of Yoshika’s musical endeavours, having performed alongside renowned musicians such as Peter Frankl, Bruno Giuranna, Gil Kalish, Cho-Liang Lin, Roger Tapping, Don Weilerstein and the Kronos Quartet. He is the co-founder of the Darshan Trio, SAKURA cello quintet as well as being the resident cellist for Salastina. Previously, he was also the cellist of the Rolston Quartet.

Yoshika is currently the Assistant Professor of Cello and Director of String Studies at Chapman University Hall-Musco Conservatory of Music. His students have had successes in both local and national competitions, as well as being admitted to prestigious institutions such as Juilliard, NEC, MSM, Royal Northern College of Music, and USC.

His debut album Hidden Flame was released in March 2024 on AVIE Records, receiving a 4-star review from BBC Music Magazine and being named “Discovery of the Week” by Classic FM.



**Peter Romney** (UT) grew up within the Suzuki program, where he completed all ten books of the Suzuki Cello Method. During high school, he studied with Richard Hoyt, and also had the opportunity to tour with the Young Artist Chamber Players, and various other quartets and ensembles.

After high school, Peter specialized in performing with improvisational, jazz, folk, and rock groups, with whom he has continued to tour around the country. He is a featured performer on the albums of Paul Jacobsen, Theta Naught, and others. In November of 2018, he had the honor of playing with Sean Kelly of the 1990’s group The Samples.

Currently, Peter is assistant principal cellist for the Southwest Symphony Orchestra, president and principal cellist of the Cello Society of Southern Utah, and representative of the Southwest Cello group for the Suzuki Association of Utah.





**Henry Stubbs** (DC) serves as Associate Chair of Suzuki Instruction and Lead Cello Faculty at Levine Music in Washington, DC. Henry received his MM in Cello Performance/Suzuki Pedagogy at the Cleveland Institute of Music. Preceding his CIM studies, he graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music with a BM in Cello Performance.

Henry began his cello studies at the age of five with Bonnie Cohan. He went on to study with Alan Rafferty, Richard Weiss, Avi Friedlander, and Stephen Geber. Henry has performed in masterclasses for Hans Jorgen Jensen, Richard Aaron, Alisa Weilerstein, Johannes Moser, Merry Peckham, and Melissa Kraut.

In May 2024, Henry received the Suzuki Association of the Americas' Certificate of Achievement, an award given to teachers that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to excellence in their teaching. His teacher-training has been registered with Abbey Hansen, Avi Friedlander, Tanya Carey, Nancy Hair, Pam Devenport, Timothy Durbin, and Carey Beth Hockett.



# BASS FACULTY

## 2025



**Domenick Fiore** (PA) began the study of the double bass with Wes Fisher in Reading, Pennsylvania at the age of 14. He attended the Philadelphia Musical Academy where he was a student of John Schaeffer, Principal Bass, New York Philharmonic. After graduation, Domenick free-lanced in the Philadelphia and New York City areas, performing in Broadway shows, The Brooklyn Philharmonia, National Ballet of Canada, and the Duke Ellington Orchestra, as well as playing electric bass for Philadelphia Orchestra Pops Concerts. He earned a Bachelor of Music Education degree from West Chester(Pa.) University in 1987 and began teaching in the Ephrata, Pa. School District. Domenick has been Director of Orchestras and Chamber Music at: The Mid-Southeast Suzuki Institute, Chicago Institute, Calgary Suzuki Institute, Central Pennsylvania Institute, Snowmass Suzuki Institute, and the Hartford Suzuki Institute, as well as clinician at the Bermuda, Puerto Rico, Hickory , North Carolina, and Augusta, Ga. Suzuki workshops and has conducted the national student orchestra at the National Suzuki Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio. From 1997 – 2007 he was the Director of the 5 Suzuki Orchestras of the Community Division at the Hartt School of the University of Hartford where he also had a thriving young bass program through the Community Division at Hartt. Domenick currently lives in Orefield, Pa. and, with his wife Linda, co-directs DaCore Performing Srings, as well as the Ogontz Suzuki Institute in New Hampshire. Both Linda and Domenick also perform regularly with several ensembles in the area.



**Matt Gold** (VA) fell in love with the double bass when he began playing the instrument at the age of nine. He went on to study with John Chiego at the University of Memphis on a full scholarship, and later with the distinguished bass pedagogue Lawrence Hurst at Indiana University, where he earned a Masters Degree in Music Performance. While at IU, Matt also had the privilege of working with Bruce Bransby, former Principal Bass of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and Stanley Richie, world-renowned Baroque violinist. Matt has been a tenured member of the Memphis Symphony Orchestra, and has played with the Louisiana Philharmonic and Virginia Symphony Orchestras. Nowadays, he can frequently be seen on stage at Richmond's Carpenter Theatre with the Richmond Symphony.

Matt has always loved music in all of its forms. In high school, he began rock and jazz lessons on guitar and studied jazz bass at the University of Memphis with Tim Goodwin,



formerly of the Kennedy Center "Jazz Ambassadors" program. Matt has also taken composition lessons from Prix deRome winner Kamran Ince. He currently plays double bass in Goldrush, a Richmond-based rock band.

A dedicated teacher, Matt is a classical bass instructor at the College of William & Mary and the Ozark Suzuki Institute, alongside the highly accomplished Monsters of Bass. For many years, he appeared as a clinician with the Ottawa Suzuki Strings Institute and Sound Encounters, under the direction of legendary Suzuki protégé Alice Joy Lewis. When he is not making music, Matt loves to explore Richmond and beyond with his wife, Treesa and their two magnificent daughters, Kit and Artemis.





# TRUMPET FACULTY

## 2025



**Natalie DeJong** (Canada) performs and teaches close to the mountains near Calgary, Canada. In 2011, Ms. DeJong developed a trumpet class called Funfare for young children, then trained as a Suzuki trumpet teacher in Sweden in 2013. She returned to launch the first Suzuki trumpet program in the Americas at Mount Royal Conservatory in 2014. As a member of the International Suzuki Brass Committee, Natalie was involved with the publication of Suzuki Trumpet School

Volume 1, released in 2020. She is thrilled to be promoting and sharing Suzuki concepts with other trumpet and brass players throughout Canada, the U.S. and beyond, having hosted teacher training courses starting in 2016. Natalie has also been a “Suzuki Parent” and enjoys collaborating with colleagues to deliver Suzuki Parent classes. Natalie holds a Master of Music degree from Rutgers University and has attended music workshops in Alberta, Quebec, Chicago, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, and Sweden. She has performed with Altius Brass, Calgary Creative Arts Ensemble, Prime Time Big Band, and the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra. She has played “baroque” trumpet with early music groups Musica Raritana (NJ), Concert Royale (NYC), Swedish Baroque Orchestra (Stockholm), Per Sonatori (Regina), and Kapella Kyrie (Edmonton). Most recently she has been performing with Jens Lindemann in a ‘Rhapsody in Blue’ big band project and the Calgary Women’s Jazz Orchestra.



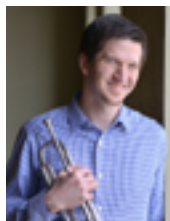
**Ann-Marie Sundberg** (Sweden) has developed the Suzuki method for trumpet and is chairman of the ISA Instrument Committee for brass instruments. She is the first Suzuki trumpet teacher in the world and the first and for the moment the only ESA/SAA Suzuki Brass teacher trainer.

