

# MSU Music

PRESENTS

16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
**Cello Plus**  
CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL

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*Suren Bagratuni, artistic director*

## **ROMANTIC MASTERPIECES**

**Monday, April 4, 7:30 P.M.**

*Generously sponsored by Charlie and Nancy Seebeck*

## **SLAVONIC MASTERWORKS**

**Wednesday, April 6, 7:30 P.M.**

*Generously sponsored by Belle and Julius Harris Visiting Artist Fund established by Lauren Julius Harris*

## **CHAMBER MUSIC FAVORITES: STARS FROM KOREA**

**Friday, April 8, 8:00 P.M.**

*Generously sponsored by Beth and the late Dr. Milton Muelder*

## **FROM HAYDN TO... PRUTSMAN**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 3:00 P.M.**

*Generously sponsored by Stanley and Selma Hollander*

FAIRCHILD THEATRE, MSU AUDITORIUM



College of Music  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

## ROMANTIC MASTERPIECES

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**Monday, April 4, 7:30 P.M.**

*Generously sponsored by Charlie and Nancy Seebeck*

String Quintet No. 2 in G Major, Op. 111  
Johannes Brahms  
(1833 - 1897)

*Allegro non troppo, ma con brio*  
*Adagio*  
*Un poco Allegretto*  
*Vivace ma non troppo presto*

Livia Sohn\* and I-Pei Lin\*\*, violins  
Yuri Gandelsman and Yuri Ozhegov\*\*, violas  
Suren Bagratuni, cello

### INTERMISSION

String Quintet in C Major, Op. 163  
Franz Schubert  
(1797 - 1828)

*Allegro ma non troppo*  
*Adagio*  
*Scherzo*  
*Allegretto*

Livia Sohn\* and I-Pei Lin\*\*, violins; Yuri Gandelsman, viola  
Suren Bagratuni and Viktor Uzur\*, cellos

\* Guest Artist

\*\* MSU student

## SLAVONIC MASTERWORKS

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**Wednesday, April 6, 7:30 P.M.**

*Generously sponsored by Belle and Julius Harris*

*Visiting Artist Fund established by Lauren Julius Harris*

Ballade No. 2 in B Minor  
Franz Liszt  
(1811 - 1886)

Sergei Babayan\*, piano

Etude tableau in E-flat Minor Op. 39. No.5  
Etude tableau in C Minor Op. 39 No. 1  
Sergei Rachmaninov  
(1873 - 1953)

Moment musicaux in E-flat Minor Op. 16 No. 2  
Moment musicaux in C Major Op. 16 No. 6

Sergei Babayan\*, piano

Piano Trio Op. 11 in B-flat Major  
Ludwig van Beethoven  
(1770 - 1827)

*Adagio*  
*Allegro con brio*  
*Tema con variazioni*

Ruggero Alliffranchini\*, violin; Viktor Uzur\*, cello  
Sergei Babayan\*, piano

### INTERMISSION

Piano Quintet in A Major, Op. 81  
Antonin Dvořák  
(1841 - 1904)

*Allegro man on tanto*  
*Duma. Andante con moto*  
*Scherzo (Furiant): Molto vivace*  
*Finale. Allegro*

Ruggero Alliffranchini\* and I-Pei Lin\*\*, violins; Maiya Papach\*, viola  
Suren Bagratuni, cello; Sergei Babayan\*, piano

\* Guest Artist

\*\* MSU student

## CHAMBER MUSIC FAVORITES: STARS FROM KOREA

Friday, April 8, 8:00 P.M.

*Generously sponsored by Beth and the late Dr. Milton Muelder*

Piano Quartet in G Minor, Op. 25  
Johannes Brahms  
(1833 - 1897)

*Allegro*  
*Intermezzo*  
*Andante con moto*  
*Rondo alla Zingarese: Presto*

Kyung-Sun Lee, violin\*, Maiya Papach\*, viola  
Suren Bagratuni, cello; HaeSun Paik\*, piano

Piano Quintet in F Minor, Op. 34  
Johanne Brahms

*Allegro non troppo*  
*Andante, un poco adagio*  
*Scherzo: Allegro*  
*Finale: Poco sostenuto - Allegro non troppo - Presto, non troppo*

Kyung-Sun Lee\* and Ruggero Alliffranchini\*, violins.  
Maiya Papach\*, viola; Suren Bagratuni, cello; HaeSun Paik\*, piano

\* Guest Artist

## FROM HAYDN TO... PRUTSMAN

Sunday, April 10, 3:00 P.M.

