



College of Music
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Ken and Sandy Beall
CELLO PLUS
Chamber Music Festival

The A, B and C of Baroque

Suren Bagratuni, artistic director

Ruggero Alliffranchini, violin
Suren Bagratuni, cello
Emelyn Bashour, violin
Jasmine Choi, flute
Zhen Huang, viola
Yvonne Lam, viola
Charlotte Mattax, harpsichord
Wen Peng, bass

Generously sponsored by
Stanley and Selma Hollander
Endowment for Chamber Music

Wednesday, April 12, 2023
Fairchild Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

PROGRAM

Duo Sonata, Op. 13

Con anima

Moderato

Con brio

Gagik Hovounts

(1930–2019)

Ruggero Alliffranchini, violin

Suren Bagratuni, cello

Quartet in D Major, KV 285

Allegro

Adagio

Rondeau

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

(1756–1791)

Jasmine Choi, flute; Ruggero Alliffranchini, violin

Yvonne Lam, viola; Suren Bagratuni, cello

Brandenburg Concerto No. 5 in D Major,

BWV 1050

Allegro

Affettuoso

Allegro

Johann Sebastian Bach

(1685–1750)

Charlotte Mattax, harpsichord; Jasmine Choi, flute

Ruggero Alliffranchini and Emelyn Bashour, violin

Zhen Huang, viola; Suren Bagratuni, cello

Wen Peng, bass

ARTIST FACULTY BIOS

Ruggero Alliffranchini is Concertmaster of the Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra in New York and was most recently a co-Concertmaster of the Saint 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 eleven 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 the violinist of the trio Nobilis, with pianist and former SPCO Artistic Partner 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, the Royal Flemish Philharmonic, and the Minnesota Orchestra.

Suren Bagratuni, professor of cello at the MSU College of Music - Winner of the Silver Medal at the 1986 International Tchaikovsky Competition while still a student at the Moscow Conservatory - has gone to a distinguished international career as a soloist, recitalist and chamber musician. Born in Yerevan, Armenia, Mr. Bagratuni began his musical education there at the age of six. After winning several national and international competitions, he continued his studies at the Moscow Conservatory and later in the United States, at the New England Conservatory of Music. Professor Bagratuni began performing at age ten, and by age thirteen appeared as a concerto soloist. He has performed solo recitals and, as a soloist, with all the major orchestras in the former Soviet Union, throughout Europe, North and South America, Asia, and South Africa.

Chamber music appearances have included guest invitations with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, the Newport Music Festival, the "Russian Winter" festival in Moscow, the El Paso Pro Musica festival, international festivals in Italy, Switzerland, France, Germany, Hungary, Spain, Armenia, Canada, Australia, Columbia, Mexico, Brazil, South Korea, China, and Taiwan.

ARTIST FACULTY BIOS (cont.)

Suren Bagratuni won critical acclaim for his CD releases on the Marco Polo, Ongaku, and BGR labels, and also appears on Russian Disc, Centaur, Cambria, and CMH labels. He has recorded for “Melodiya”, and has been featured on ARD (Germany), CBC Radio Canada, WNYC in New York, NPR, Radio France, and NHK TV Japan. Mr. Bagratuni is founding member of the NOBILIS trio, artistic director of the “Cello Plus...” International music festival and founder of the International Music Academy Todi (Italy).

“The goddess of flute.” – The Korea Times

“Jasmine Choi is a revisionist.” – The Philadelphia Inquirer

“Anyone who hears Jasmine Choi’s performance will encounter a totally new level of flute playing.” – Nikkei Daily Newspaper, Japan

“One of best flutists in the history of music.” – Sinfini Magazine, UK

Flutist **Jasmine Choi** is one of the most celebrated flutists of our time, known for her virtuosity and refined interpretation, as well as her adventurous projects. She has performed across the globe in a variety of genres from classical solo, chamber, and orchestral to experimental, jazz, and pop. A former principal flute of the Vienna Symphony Orchestra under Fabio Luisi and associate principal of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra under Paavo Jarvi, her infinite curiosity has also led her to make her own arrangements of major works, including the Mendelssohn and Tchaikovsky violin concertos, as well as performing new works by living composers. She has published numerous arrangements of hers through Theodore Presser Company and has premiered more than ten flute concertos written for her.

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, Ms. Choi has begun sharing educational videos on YouTube for advanced flutists, introducing and collaborating with young pianists in order to kickstart their careers, and also interviewing leading classical musicians via live stream and recorded videos.