Ann-Marie was educated at the Royal College of Music in Stockholm, 1967-72, both as a performer and as a teacher. She has during the years worked as a professional trumpet player in symphony orchestras, with opera, theatre, chamber music and as a soloist. Until 1982 she was principal in Norrköping, one of the professional Symphony Orchestras in Sweden.

Ann-Marie also has a great experience both as an orchestra leader and of teaching brass instruments and has worked at various music schools in Sweden and abroad, and since 1998 also as a teacher trainer at the Royal College of Music where she once studied.



Recently retired Ann-Marie continues to teach with a clear focus on continuing to develop and spread Suzuki Brass all over the world.



**Fred Sienkiewicz** (TN) enjoys a multi-faceted career as an orchestral trumpeter and soloist, a Suzuki trumpet teacher, a professor of aural skills at Vanderbilt University, and as a leading English-language scholar of the music of Alexander Arutiunian.

An active orchestral performer, Sienkiewicz is a member of The Jackson Symphony (TN) and the Owensboro Symphony Orchestra (KY) and has performed throughout the mid-South region, including with the Nashville Symphony, Nashville Ballet, Nashville Opera, Knoxville Symphony, Evansville Philharmonic, and more.

Dr. Sienkiewicz teaches both traditional and Suzuki trumpet students at Vanderbilt University's Blair Academy, where he founded the South's first Suzuki trumpet program. Sienkiewicz is also a Vanderbilt University professor, teaching solfège and aural skills to aspiring professional musicians and serving as director of the aural skills program. Sienkiewicz previously taught trumpet and chamber music as faculty at Gordon College, Keene State College (NH), Plymouth State University (NH), and the Boston University Tanglewood Institute (MA).

Sienkiewicz's doctoral dissertation, *Forefathers, Antecedents, and the Development of Alexander Arutiunian's Big Soviet Armenian Style* (2019), is the first in-depth English-language investigation of the Armenian composer. Sienkiewicz has presented on the topic dozens of times at colleges and at the International Trumpet Guild conference.

<http://fred.sienkiewicz.org>



# GUITAR FACULTY

## 2025



**Stephen Bondy** (CO) is a passionate musician, guitarist and teacher. With successful concerts in Canada and the United States, teaching engagements across the US and rave reviews, Mr. Bondy is a performer and pedagogue in high demand. After completing his undergraduate and master's degrees in guitar performance, he opened the Stephen Bondy Guitar Studio in 2001 and began teaching the Suzuki Guitar Method. He has brought two groups of students to perform at the Guitar Foundation of America, the preeminent guitar competition and festival in North America. His 2017 release *Sunday Morning Guitar* was widely praised as an organic and beautiful statement of Mr. Bondy's artistry.

Mr. Bondy is also a teacher of the Music Together program, the gold standard in early childhood music education. He has also been the music director at Washington Park United Methodist Church for 20+ years. He brings humor and joy to all his musical endeavors. If we aren't having fun, we're doing something wrong!



**Sophie Stanley** (UT) is a classical guitarist known for her "bright sound and vibrant energy". Sophie has played the classical guitar since the age of 6 when she first heard the Dixie Chicks and "just had to play." Since then, she has delved deeply into the classical guitar universe, working with renowned players from around the world including David Russell, Grisha Goryachev, Benjamin Verdery, Jason Vieux, and Ana Vidovic.

Sophie has played in various venues throughout the United States and in Eastern and Northern Spain where she spent the better part of two wonderful years and where her love of the rhythm and emotion of Latin American and Spanish music was solidified. She graduated magna cum laude with her B.A. in Instrumental Performance from Weber State University in 2015 and received her M.M. in Music Performance from New England Conservatory in 2018, where she studied under the virtuoso Belgian guitarist, Dr. Jerome Mouffe, as well as Eliot Fisk.

Sophie loves practicing and performing on her beloved Cervantes guitar "Rodrigo Cervantes Montoya". She has won amateur writing contests, and loves to lift weights, bake, and frequently adds to her massive embroidered shoe collection.



In addition to teaching as adjunct faculty at Brigham Young University and Weber State University, the Gifted Music School in Salt Lake City, and maintaining a full private guitar studio, Sophie also serves as a board member of the Utah Classical Guitar Society and the Intermountain Suzuki String Institute.



Dr. Ben Lougheed (PA) is known for his "beautifully polished, passionate, and engaging performances," "virtuosic technique," and "delicate interpretation." Ben's multifaceted career includes over a decade of concertizing, community engagement, music entrepreneurship, and education. Audiences, colleagues, and critics have called Ben "an emerging force in the classical guitar world" and "without question a first-rate artist."

Ben is a highly sought-after and accomplished instructor who currently teaches at the Temple Music Preparatory. He has previously taught at Florida State University and Pensacola State College. His dedication to teaching is demonstrated by the success of his students, who have been selected for the All-State and All-National guitar ensembles as well as won prizes at dozens of competitions. Due to his impressive record and substantial Suzuki training, Ben has been invited around the country to teach, including visits to Virginia, Utah, Michigan, Colorado, Florida, Pennsylvania, Georgia, and Massachusetts.

Ben holds a Bachelor of Music in guitar performance from the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University. He also completed Master of Music and Doctor of Music degrees at Florida State University, where he served as a teaching assistant to the legendary pedagogue Bruce Holzman while earning a graduate certificate in Music Education and Leadership.



# ACCOMPANIST FACULTY

## 2025



**Shelley Astle** has studied piano, violin, and organ and keeps busy rehearsing and performing locally for recitals, auditions, and community and Church events. She performs with the Rocky Mountain Strings and has toured with them in Poland, France, Belgium, Latvia, Austria and Russia. Italy is the 2025 destination. She is also involved in the Gifted Music School and enjoys seeing young people learn how much music can enrich their lives, no matter their level of musicianship.

Many of her grandchildren play musical instruments: violin, cello, piano, and harp, and a large portion of her free time is spent rehearsing and performing with them.



**Holly Norman Dodge** has collaborated as a pianist with many performers throughout Utah. She is the music director for St. Olaf Catholic Church in Bountiful Utah and directs multiple music groups and soloists as part of her work there. She enjoys being a member of the Bountiful Philharmonia and has coordinated the Bountiful Interfaith Christmas Concert for nine years. Her greatest accomplishment is that she is the proud mother of six : all enjoy playing and singing : violin,

viola, cello, voice and guitar. The most fun week of the year is ISSI and she is happy to be here!



**Denise Farrington** is a graduate of the University of Utah in piano pedagogy and Music Education. She is and has been a studio accompanist for many vocal and violin studios.

She is currently a music and fine arts teacher at Navigator Pointe Academy (a charter school in West Jordan) She was a pianist at The Heather restaurant and has accompanied many musicians at The

Assembly Hall concerts. She loves to accompany for recitals, competitions and recordings locally. She lives in Sandy, Utah with her husband Michael.





**Jean Lobrot** is a pianist with experience in chamber music, music direction, and teaching. Boasting a large repertoire (including the complete piano chamber music by Beethoven and Brahms), Lobrot is also passionate about playing new music, premiering works most recently by Josh Goodell and Kai Bowen. They also love reading, basketball, and tea.