*Generously sponsored by Stanley and Selma Hollander*

String Quartet in E flat-Major, Op. 33,  
No. 2 (Hob.III.38) "The Joke"  
Franz Josef Haydn  
(1732 - 1809)

*Allegro moderato*  
*Scherzo. Allegro*  
*Largo e sostenuto*  
*Finale. Presto*

String Quartet in D, Op. 71, No. 2  
Franz Josef Haydn

*Adagio - Allegro*  
*Adagio cantabile*  
*Menuetto*  
*Finale*

St. Lawrence String Quartet  
Geoff Nuttall\* and Owen Dalby\*, violins  
Lesley Robertson\*, viola; Christopher Costanza\*, cello

### INTERMISSION

Color Preludes for Piano Quintet  
World Premiere  
Stephen Prutsman  
(b. 1961)

*No. 1 in C Major "Jolie"*  
*No. 2 in A Minor "Tiki Lounge"*  
*No. 3 in G Major "Unspeakable Joy"*  
*No. 4 in E Minor "Labios"*  
*No. 5 in D Major "Bluebulgum"*  
*No. 6 in B Minor "Lament"*  
*No. 7 in A Major "Prism"*  
*No. 8 in F-sharp Minor "Bi-Polar or The Temperamental Tempest"*  
*No. 20 in C Minor "The Existentialist"*  
*No. 21 in B-flat Major "Nene"*  
*No. 22 in G Minor "On the Eve or Close to the Edge"*  
*No. 23 in F Major "Starry Night"*  
*No. 24 in D Minor "Godspeed"*

Stephen Prutsman, piano\* with the St. Lawrence String Quartet\*

\* Guest Artist

# ARTIST BIOS

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## MSU COLLEGE OF MUSIC ARTIST-FACULTY

**Suren Bagratuni** won the silver medal at the 1986 International Tchaikovsky Competition while still a student at the Moscow Conservatory. He has toured worldwide, earning enthusiastic praise in both the traditional and contemporary repertoire. He has performed with major orchestras in the former Soviet Union, including the Moscow Philharmonic, and has also appeared with numerous orchestras in Europe, Asia, and North and South America. In addition to his solo activities, he performs as a member of Trio Nobilis, serves as artistic director of the Cello Plus music festival, and conducts master classes worldwide. A former faculty member of the New England Conservatory and the University of Illinois, he is professor of cello, co-chair of the string area, and artist teacher at the MSU College of Music.

Hailed by the *Jerusalem Post* as “...undoubtedly one of the greatest violists of our time,” **Yuri Gandelsman** is one of the most sought-after musicians of his generation. He has performed solo recitals in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Paris, Frankfurt, Tokyo, Warsaw, Istanbul, Budapest, and Florence. He has made numerous solo recordings and his most recent release, “Hindemith Retrospective” (Blue Griffin, 2013), was received with critical acclaim. He was principal violist with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra for 10 years and frequently toured as a soloist with the IPO, performing with such conductors as Zubin Mehta and Pinchas Zukerman, among others. Gandelsman’s chamber music performances include collaborations with many renowned artists. He was a member of the Fine Arts Quartet at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where he performed more than 300 concerts worldwide and recorded numerous albums. Born in Russia, Gandelsman studied in Moscow with Heinrich Talalyan and Valentin Berlinsky. He now serves as professor of viola at the MSU College of Music.