In May 2021, Ms. Choi launched the SmartCase, an innovative flute case that is light, durable, secure, and fits into normal bags, making every flutist’s wish come true. In August 2021, she published flute method books for beginners (Seoul Music Publishing) which immediately made it to the bestseller chart. She also continues to write articles for Flute Talk Magazine in the U.S. and the Auditorium Magazine in Korea.

ARTIST FACULTY BIOS (cont.)

Growing up as the third generation of a classical music family in Korea, she started learning piano and violin from a very early age. A year after picking up the flute as a nine-year-old, she performed the Haydn Concerto in D Major with a local orchestra. She became the last pupil of the legendary Julius Baker when she was accepted at Curtis Institute of Music at sixteen years old. Ms. Choi continued her studies at Juilliard School with Jeffrey Khaner, and later had private studies with Thomas Robertello and Robert Stallman.

Ms. Choi speaks English, German, and Korean, and resides in Austria between concert tours. She has a strong presence on YouTube, Facebook and Instagram, and enjoys communicating regularly with her fans.

Grammy Award-winning violinist **Yvonne Lam** has appeared as soloist with such renowned orchestras as the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, the Pacific Symphony, the Auckland Philharmonia, and the American Youth Symphony. She was the violinist/violist and Co-Artistic Director of contemporary super-ensemble Eighth Blackbird for eight years, and commissioned and premiered major works by composers such as Steve Reich, David Lang, Nico Muhly, and Bryce Dessner. In addition to winning top prizes at international competitions including the Michael Hill World Violin Competition, the Liana Issakadze Violin Competition, and the Holland-America Music Society Competition, Ms. Lam served three seasons as Assistant Concertmaster of the Washington National Opera Orchestra. Ms. Lam is now an Assistant Professor of Violin and Coordinator of Chamber Music at Michigan State University. She received her Bachelor of Music from the Curtis Institute of Music and her Master of Music from the Juilliard School.

Harpsichordist **Charlotte Mattax** Moersch has performed worldwide as a soloist and chamber musician. Since capturing First and Third Prizes in basso continuo and solo playing in the International Harpsichord Competitions in Paris, France, and Bruges, Belgium, she has appeared in solo recitals around the world. Called a “nonpareil harpsichordist” by *Early Music America*, she has received critical acclaim for her playing. As a guest artist, she has performed at the Festival of the *Associazione Musicale Romana*, *Festival Estival de Paris*, *Tage alter musik Regensburg*, and the Bethlehem and Boulder Bach Festivals, and has toured Europe with San

ARTIST FACULTY BIOS (cont.)

Francisco's American Baroque and the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra. As the harpsichordist with New York's Grande Bande, she performed in a production of Rameau's opera *Platée* at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, with Pilobolus dancers and renowned soprano Renée Fleming. She has partnered with other dancers as well, performing programs of French music with Baroque dancer Catherine Turocy of the New York Baroque Dance Company, and J.S. Bach's harpsichord concerti with Paul Taylor's "Taylor 2" Dance Company. She collaborated with jazz vocalist Bobby McFerrin in a concert with the New Jersey Symphony at the PNC Bank Arts Center, a 17,000-seat amphitheater.

The recipient of several important awards and prizes, she was honored with a Solo Recitalist Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, and a Harriet Hale Woolley Scholarship for study in Paris. She is a specialist in seventeenth-century French music; her book, *Accompaniment on Theorbo and Harpsichord: Denis Delair's Traité of 1690*, is published by Indiana University Press.

Professor Mattax directs Illinois' period instrument ensemble Concerto Urbano, which she founded in 1998. At Illinois' Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, she has directed fully staged period performances of Baroque operas, including Rameau's *Zéphyre*, Purcell's *Fairy Queen*, Monteverdi's *Poppea*, Cavalli's *La Calisto*, Handel's *Acis and Galatea*, and Lully's *Armide* with Baroque dance choreography by UI Professor of Dance Phillip Johnston. Also at Illinois, Mattax Moersch has served as the Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) as well as Coordinator of Faculty Affairs. As Coordinator, she ran a taskforce in faculty workload equity, revised the Faculty Handbook, and oversaw tenure and promotion cases. In 2009, she won the Campus Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching and was honored with the Campus Research Board's Arnold O. Beckman Research Award.