**Nicholas Maughan** - Collaboration is the theme of my musical life. My first piano lessons, taught by my mother, included duets. I work frequently with singers & string players in a variety of recitals & recording projects. I love "finding the story" & composing new music for lyricists, playwrights, & choreographers. With plenty of stage experience, I'm just as happy conducting a musical theater pit or playing a night of jazz under the summer stars as I am in the concert

hall. Special experiences have included my time as a member of Tria Fata Piano Trio (2009 - 2013); working as the Acting Artist Director of NEXTensemble (2018 - 2019); creating new scores and arrangements during the pandemic for Aubrey Adams-MacMillan (mezzo), Alison DeBona & Rex Tilton (ArtEmotionUSA), and Jessica Baynes (Choreographer); and playing for Kristin Chenoweth with the Utah Symphony (2022).

As the Company Pianist at Ballet West, I love to incorporate all kinds of musical favorites into my playlists for dance class. Dancers might hear anything from Scarlatti & Chopin to Jerome Kern & Katy Perry. I'm thrilled to perform as a member of the Ballet West Orchestra under the direction of Maestro Jared Oaks. Favorite productions include Rodeo (Agnes de Mille/Aaron Copland), In the Night (Jerome Robbins/Frederic Chopin), & Les Noces (Bronislava Nijinska/Igor Stravinsky).

Teaching music is a joy! I love working with piano students of all ages & levels. With over twenty years of experience (and rigorous training in Piano Performance & Pedagogy from Weber State University), I'm able to help pianists build strong sight-reading skills, greater facility & musicality at the keyboard, insightful repertoire selection, & performance techniques that give my students confidence in themselves & their own artistry when they share their love of music with others.





**Matthew Nielson** is a pianist and teacher based in Salt Lake City, Utah. He began playing piano at the age of four, inspired by his older sisters' music lessons, and has been hooked ever since. He studied piano with Professor Gary Amano at Utah State University before earning a degree in Piano Performance from Berklee College of Music.

He has accompanied singers, violinists, and ensembles ranging from solo performers to the Berklee Chamber Orchestra. He brings a sensitive and dynamic touch to his playing—capable of both delicacy and passion—and finds deep joy in helping others sound their best.

A passionate educator, he has taught over 80 students in the past decade and blends traditional technique and theory with an emphasis on music as a living, expressive language. Though this is his first year accompanying at the Utah Suzuki String Institute, he attended the program himself as a young violinist and is thrilled to return. Outside of music, he loves chess, running, and skiing.



**Dr. Whitney Pizza's** solo performance career includes orchestral appearances with the Eastern Music Festival Orchestra conducted by Gerard Schwarz, Utah Philharmonic Orchestra, Murray Symphony, Utah SummerArts Festival Orchestra, Oquirrh Mountain Symphony, and Snow College Symphony Orchestra.

As a collaborative pianist, Dr. Pizza performed with Ballet West, Madeleine Choir School, and Asia/America New Music Institute (AANMI).

Whitney received a DMA in piano performance from the Manhattan School of Music, after completing a BM and a MM in piano performance from the University of Utah. Her teachers include Dr. Vera Oussetskaia-Watanabe, Dr. Marc Silverman, Dr. Bonnie Gritton, Malinda Tall, and Kate Rockwood.

Dr. Pizza is on the piano faculty and is currently the Piano Area Coordinator at the Gifted Music School. She previously held adjunct faculty positions at UVU and Snow College.





**Dr. Keenan A. Reesor** is a pianist and musicologist specializing in the music and reception of Sergei Rachmaninoff. He was a featured lecturer and performer at the Los Angeles Philharmonic's "Rachmaninoff Was Here" festival in 2023. Dr. Reesor has offered numerous solo and concerto performances across the country and beyond, including with the symphony orchestras of Cheyenne, Fort Collins, and New Bedford.

An avid chamber musician, he has also appeared in recital with tenor Stanford Olsen, violinist William Hagen, and members of the Cleveland Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, and St. Louis Symphony Orchestra. He is a double laureate of the Palm Springs International Piano Competition and a former nominee for the American Pianists Association Classical Fellow Award. Dr. Reesor currently serves as Assistant Professor of Musicology at Brigham Young University and served previously as Director of Keyboard Studies at Southern Virginia University. He and his wife, Nonie, are the proud parents of five boys, ages four to sixteen.



**Lois Waltman** has been accompanying for private violin studios in the Salt Lake area for over thirty years, starting when her children were first involved in the ISSI.





# CHAMBER / ORCHESTRA FACULTY

## 2025



Cellist **Anne Francis Bayless** (UT) has been a member of the internationally acclaimed Fry Street Quartet since 2000. Hailed as “a triumph of ensemble playing” (New York Times), the FSQ has perfected a “blend of technical precision and scorching spontaneity” (Strad). Prizewinners at the Banff International String Quartet Competition and both the Fischhoff and Yellow Springs national chamber music competitions, the FSQ has reached audiences from Carnegie Hall to

Sarajevo and Jerusalem. With the quartet, Anne has recorded a discography ranging from Haydn and Beethoven to Larsen and Rorem.

Anne received her Bachelor of Music degree from the Cleveland Institute of Music, where she studied with Richard Aaron and Alan Harris, and she served as teaching assistant to Paul Katz while pursuing her Master of Music degree at the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University. Alongside her touring schedule with the FSQ, Anne teaches cello and chamber music on the faculty of the Caine College of the Arts at Utah State University, where the quartet holds the Dan C. and Manon Caine Russell endowed string quartet residency. Anne is married to Utah Symphony principal violist Brant Bayless, and the couple resides in Logan and Salt Lake City with their two young sons.



The “freedom” and “brilliance” (New York Concert Review) of violinist **Rebecca McFaul** (UT) has fashioned performances that “glide through with a dancer’s grace” (Charlotte Observer). As a founding member of the Fry Street Quartet, Rebecca has built her career around chamber music and teaching and is a Professor of Professional Practice in violin and chamber music at the Caine College of the Arts, Utah State University.

The educational influences that have supported her path include studies at the Oberlin Conservatory and at Northwestern University. Under the mentorship of Marc Johnson of the Vermeer quartet, she founded the Fry Street Quartet. The FSQ’s career was launched when the group received a three year “Rural Residency” grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, as well as invitations from the late Isaac Stern to give their Carnegie Hall debut. 20+ years later, and the FSQ continues to enjoy a busy concertizing schedule alongside their dedicated teaching career.

Notable projects include Rising Tide: The Crossroads Project, an ongoing performance



piece with physicist and educator Dr. Robert Davies which has had more than 60 performances in 3 different countries. Notable commissions for the quartet include works from composers Laura Kaminsky, Libby Larsen, Gabriela Lena Frank, and Nicolas Leleu Benavides.



**Bradley Ottesen** (UT) is the violist of the internationally acclaimed Fry Street Quartet. He holds the position of Professor of Viola and Chamber Music at Utah State University, and currently serves as the President of the Utah Viola Society.

Bradley began his Suzuki studies at age of 8 at the Preucil School of Music in Iowa City, Iowa. He went on to earn degrees from Northwestern University and the New England Conservatory, his principal teachers including William Preucil Sr., James Dunham, and Peter Slowik.