## GUEST ARTISTS

**Ruggero Alliffranchini** is the Associate Concertmaster of the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra. He was born into a musical household in Milan, Italy, and raised on a diverse musical diet, ranging from Beethoven to John Coltrane. He studied at the New School in Philadelphia with Jascha Brodsky and later at the Curtis Institute of Music with Szymon Goldberg and, for chamber music, Felix Galimir. He was the recipient of the Diploma

d’Onore from the Chigiana Academy in Siena, Italy. In 1989, he cofounded the Borromeo String Quartet, with which he played exclusively for 11 years. As a chamber musician of diverse repertoire and styles, Alliffranchini is a frequent guest artist of the Chamber Music Societies of Boston and Lincoln Center, as well as chamber music festivals in Seattle, Vancouver, and El Paso. He is currently concertmaster of the Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra in New York. He is the violinist of the trio Nobilis, with pianist Stephen Prutsman and cellist Suren Bagratuni. Nobilis has performed chamber music and solos with orchestras in Europe, South America, and South Africa as well as in North America. Over the past few seasons he has played as guest concertmaster with the Hong Kong Philharmonic and the Minnesota Orchestra.

A winner of the Cleveland, Hamamatsu, and Scottish international competitions, **Sergei Babayan** is a graduate of the Moscow Conservatory and has studied with Georgy Sarajev, Vera Gornostayeva, Lev Naumov, and Mikhail Pletnev. His deep interest and love for the music of Bach led him to study with Helmuth Rilling; he has also studied conducting. Babayan’s concerto repertoire includes 54 concertos, and he has made recordings for EMC, Connoisseur Society, Pro Piano, and Mariinsky labels. As a soloist, he has performed with many of the world’s major orchestras, conductors, and festivals, and his performance with Valery Gergiev of Prokofiev’s Piano Concerto No. 5 was recorded for Medici TV. Babayan’s chamber music partners have included Martha Argerich, Daniil Trifonov, Ivry Gitlis, and the Borodin Quartet. While teaching at Juilliard, Babayan will continue to be an artist in residence at the Cleveland Institute of Music.

Violinist **Kyung Sun Lee** has been a laureate in the Tchaikovsky, Queen Elizabeth, Washington, D’Angelo and Montreal International Competitions, and has performed and taught worldwide. Her career has included concerto performances with orchestras throughout North America, as well as the Munich Radio Orchestra under Yehudi Menuhin, Moscow National Orchestra, and Belgian National Orchestra in Europe, the Seoul Philharmonic, KBS Orchestra, Pu-Chun Philharmonic and Taipei City Symphony in Asia, and the New Zealand Symphony. As a chamber musician she has participated in the Marlboro, Ravinia, and Cape & Islands Festivals in the US, and the Prussia Cove Festival in England. Lee received degrees in music from Seoul National University and the Peabody

## ARTIST BIOS (GUEST ARTISTS CONTINUED)

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Conservatory. She also attended the Juilliard School in the professional studies program. Her teachers included Nam Yun Kim, Sylvia Rosenberg, Robert Mann, Dorothy DeLay, and Hyo Kang. She has served on the faculty at the Oberlin Conservatory and the University of Houston, and currently teaches at Seoul National University. She has been an artist and teacher at the music festivals of Aspen, Marlboro, and Ravinia as well as numerous chamber music festivals. She is a leader of Hwaum Chamber Orchestra and Seoul Virtuosi. Lee plays a Joseph Guarnerius violin made in 1723.

Pianist **HaeSun Paik** has performed throughout the world following her triumphs at major international piano competitions, including top prizes at the William Kapell (U.S.A., 1989), the Leeds (England, 1990), the Queen Elisabeth (Belgium, 1991), and the Tchaikovsky (Russia, 1994) International Piano Competitions. She has appeared with many of the world's leading orchestras, including the Boston Symphony, National Symphony, London Symphony, Munich Philharmonic, Radio France Philharmonic, NHK Symphony, Tokyo Philharmonic, the City of Birmingham Symphony, Warsaw Philharmonic, Moscow Philharmonic and Russian National Orchestra. In addition to concerto performances, she has appeared frequently as a recitalist at such venues as New York's Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., Jordan Hall in Boston. She was the youngest pianist to be appointed as a music professor at Seoul National University. After teaching at the university for 10 years, she decided to leave her position to devote more of her time to numerous performance engagements and broaden her musical horizons. Paik began her musical studies in her native Korea. At 14, she came to the U.S. to study music at Walnut Hill School for Performing Arts in Boston and graduated from New England Conservatory where she was a student of Russell Sherman and Wha Kyung Byun.

