



## **Yoo Jin Noh, Blind Pianist**

*Michigan State University College of Music*

Yoojin Noh made her debut with the Cape Ann Symphony Orchestra as a soloist in 2017. She also performed at United Nation Headquarters in New York for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2015. Her recent performances include appearances with the Quincy Symphony Orchestra, the Boston Halfner Symphony, and a solo recital at Azusa Pacific University.

Yoojin, blind at birth, pursued her interest in music in early childhood and began her piano study at the age of 14. Despite her late start, she has received many awards from local competitions including top prizes in the Southwestern Music Festival and the Musical Arts Club Competition. In 2005, she received a grand prize at the U.S. String and Piano Concours of Hymn and played at Carnegie Weill Recital Hall in New York. In 2008, she received the VSA Young Soloist Award and was invited to play at the National Federation of the Blind Convention.

Yoojin entered the New England Conservatory of Music (NEC) in 2007 and received both her Bachelor and Master of Music degrees, studying with Wha-Kyung Byun and Gabriel Chodos. She recently finished her Graduate Diploma at NEC as well. She participated in various events at the conservatory, including “All Hands on Haydn” Concert and “Scriabin through the Flame.” In 2011, she was nominated to perform in Jordan Hall for the Orientation Concert for new students.

Yoojin has a special interest in reaching out to communities through music. She has had numerous performances in local senior centers, churches, and retirement homes. Since 2005, she has performed annually in a fundraising concert for the disabled at the Orange County Braille Institute and Hope-Sight Mission of Los Angeles. In June 2014, she performed with El Camino College Orchestra in a benefit concert for the local homeless mission. Her other community projects include performances at Park Street Church (2016) and the Susan Bailey Retirement Center (2014-2015).

Yoojin began her doctoral studies at Michigan State University in the fall of 2017 studying piano with MSU Professor Deborah Moriarty.



## Sandro Sidamonidze, Cellist

*Michigan State University College of Music  
Member, Faure Quartet*

Born in Tbilisi, Georgia, cellist Sandro Sidamonidze won his first solo competition at the age of 9, winning the Vladimir Spivakov prize in 2007. Since then, he has won numerous national and international solo and chamber music competitions, such as the American Protégé Competition, where he made his debut at the Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall and the Dombrovski International Competition in Riga, Latvia. Other national awards in Georgia include first prize of the Sixth Georgian Competition of Musician-Performers, where he also received special prize from musical foundation "SOLO," first prize of the Chamber Music Competition in Tbilisi, Georgia, and the grand prix and three special prizes of the Second Amirejibi competition in Georgia. Most recently, he was the Second prize winner of the Michigan ASTA competition and the 2017 winner of the MSU Honors Competition-string division.

Significant live performances include performing at a special reception for the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Gordon Brown, in the headquarters of the Government of the UK, at the invitation of the founder, Chairman and Artistic Director of the Leeds International Pianoforte Competition, Dame Fanny Waterman. He was also invited to participate in a charity event organized with the support of the first ladies of Georgia and Lithuania dedicated to the children affected by Tuberculosis in Lithuania. As part of the 2014 Cello Season Festival held in Georgia, Sandro was invited to perform with the Georgia Philharmonic Orchestra, and was featured during the festival alongside legendary cellists such as Natalia Gutman, David Geringas, Istvan Vardai and Nicholas Altstadt.

Sandro has performed as a guest artist in many festivals, such as Telavi International Music Festival, organized by legendary pianist Eliso Virsaladze, International Music Festival in Batumi, Georgia, "Mecklenburg Vorpommern Festspiele, and "Mozartaugsburg, where he was awarded with a new cello. He performed festivals all around the world including Italy, Russia, Armenia and Germany. In 2017, he appeared as a guest artist at the "easter to ascension" festival where, during this festival tour, he played three concerts with chamber orchestra "Georgian sinfonietta." He has also participated in the Lansing Symphony Orchestra Chamber Music Series and has appeared several times with MSU faculty on the MSU West Circle Series.

Sandro has collaborated with a multitude of well-known musicians, including Anatoly Levin, Gianluca Marciànò, Giya Kancheli and many others. He has also appeared on a live broadcast in Georgia and was headlined in newspapers in both Georgia and Germany.

He has had a rich and masterful education in cello performance, cooperating in master classes with high reputable people such as Natalia Gutman, Suren Bagratuni, Wen-Sinn Yang, Peter Bruns, Wolfgang Emanuel Schmidt and Wolfgang Boettcher.

Sandro Sidamonidze graduated from Z.Paliashvili Central Music School in Tbilisi, Georgia. His former teachers were Peter Bagration-Davitashvili and Otar Chubinishvili. Sandro is currently working on his Bachelor's degree at Michigan State University under the tutelage of Professor Suren Bagratuni. He continues to be an active chamber musician and passionate collaborator of new music.



## Ling Lo, Pianist

*Michigan State University College of Music  
Member, Faure Quartet*

Ling Lo is concurrently completing a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in piano performance and a Master of Music degree in collaborative piano from Michigan State University. She also carries degrees in piano performance from Boston University and Soochow University. As a soloist Ms. Lo has competed in such prestigious competitions as the International Bohemia Metro Cup and Taiwan Cultural Cup Music Competition. In addition to her solo piano career, Ms. Lo dedicates her time to chamber music. As a member of the Lumi trio, Ms. Lo collaborates with selected students and supervising faculty to prepare performances of contemporary chamber works. She recently traveled to Italy as assistant pianist for the musical program “Centro Studi Della Giacoma,” where she collaborated with vocalists and presented her own solo repertoire.

In addition to performing and competing, Ms. Lo spends a week every summer participating in a program called “Celebrating of Spectrum: A Festival for Music and Life”, a program for young autistic pianists, sponsored by Michigan State University and the RAIND program. Ms. Lo had the opportunity to present research from this experience at the DOCTRID and MTNA conferences located in Ireland and Texas. Her notable teachers include Deborah Moriarty, Zhihua Tang, Paval Neressian, Konstantinos Papadakis, and Lihui Chen.



## **Daniela Diaz, Violin**

*Michigan State University College of Music  
Member, Faure Quartet*

Recently awarded first prize in the chamber music category of the “2018 Golden Classical Music Awards” International Competition, venezuelan violinist Daniela Diaz started her music career in “El Sistema”. As part of the Simon Bolivar Orchestra of Venezuela, Daniela travelled the world taking part in International Festivals, performing at the most renowned orchestra halls under the direction of Gustavo Dudamel, Gustavo Abbado and Sir Simon Rattle.

Daniela continues her education under the mentorship of Professor Dmitri Berlinsky at Michigan State University. She performs on an instrument made in 2016 by Paul Becker, the lead luthier and owner of Carl Becker and Son (Chicago, IL).



## Yury Ozhegov, Viola

*Michigan State University College of Music  
Member, Faure Quartet*

Yury 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.