As an educator, Professor Ottesen has given masterclasses at Oberlin Conservatory, Brigham Young University, University of Iowa, and Penn State University, and in 2015 he presented the pre-college masterclass at the American String Teachers Association's national convention in Salt Lake City. He is co-director of the Fry Street Chamber Music Festival, and has been guest faculty at the Madeleine Island Chamber Music Festival, Credo Chamber Music Festival, the Oberlin Viola Workshop, and the Officina de Musica in Curitiba, Brazil.



A violinist with "pristine musicianship married to dazzling energy " (San Francisco Classical Voice), **Robert Waters** (UT) is the first violinist of the internationally renowned Fry Street Quartet, in residence at the Caine College of the Arts at Utah State University. Hailed as "a triumph of ensemble playing" (New York Times), Fry Street Quartet has perfected a "blend of technical precision and scorching spontaneity" (Strad).

Mr. Waters has performed to great acclaim in venues all over the world. As a founding member of the Jupiter Trio, he was awarded First Prize in the 2002 Osaka International Chamber Music Competition in Osaka, Japan. He was invited twice to serve as Artist/Faculty at the Stellenbosch International Music Festival in South Africa. He has also previously served as Associate Concertmaster of the San Francisco Opera Orchestra, and as Concertmaster of Music of the Baroque in Chicago, where he was a frequent soloist.

A committed and enthusiastic educator, Mr. Waters embraces the opportunity to pass on all he has learned from his own teachers and experiences to a new generation of musicians. In addition to full-time faculty positions at USU and DePaul University (Chicago), he has been invited to teach at music festivals and workshops throughout the United States.





**Dr. Paul Abegg** (UT) is Professor of Music at Utah Tech University in St. George where he is Director of Orchestras and String Studies. Previous positions include Brigham Young University and Olivet College (MI). He completed his advanced music studies at Michigan State, and Brigham Young Universities. Dr. Abegg has presented master classes as well as served as an adjudicator and clinician at numerous competitions and festivals throughout the United States.

His students have won awards and have been accepted at prestigious music schools nationally and internationally. He performs across the United States and abroad in solo, chamber and orchestral settings. His recording experience includes extensive film and television scores. He has collaborated with many professional artists and groups including Mannheim Steamroller, Donny Osmond, Peter Cetera, Natalie Cole, Marvin Hamlisch, Celtic Woman, Audra McDonald, Leon Fleisher, Marilyn Horne, Peter Serkin, Ellen Zwilich, Fredricka Von Stade, Mark O'Connor, Peter Schickele, Elmar Oliveira, Kathleen Battle, and Gil Shaham.



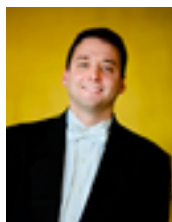
**Emmett Drake** (CT) is currently the Director of Orchestras at Hall and Conard High Schools in West Hartford, CT, as well as the Department Chair for Large Ensembles at the Hartt School Community Division (University of Hartford) where he conducts four youth orchestras. .

Mr. Drake has had many engagements as a guest conductor/clinician. His recent appearances include the Hartford Symphony Orchestra (CT),

Farmington Valley Symphony Orchestra (CT), the Suzuki Youth Orchestra of the Americas (MN), TMEA Region 2 Orchestra (TX), Broward County All County Gold Orchestra (FL), the Fairfield County String Festival (CT), CMEA Eastern and Southern Regional Festivals (CT), Massachusetts Western District Orchestra Festival (MA), Westchester All County Youth Orchestra (NY), Ithaca Suzuki Institute (NY), Intermountain Suzuki String Institute (UT), and Hartt Suzuki Institute (CT).

As a composer, Emmett has written many compositions and arrangements for all levels, and his works are frequently performed by groups from around the country. His music is distributed through Cane River Music.

He lives in West Hartford, CT with his family.



Acting Principal Cellist, **Matt Johnson** (UT) has been a member of the Utah Symphony since 2010. He is a graduate of the University of Southern California, where he studied with Ron Leonard and Andrew Shulman. Prior to his appointment with the Utah Symphony, Matthew was a member of the Kansas City Symphony for six seasons. He has also performed in music festivals such as the Sarasota Music Festival and the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival in Germany, where he



served as principal cellist.

A musician with Utah roots, Matthew moved to Salt Lake City from Massachusetts when he was twelve years old. He made his solo debut with the Utah Symphony at age 18 and was a student of Richard Hoyt and Utah Symphony cellist John Eckstein.

An avid chamber musician, Mr. Johnson has collaborated with such artists as Patricia Kopatchinskaja and Yefim Bronfman, composers Steve Reich and Harrison Birtwistle, and dancer Misty Copeland.



**Dr. Ka-Wai Yu** (UT) is Associate Professor of Music at Utah Tech University, where he teaches cello and string chamber music. He previously taught at Eastern Illinois University and Indiana Wesleyan University. He has served as adjudicator, held clinics, and guest-conducted at various institutions, youth orchestras, and music festivals in Asia, Europe and North America. He is a former President of Utah's American String Teachers Association, Artistic Director of the Cello

Society of Southern Utah and directs the annual Cello Festival of Southern Utah. Dr. Yu is currently the Principal Cellist of Southwest Symphony Orchestra. Vivid as a chamber musician, he is a founding member of the Zion Trio and the period-instrument ensemble Cosmopolitan Baroque. His recent solo performances include a recital at Städtische Musikschule Schwäbisch Gmünd in Germany, and concerto appearances with the BYU-Idaho Baroque Ensemble, Fresno State Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra of Southern Utah, Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra Illinois, Chamber Orchestra Kremlin, and Hong Kong Chamber Orchestra. Dr. Yu obtained his D.M.A. from University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. He also holds a Master of Music in Cello Performance from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music and Bachelor of Arts in Music with first-class honors from the Chinese University of Hong Kong.



# ENRICHMENT FACULTY

## 2025



**Christopher Bedoya** (CT – Jiu-JitSuzuki) began his cello studies at the age of 9 through the Greenwich Suzuki Academy where he was first introduced to the Suzuki method. In 2012, he attended Baylor University graduating with a Bachelor's in Cello Performance under Dr. Gary Hardie in 2016. He joined the faculty of the Central Texas String Academy in 2012 under Suzuki teacher trainer and violist Dr. Julia Hardie and became the director of CTSA's cello department in 2016. While in Texas, he also joined the faculty of the Academie Musique of Temple.

Christopher later moved back to the Northeast where he studied with Julia Lichten and Tommy Mesa to earn a Master's degree from SUNY Purchase College, graduating in 2022. From 2019-2021, he also received further teacher training from Pam Devenport at New York's premiere Suzuki program, The School for Strings. As a cellist, Chris is currently on faculty at the Greenwich Suzuki Academy. Chris is also a lifelong grappler, a brown belt in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, and is the lead kids instructor at the Greenwich Jiu-Jitsu Academy. Chris LOVES seeing how each discipline strengthens and impacts the other; something he tries to highlight for his students involved in both.