**Maiya Papach** is the principal violist of The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, having been a member of the orchestra since 2008, she has made solo appearances with the SPCO in Mozart's *Sinfonia Concertante* with concertmaster Steven Copes, solo directed Benjamin Britten's *Lachrymae* and will appear again this season as soloist in Woolrich *Ulysses Awakes*. Papach has made frequent national and international appearances as a chamber musician, with a versatile profile in her performances of both traditional and contemporary repertoire. She is a founding member of

the International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE), with whom she has performed frequently at Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart Festival, New York's Le Poisson Rouge, Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art, and dozens of experimental venues. Papach is a 2013 recipient of the McKnight Fellowship for Performing Musicians administered by the MacPhail Center for Music, and is looking forward to commissioning a new work for solo viola and ensemble with the award. She is a graduate of the Oberlin Conservatory and the Juilliard School, and her principal teachers include Roland Vamos, Karen Tuttle, Benny Kim, and Hsin-Yun Huang.

**Stephen Prutsman**, piano, has served as artistic partner with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, where he conducted concertos from the keyboard, performed in chamber ensembles, conducted works of living composers, developed and arranged collaborations for their Engine 408 series of contemporary and world music. More recently, he was the artistic director of the Cartagena International Festival of Music. He was a medal winner at the Tchaikovsky and Queen Elisabeth Piano competitions, and received the Avery Fisher Career Grant. He performs the classical concerto repertoire as soloist with many of the world's leading orchestras and his classical discography includes acclaimed recordings of the Barber and McDowell concerti with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra and National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland. Born in Los Angeles, Stephen first began playing the piano by ear at age 3, before moving on to more formal music studies. In his teens and early 20s he was the keyboard player for several art rock groups including Cerberus and Vysion. He was also during those years a solo jazz pianist playing in many southern California clubs and lounges and was the music arranger for a nationally syndicated televangelist program. A former student of Aube Tzerko, Leon Fleisher, and Jack Wilson Stephen studied at the University of California at Los Angeles and the Peabody Conservatory of Music.

Violinist **Livia Sohn** performs widely on the international stage as concerto soloist, recitalist, and festival guest artist. Her 2015-16 season included performances of the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto in Veracruz, Mexico, with conductor Jorge Mester, followed by appearances with the Quad City Symphony in IA, and the Folsom Symphony in CA, as well as recitals in South Windsor, CT, and Deerfield, MA. Highlights of this season

## ARTIST BIOS (GUEST ARTISTS CONTINUED)

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include a performance of the Beethoven Triple Concerto in Carnegie's Zankel Hall with pianist Stephen Prutsman and cellist Suren Bagratuni. Sohn has been a guest soloist in North America with the symphony orchestras of Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Seattle, Milwaukee, Edmonton, Rochester, Austin, Phoenix, New York Chamber Symphony, Boston Pops, and Brooklyn Philharmonic San Antonio, Oregon, Dayton, Winston-Salem, Hartford, Cheyenne, Quad Cities, Green Bay, Boca Raton, Louisville, I Musici de Montreal, and Aspen Festival Orchestra. Internationally, Sohn has performed as soloist with the Budapest Philharmonic, Berlin Symphony, Cologne Philharmonic, Iceland Symphony Orchestra, Mexico City Philharmonic and Boca del Rio Philharmonic in Mexico, Hungarian Radio Philharmonic, Orchestra del Teatro Marrucino di Chieti in Italy, Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra, Czech National Symphony Orchestra, Limburgs Sinfonie Orkest in Holland, The City of London Sinfonia, Asia Philharmonic Orchestra, Korea's Seoul and Pusan Philharmonics, and the Wuhan Philharmonic in China.