STUDENT BIOS

Violinist **Emelyn Bashour** is currently pursuing a DMA at Michigan State University as a teaching assistant in the studio of Yvonne Lam; previous teachers include Aaron Berofsky, Renée Jolles, and Lynn Chang. She is a member of the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra and the symphony orchestras of Ann Arbor and Lansing. She has participated in selective fellowship programs including the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, Spoleto Festival USA, Orpheus@Mannes, Vermont Mozart Festival, National Orchestral Institute, and the Aspen Music Festival, and has performed in masterclasses for esteemed artists including Midori, Julian Rachlin, Frank Huang, Yu Lina, and members of the Takács, Aizuri, and Calidore string quartets. She holds previous degrees from University of Michigan (MM), the Eastman School of Music (BM), and University of Rochester (BA).

Zhen Huang is pursuing a DMA program at Michigan State University and studying with Detroit Symphony Orchestra viola principal Eric Nowlin. Zhen Huang's former teachers include Patinka Kopec, Pinchas Zukerman, and Lawrence Dutton. Zhen Huang also participated in masterclasses lead by Nobuko Imai, Kim Kashikashan, Mai Motobuchi, Thomas Ribel, and Hongmei Xiao. Zhen Huang was selected as the section principal in the the Manhattan School of Orchestra under the direction of Maestro Kurt Masur.

Wen Peng is in his second year of the doctorate degree program at Michigan State University, where he is studying on a full graduate fellowship with Kevin Brown. He completed his undergraduate studies and master degree in double bass performance at New England Conservatory under the tutelage of James Orleans and Donald Palma. Mr. Peng is currently the section bassist for the Lansing Symphony Orchestra. He has performed with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Boston Philharmonic Orchestra, and New Hampshire Orchestra. Additionally, he spent the summer at the Pacific Music Festival and Lucerne Festival Academy. He recently made it to the Tutti Trial of the London Symphony Orchestra. Wen performs on an 1850 James Cole double bass.

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THANK YOU TO OUR 2022-2023 SPONSORS

- **Anonymous Donor Family** (Christmas Oratorios)
- **Sam and Mary Austin** (Musique 21 concerts)
- **Sam and Mary Austin Fund for New Music** (Stephen Rush, Jasper String Quartet, Ensemble Decipher and Biggs, Schmidt-Swartz Duo)
- **Ken and Sandy Beall** (Cello Plus Chamber Music Festival Series)
- **James and Susan Bonfiglio** (Symphony Orchestra, October 30 and Spring Opera)
- **Beth Cafagna in loving memory of my husband Al Cafagna, MSU professor of Philosophy, a lifelong jazz fan and saxophone player, and worker for civil rights** (Jazz: Spirituals, Prayer and Protest Concert)
- **Joanne and Bill Church** (West Circle Series)
- **April Clobes and Glen Brough** (Piano Monster)
- **Trustee Emerita Dee Cook in memory of her husband Byron Cook** (The Best of the Baroque)
- **Susan Davis** (Fall and Spring Opera)
- **Dean Transportation** (Spectrum Festival)
- **Double E Support** (Marc Embree, October 23)
- **Alena Fabian, M.D.**, (Margarita Shevchenko, September 9)
- **John and Gretchen Forsyth** (Ralph Votapek, September 23)
- **Thea Glicksman** (Guy Yehuda, November 28)
- **Howard and Pam Gourwitz** (Joe Lulloff, March 19)
- **Lauren Julius Harris** (Symphony Orchestra, October 30, Guy Yehuda, November 28, Yvonne Lam, January 21, Dmitri Berlinsky, March 29)
- **Stanley and Selma Hollander Endowment for Chamber Music** (Dialogues and The A, B and C of Baroque)
- **Eleanor H. and Harold E. Leichenko Opera Endowment established by Lauren Julius Harris** (Spring Opera)
- **Taylor Johnston Early Music Series Endowment established by Taylor Johnston** (Taylor Johnston Early Music Series)
- **Hari Kern and the late Ralph R. Edminster, M.D.** (Ralph Votapek, March 15)