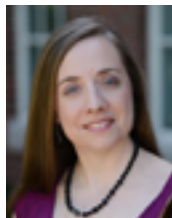
**Dr. Henry Caceres** (UT – Symphony Program) has taught at the University of Utah School of Music and Utah State University. He is the Principal Clarinet of the Sinfonia Salt Lake, Bass Clarinet of the Ballet West Orchestra, Principal Clarinet of the Salt Lake Choral Artists Orchestra, Artistic Director and Principal Clarinet of the Forward 4 Clarinet Quartet, Utah Youth Symphony Orchestra Clarinets Coach, and Founder of the Utah Youth Band Academy. He has been performing

professionally since 1993; highlights include playing as a soloist with the most important orchestras in Chile (Chilean National Symphony (Weber Concertino)), Concepcion Symphony Orchestra (Copland Clarinet Concerto, Weber Clarinet Concerto #2), in the United States with the Utah Philharmonia Orchestra (Jean Francaix Clarinet Concerto) and the Sinfonia Salt Lake (Henry Wolking Clarinet Concerto Gone Playin'). Dr. Caceres has won the most prestigious national competitions both in the U.S. and in his native country, Chile. Among the most important are: Utah Philharmonia Concerto Competition, Twice Finalist of the International Clarinet Association's Orchestra Audition Competition (Austin Texas 2010 and Los Angeles 2011), Concepcion Symphony Concerto Competition (2007), Andes Foundation Prize, and Discovery Season 2001 (Chilean National Symphony



Orchestra) among others. He has also performed at the International Clarinet Festivals in Assisi, Italy, in the U.S.A. in Lincoln, Nebraska, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Denver, Colorado and Dublin, Ireland 2024.

Dr. Caceres is a Backun Clarinets, Legere Reeds, and Zac Ligatures Artist.



**Dr. Lisa Caravan** (NY – Improvisation) is Assistant Professor of Music Teaching and Learning at the Eastman School of Music. Her research interests include music teacher preparation, cello pedagogy, and 21st-century music practice pedagogy. She regularly presents her research at state, regional, national, and international conferences, including the American String Teachers Association, College Music Society, Suzuki Association of Americas Conference, National Association for Music Education Eastern Division Conference, Cultural Diversity in Music Education Conference, International Society for Music Education, and others. Caravan is an experienced performer in various settings, focusing on chamber and orchestral music. She performs regularly with the Northeastern Pennsylvania Chamber Music Society and the Paragon Ragtime Orchestra, an internationally recognized professional ensemble specializing in "America's Original Music." She recorded with Paragon on their CD, "Black Manhattan, Volume. 3." Caravan has also recorded with Lorelei Ensemble on the album "Antigone: The Writings of Sophie Scholl" by James Kallembach.



**Lisa Deakins** (SC – Fiddling) is a violinist, fiddler, and Suzuki violin teacher in Charleston, South Carolina and enjoys performing and teaching across the United States. Lisa holds a bachelor's degree from Belmont University (TN), a master's degree from East Carolina University (NC), and a Certificate of Achievement from the Suzuki Association. Lisa has worked professionally as a fiddle player and background vocalist in Nashville and has also received an International Bluegrass Music Association Award for "Recorded Event of the Year."

Lisa is the owner of Deakins Suzuki Strings, where her students study various fiddling styles as well as classical playing. She has compiled and arranged a series of music books called "Fiddlin' Favorites," licensed by the International Suzuki Association. Lisa's students have won fiddling scholarships and contests and have a passion for many genres of music.

Lisa is a frequent guest clinician for fiddle and violin and has taught at Suzuki institutes and workshops across the country. When Lisa is not teaching, you can find her performing with her husband as the duo "Derek & Lisa." Lisa holds the title of Fiddle Champion of the Coastal Carolina Fair and has placed in contests in various other states. Lisa enjoys being all three points of the Suzuki Triangle: teacher, student, and now parent to her violin-playing son!





**Emmett Drake** (CT – Conducting) is currently the Director of Orchestras at Hall and Conard High Schools in West Hartford, CT, as well as the Department Chair for Large Ensembles at the Hartt School Community Division (University of Hartford) where he conducts four youth orchestras.

Mr. Drake has had many engagements as a guest conductor/clinician. His recent appearances include the Hartford Symphony Orchestra (CT), Farmington Valley Symphony Orchestra (CT), the Suzuki Youth Orchestra of the Americas (MN), TMEA Region 2 Orchestra (TX), Broward County All County Gold Orchestra (FL), the Fairfield County String Festival (CT), CMEA Eastern and Southern Regional Festivals (CT), Massachusetts Western District Orchestra Festival (MA), Westchester All County Youth Orchestra (NY), Ithaca Suzuki Institute (NY), Intermountain Suzuki String Institute (UT), and Hartt Suzuki Institute (CT).

As a composer, Emmett has written many compositions and arrangements for all levels, and his works are frequently performed by groups from around the country. His music is distributed through Cane River Music.

He lives in West Hartford, CT with his family.



**Dr. Molly Gebrian** (MA – Insights For Success Presenter) 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. Her book, *Learn Faster, Perform Better: A Musician's Guide to the Neuroscience of Practicing* was published in 2024 by Oxford University Press. 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. Previously, she was the viola professor at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and the University of Arizona. After a decade of teaching viola at the collegiate level, she joined the faculty at New England Conservatory of Music in Fall 2024 to teach courses on the science of practicing.



**Ruth Gledhill** (UT – Art) Being born and raised in Utah I have enjoyed the rich abundance of cultural arts found here. I received a BFA in Art Teaching from the University of Utah with minors in Sculpture and Ceramics and did a study abroad with BYU in Florence Italy and nine other countries enriching my understanding of art and art history. I have been working on grants and teaching art as an artist in resident, fabricator, teacher, and mentor for over 30 years in local community



centers, schools and presently own and operate my own Studio in Bluffdale Utah. I'm a member of the Bluffdale Arts Board and love to engage and encourage creative expression with students (especially ISSI) and my community.



**Gretchen Grube** (IL – Advanced Fiddling) grew up as a traditional violin student in northern Wisconsin. She was exposed to the Suzuki method when she began studying violin at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. As an undergraduate student, Ms. Gretchen took a Suzuki Pedagogy course at the world-renowned Aber Suzuki Center in Stevens Point, WI with Pat D'Ercle. During the course, Ms. Gretchen fell in love with the Suzuki philosophy and teachings. She has been teaching traditional and Suzuki lessons for ten years.

Ms. Gretchen holds a B.M. in Violin Performance with Suzuki Pedagogy from University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP). She completed her M.M. in Violin Performance with Suzuki Pedagogy from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE).

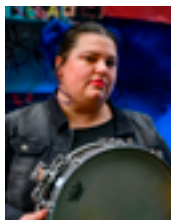
Ms. Gretchen has been published in the American Suzuki Journal and has presented at the Biennial Suzuki Conference on Classroom Management. She is also a past president of the Suzuki Association of Wisconsin chapter affiliate.

Ms. Gretchen was the former string department chair Wisconsin Conservatory of Music and was on faculty at the Music Institute of Chicago.

Currently, she is the director of the Suzuki in the Schools program, Music for Youth, in the Arlington Heights District 25. She embraces the Suzuki philosophy to help and encourage students to reach their fullest potential. She enjoys working with children and watching them grow into outstanding individuals.

In addition, she is an active clinician across the country at institutes and workshops and plays in an Irish rock band called the Gleasons.