Cellist **Viktor Uzur** has appeared as a soloist, chamber musician in many countries of Europe, Asia, North America and South America. His performances, interviews and compositions have been broadcast on television and radio stations in the former Yugoslavia, Russia, and United States. Uzur is regularly featured on NPR's "Performance Today" with the Richter Uzur Duo. He has given concerts and has been an artist in residence at festivals in Austria, Spain, Italy, France, Russia, Canada, Korea, China, Latvia, Brazil, United States, and the former Yugoslavia. His previous engagement as the principal cellist and soloist with ARCO Moscow Chamber Orchestra brought him many CD releases and international tours. Uzur received his Bachelor's and Master's in Cello Performance with soloist diploma from the Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Moscow during which time he worked with teachers A. Fedorchenko, D. Miller and N. Shakovskaya. In the United States he has also worked with Bernard Greenhouse, Lynn Harrell, Carter Brey, Michael Flaxman, Peter Wiley and David Starkweather. He holds a doctoral degree from Michigan State University where he studied with Suren Bagratuni.

## ARTIST BIOS (ST. LAWRENCE STRING QUARTET)

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### ST. LAWRENCE STRING QUARTET

**St. Lawrence String Quartet** Established in 1989, the St. Lawrence String Quartet has developed an undisputed reputation as one of the world's great ensembles. The group continues to build its reputation for imaginative and spontaneous music-making through an energetic commitment to the great established quartet literature, as well as the championing of new works. In 2015, the quartet toured Europe with the San Francisco Symphony, and later in the season, SLSQ performed at Carnegie Hall; in Vancouver and Toronto; Madison, WI; Worcester, MA; and Eugene, OR. Two spring 2016 highlights include a residency at the University of Maryland and a special Haydn event at the 92nd Street Y in New York. In recent seasons, SLSQ has paid special attention to Franz Josef Haydn with a series of concerts in which the foursome explores and unpacks the composer's string quartets from various perspectives and then performs the works in their entirety. Lesley Robertson and Geoff Nuttall are founding members of the group, and hail from Edmonton, Alberta, and London, Ontario, respectively. Christopher Costanza is from Utica, NY, and joined the group in 2003. Owen Dalby, from the San Francisco Bay area, joined in 2015. All four members of the quartet live and teach at Stanford University in California.

For over two decades cellist **Christopher Costanza** has enjoyed a varied and exciting career as a soloist, chamber musician, and teacher. A winner of the Young Concert Artists International Auditions and a recipient of a prestigious Solo Recitalists Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, Mr. Costanza has performed to wide critical acclaim in nearly every state in the U.S., and in Canada, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Australia, New Zealand, China, Korea, Germany, France, the U.K., Italy, Spain, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Romania, and Hungary. His summer festival appearances include the Marlboro, Yellow Barn, Santa Fe, Taos, Chamber Music Northwest, Seattle, Bay Chamber Concerts, Ottawa, and Bravo! Vail Valley festivals. Mr. Costanza is a graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, where he studied cello with Laurence Lesser, David Wells, and Bernard Greenhouse, and chamber music with Eugene Lehner, Louis Krasner, and Leonard Shure.

## ARTIST BIOS (GUEST ARTISTS CONTINUED)

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Mr. Costanza joined the St. Lawrence String Quartet in 2003, and tours extensively with that ensemble, performing over 100 concerts annually throughout the world. As a member of the St. Lawrence, he is an Artist in Residence at Stanford University, where he teaches cello and chamber music and performs a wide variety of formal and informal concerts each season, from the stages of the University's concert halls to student dormitories and lecture halls. A strong proponent of contemporary music, Mr. Costanza works regularly with some of the world's most notable composers, such as John Adams, Jonathan Berger, Osvaldo Golijov, Mark Applebaum, Pierre Boulez, Christos Hatzis, Roberto Sierra, R. Murray Schafer, William Bolcom, John Corigliano, and Bright Sheng. As a student, he had the honor of studying Olivier Messiaen's "Quartet for the End of Time" under the guidance of the composer.

A graduate of both the Curtis Institute and the Juilliard School, **Lesley Robertson**, viola, hails from Edmonton, Alberta and currently lives in California where, along with the St. Lawrence String Quartet she is Artist-in-Residence at Stanford University. A founding member of the SLSQ, Lesley has been privileged to perform in some of the world's most renowned concert halls including Amsterdam's Koncertgebouw, New York's Lincoln Center, and Paris' Theatre de la Ville, as well as more unusual venues such as Hanoi's "The French Opera House," Luxembourg's Bourglinster Castle and at the White House for President and Mrs. Clinton.