- **Ann, John and Abby Lindley**, (Chorale and State Singers, April 2 and Mark Rucker, April 7)
- **Merritt Lutz** (Spectrum Festival and Wind Symphony, April 27)
- **Clare Mackey** (Red Cedar Organ Recital: Renee Anne Louprette, May 21)
- **Joseph and Jeanne Maguire** (A Jazzy Little Christmas and Jazz on the Grand)
- **Mary and Patrick McPharlin** (The Beauty of Brahms and Jazz: Spirituals, Prayer and Protest Concert)
- **Dr. and Mrs. Roy Meland**, (Happy Birthday Mozart!)
- **Gordon E. Miracle** (Rick Fracker, October 26)
- **Mike and Midge Morrow** (All American)
- **MSU Federal Credit Union** (Showcase Series, Spartan Spectacular, and Spectrum Festival)
- **MSU Federal Credit Union Entrepreneurial Musical Artist-in-Residence Endowed Fund** (Musique 21 and Nois Saxophone Quartet, October 31)
- **George Orban and Rae Ramsdell** (Red Cedar Organ Spring Concert, May 21)
- **Liz and Tony Raduazo in honor of Andrew Raduazo** (Sensory Friendly Spartan Concert, April 25)
- **Joy A. Rimpau** (Tuba-Euphonium Ensemble, February 2)
- **Nancy and Charlie Seebeck** (Romance in the Air and A Celebration of the Beautiful Voice)
- **Brenda Sternquist** (A Jazzy Little Christmas)
- **Leonard and Sharon Tabaka** (Annual Jazz Spectacular Finale Concert)
- **Dr. Robert W. Uphaus and Dr. Lois M. Rosen** (Dmitry Berlinsky, November 14, Suren Bagratuni, March 17, 19 and 31)
- **Linn Van Dyne and Mike Knox, in loving memory of Hal W. Hepler, Ph.D.** (Symphony Orchestra, September 30)
- **Barbara E. Wagner** (Barbara Wagner Chamber Music Competition Showcase)
- **WKAR** (Artist-Faculty and Guest Recital Series)
- **Dr. Charles and Philippa Webb** (Beacon Hill Music Series)
- **Interim President Teresa K. Woodruff, Ph.D. and Thomas V. O'Halloran, Ph.D.** (Spectrum Festival, Christmas Oratorio and Symphony Orchestra, April 29)
- **Worthington Family Foundation** (Opera Season)
- **Andrea L. Wulf** (Piano Monster)

MAKE A GIFT



UPCOMING EVENTS

4/12 Wednesday

Ken and Sandy Beall Cello Plus Chamber Music Festival

The A, B, and C of Baroque

7:30 p.m., Fairchild Theatre \$\$

4/14 Friday

Ken and Sandy Beall Cello Plus Music Festival

Romance in the Air...

8:00 p.m., Cook Recital Hall \$\$

4/18 Tuesday

Viridis and Singing Spartans

7:30 p.m., Fairchild Theatre \$

4/20 Thursday

Jazz Octets, Jazz Spectacular

7:30 p.m., Fairchild Theatre \$

4/21 Friday

Mosaic, Campus and Chamber Choir

8:00 p.m., Fairchild Theatre \$

4/21 Friday

Swing Dance, Jazz Spectacular

8:00 p.m., Murray Hall \$

4/22 Saturday

**Jazz at Lincoln Center: essentially Ellington High School Jazz
Band Regional Competition**

8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., Murray Hall (free)

4/22 Saturday

Jazz Spectacular Finale Concert

8:00 p.m., Fairchild Theatre \$\$\$

4/24 Monday

Musique 21: Images in Music

7:30 p.m., Fairchild Theatre \$

4/25 Tuesday

Symphony Band

7:30 p.m., Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center \$

4/25 Tuesday

Sensory Friendly Spartan Concert

10:00 a.m., Fairchild Theatre (Free)

4/26 Wednesday

Concert Orchestra: Viva la Musica!

7:30 p.m., Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center \$

4/27 Thursday

Wind Symphony

7:30 p.m., Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center \$

4/29 Saturday

Symphony Orchestra and MSU Choirs:

A Celebration of Legacies

8:00 p.m., Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center \$

4/30 Sunday

Alumni Band and Spartan Youth Wind Symphony

3:00 p.m., Fairchild Theatre (Free)

5/14 Sunday

MSUFCU Showcase Series

Piano Monster

3:00 p.m., Fairchild Theatre \$\$\$

5/21 Sunday

Artist-Faculty and Guest Recital Series sponsored by WKAR

Red Cedar Organ Recital: Renee Anne Louprette

3:00/7:00 p.m., Alumni Chapel \$

6/25 Sunday

James Kibble, organ

Red Cedar Organ Recital

3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., Alumni Memorial Chapel \$

TICKET PRICES

\$ \$12 Adults, \$10 Seniors (age 60 and older), Students with ID and anyone under age 18 are free but require a ticket for admission.

\$\$ \$17 Adults, \$15 Seniors, \$7 Students with ID and anyone under age 18.

\$\$\$ \$22 Adults, \$20 Seniors, \$12 Students and those under age 18.

Please note: *All events scheduled in Murray Hall are general admission seating.*