Ms. Gretchen also enjoys playing with her cat, scrapbooking, and eating ice cream!



**Tia Harvey** (MI – Bucket Band) is a percussionist and educator. She is the Education Director Accent Pontiac, a social change through music program for youth in Pontiac, MI. An experienced musician, educator, and arts administrator Dr. Tia, as her students call her, focuses on increasing the agency of young musicians through creation and collective composition therein empowering youth. Her pedagogical work specifically centers upon racial and gender based inequities in music and society. She is an advocate for the young musicians of Accent Pontiac across





all levels of the organization and more broadly within her community of Pontiac. Her performing career centers upon her band, Consuming Arts, a fempowered collaborative music ensemble from Southeast Michigan.

She holds degrees (M.A., M.M., D.M.A.) from Michigan State University and the University of Central Florida (B.M.). Dr. Tia currently resides in Pontiac, Michigan, with her husband, Erik, and cats Mamoru and Ezra.



**Megan Mason** (VA – Strings Pop!) is Associate Professor and Chair of the Division of Fine and Performing Arts at Southern Virginia University. She is also adjunct faculty at Washington & Lee University. Previously, she was on faculty at the Gifted Music School in Salt Lake City, Utah. While there, she co-founded Viola Band, an interactive, improvisatory performance group for young violists, and was the director of Summer Kids Camps, fostering creativity and a love of playful learning through the arts. Ms. Mason currently holds the position of Orchestra Coordinator for the Intermountain Suzuki String Institute.

A sought-after violist, she has been Principal Violist of the Ballet West Orchestra, a member of the Orchestra at Temple Square, a composer and arranger, a busy recording artist, and Founding Violist of the internationally-renowned Tesla Quartet, with whom she won the Gold Medal at the 2012 Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition and prizes from the 2012 London and 2013 Bordeaux International String Quartet Competitions. Ms. Mason has been a guest performer and/or educator at festivals in Virginia, Utah, Colorado, Nevada, Michigan, Montreal, New York, California, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, France, England, and Germany. She holds degrees from the University of Michigan and the Juilliard School and completed a three-year professional residency at the University of Colorado at Boulder, studying under the world-renowned Takacs Quartet.



**Emilie Lundberg** (UT – Music and Movement) is a passionate music educator with over a decade of experience in both private and public schools. She holds dual degrees in Elementary Education and Music Education, specializing in early childhood music, from Brigham Young University. Additionally, she is Kodály certified, bringing an innovative and holistic approach to her teaching.

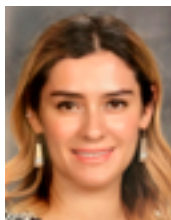
As the former head of the early childhood department at a gifted music school, Emilie cultivated a deep understanding of nurturing young learners through music. In 2020, she founded Music Adventure Box, an innovative program that delivers monthly activity boxes and online classes, designed to make music education accessible, engaging, and joyful for children and their families.

Recognizing the importance of inclusivity, Emilie recently launched a special needs



music program through Music Adventure Box, driven by her belief that students of all abilities should have access to enriching musical experiences. She is committed to creating programs that not only make music fun but also promote cognitive growth and development in young minds.

She is so excited to teach at ISSI for the 8th year!



**Dr. Kattiusca Marin** (UT – Symphony Program) holds a Master in Music and a Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Utah with a minor in Music History. Dr. Marin's primary instrument is the clarinet, and she has been active in the International Clarinet Association, including performing with the "Forward 4 Clarinet Quartet" at the conventions in Lincoln (Nebraska), Los Angeles (CA), Assisi (Italy), and Baton Rouge (Louisiana). She has also performed at the prestigious Chilean international festival *Semanas Musicales de Frutillar* in Frutillar, Chile. She was broadcasted several times on BYU's classical music radio program Highway 89.

She taught band for several years in different schools. In this capacity, she built successful band programs from the ground up. She is one of the founders of the Utah Youth Band Institute, an after-school program that teaches band and all wind and percussion instruments to students of all ages and skill levels.



Based in Los Angeles, **Michael McLean** (CA – Composition) is an internationally noted composer, violinist, and pedagogue. On the faculty for Santa Monica College and St. Monica Prep, he also maintains a lively career as a composer of orchestral, chamber, and film music. He studied violin and composition at Northwestern University and film scoring at the University of Southern California. He has taught violin at the Music Institute of Chicago and at Texas Christian University. Mr.

McLean is a popular guest clinician at workshops and Institutes throughout the country, and has been invited to teach and perform in Argentina, Singapore, and Africa. An active member of the Suzuki Association of the Americas, he has studied Suzuki pedagogy with Yuko Honda, Barbara Barber, and John Kendall. Mr. McLean has written over one hundred compositions and has recorded four CD's, "Care to Tango?", "New World", "Pieces", and "Kokoro". His Violin Concerto, "Elements", was recorded by Brian Lewis and the London Symphony Orchestra and was released by Delos in 2006. His publishers include Alfred Publishing (Care to Tango?) and Latham Music.





**Fred Sienkiewicz** (TN – Ear Training) enjoys a multi-faceted career as an orchestral trumpeter and soloist, a Suzuki trumpet teacher, a professor of aural skills at Vanderbilt University, and as a leading English-language scholar of the music of Alexander Arutiunian.

An active orchestral performer, Sienkiewicz is a member of The Jackson Symphony (TN) and the Owensboro Symphony Orchestra (KY) and has performed throughout the mid-South region, including with the Nashville Symphony, Nashville Ballet, Nashville Opera, Knoxville Symphony, Evansville Philharmonic, and more.

Dr. Sienkiewicz teaches both traditional and Suzuki trumpet students at Vanderbilt University's Blair Academy, where he founded the South's first Suzuki trumpet program. Sienkiewicz is also a Vanderbilt University professor, teaching solfège and aural skills to aspiring professional musicians and serving as director of the aural skills program. Sienkiewicz previously taught trumpet and chamber music as faculty at Gordon College, Keene State College (NH), Plymouth State University (NH), and the Boston University Tanglewood Institute (MA).

Sienkiewicz's doctoral dissertation, *Forefathers, Antecedents, and the Development of Alexander Arutiunian's Big Soviet Armenian Style* (2019), is the first in-depth English-language investigation of the Armenian composer. Sienkiewicz has presented on the topic dozens of times at colleges and at the International Trumpet Guild conference.

<http://fred.sienkiewicz.org>



**Ernesto Garcia Velasco** (Mexico – Choir) Mexican musician who came from his father's children's choir, he studied piano and choral conducting at the Universidad de Guadalajara and the Conservatorio de las the Rosas in Morelia, Michoacán.

Since the beginning of his professional life, he has mainly dedicated himself to children's choral conducting, seeking a balance between vocal excellence and the enjoyment of music by the choristers.

In recent years he has worked hand in hand with the Suzuki Method, collaborating with different music schools throughout Mexico, as well as in Peru, Colombia, Paraguay, Panama, and United States of America.

Currently resides in Mexico City, conducting the choirs of Eton School Mexico, and the Niños Cantores de Tepetzotlán in Estado de México.