Apart from the SLSQ, Ms. Robertson has recently appeared as soloist with the San Francisco Chamber Orchestra and as a guest with the Tokyo String Quartet, the Ying Quartet, the Pacifica String Quartet, the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, and Music from Marlboro. Ms. Robertson also holds a degree from the University of British Columbia where she studied with Gerald Stanick. She plays on a viola made in August 1995 by fellow Canadian John Newton.

Praised as "dazzling" *The New York Times*, "expert and versatile" *The New Yorker*, and "a fearless and inquisitive violinist" *San Francisco Classical Voice*, thirty-year-old **Owen Dalby** leads a rich musical life as a soloist, chamber musician, new and early music expert, orchestral concertmaster, and educator. As the newest member of the St Lawrence String Quartet, Owen will live and work starting in 2015 in the San Francisco bay area

as artist-in-residence at Stanford University. Upcoming projects include a tour of Europe in John Adams's *Absolute Jest* with MTT and the San Francisco Symphony, and recitals on the major series across the USA and Canada.

Owen is a co-founder of Decoda, the affiliate ensemble of Carnegie Hall, and also the concertmaster of Novus NY, the contemporary music orchestra of Trinity Wall Street. He made his Lincoln Center debut in 2010 with Lou Harrison's *Concerto for Violin and Percussion Orchestra* at Alice Tully Hall, and that same year gave the world premiere of *Look Around You*, a one-man double concerto by Timo Andres for solo violin and viola, with the Albany Symphony Orchestra. For the past decade Owen has appeared frequently with leading groups in and around New York City such as Ensemble ACJW, Argento Chamber Ensemble, Metropolis Ensemble, the Locrian Chamber Players, and the Mark Morris Dance Group Music Ensemble. He can also be heard as soloist and leader on baroque violin with New York Baroque Inc., Clarion Music Society, and the Trinity Baroque Orchestra and Choir.

Hailed by the *New York Times* as "intensely dynamic" with "stunning technique and volitality," violinist **Geoff Nuttall** began playing the violin at the age of eight after moving to London, Ontario from College Station, Texas. He spent most of his musical studies under the tutelage of Lorand Fenyves at The Banff Centre, the University of Western Ontario, and the University of Toronto, where he received his bachelor of arts.

In 1989, Mr. Nuttall co-founded the St. Lawrence String Quartet. As first violinist of this world-renowned foursome, he has performed well over 1,500 concerts throughout North and South America, Europe, Australia, and Asia. With the St. Lawrence String Quartet, Mr. Nuttall served as graduate ensemble-in-residence at the Juilliard School, Yale University, and Hartt School of Music, acting as teaching assistants to the Juilliard, Tokyo, and Emerson String Quartets, respectively.

He is now on faculty at Stanford University, where the St. Lawrence String Quartet has been ensemble-in-residence since 1999, and makes his home in San Francisco with his wife, violinist Livia Sohn.

## ARTIST BIOS (MSU STUDENT ARTISTS)

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### MSU STUDENT ARTISTS

**I Pei Lin**, violin, is a doctoral student at Michigan State University and studies with Dmitri Berlinsky. She received a performer diploma at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music in 2013 and studied with Alexander Kerr. She got her Master's Degree and Bachelor's Degree at the National Taiwan Normal University in 2012 and studied with Nanette Chin-Horng Chen. She attended the Festival of Heifetz International Music Institute, and accepted the instruction by David Linda Cerone, Mihaela Martin, Ani Kavafian, Alexander Kerr and Philip Setzer in 2011. She performed at National Concert Hall in Taipei in 2009.

**Yuri Ozhegov**, viola, is a doctoral student at Michigan State University and studies with Yuri Gandelsman. He graduated from the Academic Music College, Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory then continued his studies at Moscow State Conservatory with Yuri Tkanov. From 2010-2013 Ozhegov performed with the Tchaikovsky Symphony Orchestra as vice-principal violist. He now serves as the principal violist with the Battle Creek Symphony Orchestra and in other orchestras in Michigan. He was recently one of 30 participants chosen from around the world to take part in Japan's Third Tokyo International Viola Competition. He won second prize at the International Festival "Flowers of Saxony" in Prague in 2006.

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