# TEACHER TRAINER FACULTY

## 2025



**Dr. Carey Cheney** (cello), a native of Canada, has been teaching and performing for 42 years. She is a SAA Registered Teacher Trainer of cello for the Suzuki Association of the Americas, and author/recording artist of the series of books and audio recordings (eight volumes), *Solos For Young Cellists* published by Summy-Birchard (Alfred Music Inc.). Carey has presented all levels of Suzuki Teacher Training many times both live and online, as well as enrichment courses on other repertoire, techniques, teaching strategies, and advanced technique.

She holds the degree of Doctor of Musical Arts in Cello Performance from University of Utah. For her Bachelor and Master of Music, she studied cello and pedagogy with Phyllis Young. She also studied in Germany for 2 years with Andre Navarra. She has had much international teaching and playing experience, in Europe, Canada, Costa Rica, Brazil, Japan, Mexico, Australia and New Zealand. She currently resides in Salt Lake City, Utah where she maintains a large cello studio with her cellist-husband Elliott Cheney. She teaches all over the US and Canada at weekend and summer workshops and is in high demand for her work in teacher seminars such as *Nurturing Artistry in Young Cellists*.

For more information about cello lessons, teacher training and *Solos For Young Cellists*, please visit [www.cheneycellists.com](http://www.cheneycellists.com)



**Pamela Devenport** (cello) has taught cello and toured extensively throughout the world. She has been a guest speaker and cello faculty at National Cello Institute, the American String Teachers Association, several Suzuki Association National Conferences, and the World Cello Congress Turin, Italy. International Conferences include multiple visits to Australia, Italy, New Zealand, and Great Britain, and Korea. Her lectures include cello pedagogy to communication techniques, from physical anatomy to the far reaching effects of tone and sound. She served as faculty, and the Chair of Cello at the School for Strings in New York City from 2002-2022, Cello Faculty at Georgia State from 2005-2009, Cello Faculty and Chair of Strings at Hartt School of Music in Hartford, CT, 1999-2005, and also served as interim Artist in Residence in Cello Pedagogy Instructor at the Cleveland Institute of Music in both 2008 and 2015. Since 2023, she served as a member of the Suzuki Association's Suzuki Training Committee.





**Fabio dos Santos** (Brazil - violin) is a Master and Bachelor in Music from "Universidade Estadual de Campinas" (Unicamp) and a Teacher Trainer from the Suzuki Association of the Americas (SAA) since 2019. He is currently a teacher and Director of the "Centro Suzuki de Campinas" and the "Projeto Elemar" in Nova Odessa (SP). He has participated as a guest professor at festivals in Brazil, Canada, Peru, Chile, Ecuador and Colombia. As a popular and classical musician, he participated in the recording of several projects in Brazil and the United States. In addition to artistic work, he is a producer of national and international events for Suzuki students. He is a member of the SAA and was the President-Director of the Suzuki Musical Association of Brazil.



**David Evenchick** (cello) resides in Montréal Québec after many years of teaching at the Preucil School of Music (Iowa City, Iowa), Grinnell College (Grinnell, Iowa), and The Suzuki String School of Guelph (Ontario). He is the cello trainer for Long-Term Suzuki Pedagogy program at Wilfrid Laurier University (Kitchener, Ontario) teaches at the Pré-Conservatoire at the Conservatoire de Québec à Montreal as well as l'Ensemble du Violoncelle.

As an orchestral musician, David has been a member of the National Ballet of Canada Orchestra, Associate Principal cello of The Cedar Rapids Symphony (Iowa), Principal Cello of the Prince George (B.C.) and Guelph Symphony Orchestras as well as a core player for the Magisterra Soloists (London Ontario).

David has a particular interest in the research and performance of compositions of the great Croatian cello pedagogue, Rudolf Matz. He has been awarded the Anne T. Clearly Fellowship for International Doctoral Research from The University of Iowa, and he continues to explore and teach Matz's solo works.



**Linda Fiore** (PA - violin) began violin lessons at age 5 with her mother Louise Wear, a Suzuki violin teacher. She earned a Bachelor of Music in violin performance at the Hartt College of Music in Hartford, CT and studied with violinist Raphael Bronstein in New York City. Later, she studied with Dr. Suzuki at the Talent Education Institute in Matsumoto, Japan for 18 months. She performed her graduation recital and earned her Japanese teaching certificate.

Upon returning to the United States, she became the first teacher to teach Suzuki Violin Method for brain-injured and well children at the Institute for the Achievement of Human Potential in Philadelphia.



In 1983 she and her husband Domenick founded DaCore Talent Education in Glenmore, PA where, for 14 years, she taught violin and directed her own workshops. She has presented student performing groups in Bermuda, Puerto Rico, Europe, and throughout the United States. In 1997 she accepted a teaching position at the Hartt School of Music at the University of Hartford. She was a Suzuki teacher trainer in the graduate degree program there and also taught college students as well as young students in the school's Community Division.

Having returned to PA, Linda and Domenick are currently continuing the development of DaCore Talent Education Academy and Fiore Performing Strings in the Lehigh Valley area. They co-direct Practice Pathways and the Ogontz Suzuki Institute, a two-session Institute in the White Mountains of New Hampshire.

Linda has done extensive orchestra, chamber orchestra, and chamber music performing over the course of her career with groups such as the Lehigh Valley Chamber Orchestra and the Northeastern PA Philharmonic and the Pennsylvania Sinfonia. She trains teachers and students nationally and internationally and is the mother of two wonderful sons, Michael and Christopher.



Cellist, artist-teacher and SAA registered Cello Teacher Trainer, **Abbey Hansen** (OH - cello), maintains an active teaching and performing schedule in the Cleveland area where she has lived and taught since 2016. As founder and director of Cleveland Cello School, Ms. Hansen maintains a full and active studio of cello students ages 3 and up and their families. In addition to her work with Suzuki students, she conducts a two-year graduate Suzuki teacher-training program, part of a unique dual Master's degree in Cello Performance and Suzuki Pedagogy at the Cleveland Institute of Music.

Prior to her appointment at CIM, Ms. Hansen served on faculty at the Music Institute of Chicago, Rockford College Music Academy, Community School of the Arts at Northern Illinois University and Music Academy at Lawrence University. An in-demand guest clinician, Ms. Hansen has taught and lectured at workshops and institutes from coast to coast. Ms. Hansen has also performed in several chamber music ensembles in the Chicagoland area and has been featured on faculty and alumni recitals throughout the Midwest. In 2006, she had the privilege of performing in a friendship concert at the Suzuki Talent Education Institute in Matsumoto, Japan. In addition to earning Teacher Trainer status, Hansen is also the recipient of the Suzuki Association of the Americas' Certificate of Achievement for excellence in Suzuki education.





**James Hutchins** (MD - violin) lives in Silver Spring, Maryland, with his wonderful and gorgeous wife and his fabulous and entertaining son. He grew up a Suzuki kid, has been a Suzuki teacher, registered teacher trainer forever and is a proud Suzuki dad. James has taught at workshops, institutes and classes around the world, including South Korea, Iceland, Brazil, Peru, Lithuania, Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, Belize, Bermuda, the Bahamas and throughout the States. He also

taught Suzuki pedagogy at East Carolina University in 2021-22. In 2018, James was a guest Clinician at the 67th Suzuki Method Summer School in Matsumoto, Japan. His studio performed for former Secretary of State and First Lady Hillary Clinton at the White House, at the National Zoo, the U.S. Capitol, the Maryland State Capitol, the Lincoln Memorial, the National Aquarium, at the Kennedy Center on the Millennium Stage and with the National Symphony and Royal Albert Hall in London. They have also played the National Anthem for the Baltimore Orioles, Washington Wizards and Nationals. James also had the honor of performing for Dr. and Mrs. Suzuki at their home in Japan. Along with his Suzuki lifestyle, he digs going to new restaurants, traveling, and telling dad jokes.



**Allen Lieb** (NY - violin) is CEO of the International Suzuki Association, and Chair of the ISA & SAA Violin Committees. He holds an M.M. from Southern Illinois University/Edwardsville, training in Suzuki Pedagogy with John Kendall, and a Teachers Certificate from the Talent Education Institute following studies with Shinichi Suzuki. Allen has been a registered Teacher-Trainer with the SAA since 1981. He has taught at institutes, workshops and conferences across the United

States, Canada, Mexico, Central America, Europe, Asia, Australia and New Zealand. Residing in New York City, Allen is the Instructor for Violin Teacher-Training and a member of the violin faculty at The School for Strings.



**Mark Mutter** (MI - violin) is a registered Teacher Trainer with the Suzuki Association of the Americas. He received his Bachelor and Master of Violin Performance studying with Walter Schwede, Angel Reyes and Camilla Wicks. His orchestral career began in Hong Kong as the Assistant Principal Second Violin of the Hong Kong Philharmonic. He also taught at the Hong Kong Academy for the Performing Arts. Mark studied Suzuki pedagogy with John Kendall, Ronda Cole, Teri

Einfeldt, Jacquie Maurer and Geri Arnold. He is the Executive Director of the Suzuki Music Academy of Michigan formerly known as Suzuki Royal Oak Institute of Music. He oversees 10 teachers that teach over 150 students. He has been a clinician at Workshops and Institutes throughout the U.S. and Asia. Mark has led the SMA Tour Group on concert tours throughout Europe and Canada as well as two performances in Carnegie Hall. He is presently on the conducting staff of the Civic Youth Ensembles, the Detroit Symphonies youth orchestra program. He conducts the Concert Orchestra and Pizzicato String Ensemble.





**Fernando Piñero** (Argentina - violin) is the first Spanish speaking Latin American SAA Violin Teacher Trainer. He is the Director of the "Escuela de Musica Shinichi Suzuki" in Córdoba, Argentina. With his students, he has performed in some of the most important concert halls in Argentina. They were invited to France in 2013 and in 2016, where they performed at the Festival Universitaire de Musique in Belfort, as well as in Paris, Venice and Rome. In 2018 the tour included presentations in the Netherlands, Belgium and the Dr Hoch Konservatorium in Frankfurt. They performed at the 2014 International Conference of ISME (International Society for Music Education), in Brazil. He is also a Violin Teacher Trainer for the European Suzuki Association.

In 2014 he conducted the Latin American Suzuki Ensemble, a group of 40 students from eight different countries that performed at the 2014 SAA Conference in Minneapolis. He was also Conductor of the Copland Orchestra at the 2019 Suzuki Convention in Cancun, Mexico.

As a clinician he has been invited to institutes, workshops and "Festivales" throughout the Americas: Salt Lake City, Ciudad de México, Lima, Bogotá, Buenos Aires, La Paz, Monterrey, Asunción, Brasília, Guatemala, among many other places. He is also frequently invited in workshops and institutes in Europe: Lithuania, Belgium, Poland, France, Switzerland, Denmark and Spain, among others.

He has organized exchange programs and visits with several Suzuki groups such as Rocky Mountain Strings, the Indiana Virtuosi; The Buffalo Suzuki strings, etc. In 1998 he was country representative from Argentina for the Concert during the Winter Olympics in Nagano and Matsumoto.

Since 1999 he is a member of the Córdoba Symphony Orchestra. He has also been a member of the Orquesta Barroca del Suquia conducted by Manfred Kraemer, as well as other Baroque Music Ensembles.

He holds a degree in Literature with emphasis in Linguistics from the National University of Cordoba.



**Elizabeth Stuen-Walker** (WA - viola) lives in Bellingham, Washington, where she teaches viola and violin. She received her degrees from the Eastman School of Music and Yale University School of Music. Ms. Stuen-Walker has been an active clinician worldwide, and twice has served on the Board of Directors of the SAA, served on the Teacher Development Advisory Committee, and currently is chair of both the SAA and ISA Viola Committees.

Her published works include "Ensembles for Viola", "Violas in Concert", "Treble Clef for





Violists", Shostakovich Gavotte for Viola Quartet, Two volumes of Christmas Carols for Viola Ensembles and a collection of Arias for Four Violas.



**Ann-Marie Sundberg** (Sweden - trumpet) has developed the Suzuki method for trumpet and is chairman of the ISA Brass Committee. She is the first Suzuki trumpet teacher in the world and the first and for the moment the only ESA/SAA Suzuki Brass teacher trainer.

Ann-Marie was educated at the Royal College of Music in Stockholm, 1967-72, both as a performer and as a teacher. She has during the years worked as a professional trumpet player in symphony orchestras, with operas, theatre, chamber music and as a soloist. Until 1982 she was principal in Norrköping, one of the professional Symphonies in Sweden.

Ann-Marie also has a great experience both as an orchestra leader and of teaching brass instruments and has worked at various music schools in Sweden and abroad, and since 1998 also as a teacher trainer at the Royal College of Music where she once studied.

Recently retired Ann-Marie continues to teach with a clear focus on continuing to develop and spread Suzuki Brass all over the world.



**Zachary Sweet** (NY - cello) is a registered Teacher Trainer with the Suzuki Association of the Americas. He is currently an instructor of cello at Nazareth University, Binghamton University, and on the faculty of Ithaca Suzuki Music Education. Nationally, he is in demand as a clinician having lead workshops, masterclasses and institutes across the United States and Canada.

He performs extensively throughout the Tri-State area as soloist, chamber musician and orchestral player. Zachary is a core member with Cayuga Chamber Orchestra, the Society for New Music, and with the Nazareth Piano Trio. In 2024/25 Zachary will deliver the keynote address at the Suzuki Association of Massachusetts Annual Meeting, tour with Vision of Sound and present two solo recitals at Bay Chamber Music Series in Maine.





**Andrea Yun** (MI - cello) is a member of the Detroit Opera and Ann Arbor Symphony, and serves as principal cellist of the Baroque on Beaver Island festival orchestra. She has performed as a guest artist with the Detroit Symphony, San Antonio Symphony, Toledo Symphony, and Windsor Symphony, among others.

Andrea is highly regarded as a teacher and teacher trainer. She maintains a cello studio in Ann Arbor, Michigan, where she founded Cellympics, a play-based approach to cello technique acquisition for children. Andrea is one of 40 Suzuki cello teacher trainers in the Americas, and she was hired in 2020 by Paul Katz to be a part of his CelloBello teacher training faculty. In 2020, Andrea was designated Teacher of the Year by the Michigan chapter of the American String Teachers Association. Andrea holds degrees in cello performance, music education, and mathematics from Indiana University and the University of Michigan.



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THANK YOU!

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