

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

**SCHOOL
OF THE
ARTS**

CELEBRATING THE
20TH ANNIVERSARY
OF WATSON HALL

**CHAMBER
MUSIC
FESTIVAL**



MARCH 19-23, 2024

BILL AND JUDY WATSON CHAMBER MUSIC HALL

WELCOME TO THE
UNCSA CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL

MARCH 19-23, 2024

WATSON HALL
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

THIS EVENT IS MADE POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF THE
INCREDIBLE GENEROSITY OF
BILL AND JUDY WATSON, WHO ALWAYS ENVISIONED
A CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL AT UNCSA.

WE AIM TO BRING THE BEST CHAMBER MUSIC EXPERIENCE TO
YOU WITH OUR WONDERFUL STUDENTS, FACULTY AND
GUEST ARTISTS WHO WILL WORK TOGETHER TO PRESENT
THE HIGHEST LEVEL PERFORMANCES IN WATSON HALL.

ARTISTIC DIRECTORS

IDA BIELER

DMITRI VOROBIEV

ADVISORY BOARD

KATHERINE JOHNSON

ERIC LARSEN

SAXTON ROSE

BROOKS WHITEHOUSE

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

TUESDAY MARCH 19

CONCERT NO. 1
7:30 P.M. | WATSON HALL
AVAILABLE IN PERSON AND VIA LIVESTREAM

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

CELLO MASTER CLASS WITH ROBERT DEMAINE
11:15 A.M.-12:45 P.M. | WATSON HALL

FRIDAY, MARCH 22

MASTER CLASS WITH PAVEL NERSESSIAN
4-6 P.M. | WATSON HALL

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

CHAMBER MUSIC CLASS WITH ROBERT DEMAINE AND PAVEL NERSESSIAN
4-6 P.M. | WATSON HALL

CONCERT NO. 2
7:30 P.M. | WATSON HALL
AVAILABLE IN PERSON AND VIA LIVESTREAM



UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA SCHOOL OF THE ARTS PRESENTS
CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL

CONCERT NO. 1 | **TUESDAY, MARCH 19** | WATSON HALL*

CLARINET QUINTET IN B MINOR, OP. 115..... JOHANNES BRAHMS
ALLEGRO (1833-1897)
ADAGIO
ANDANTINO
CON MOTO

RUSLAN USAEV Clarinet IDA BIELER Violin DELPHINE SKENE Violin
JORDAN BAK Viola GUSTAVO ANTONIACOMI Cello

INTERMISSION

PIANO QUINTET IN A MINOR, OP. 84.....EDWARD ELGAR
MODERATO-ALLEGRO (1857-1934)
ADAGIO
ANDANTE-ALLEGRO

KEVIN LAWRENCE Violin GABRIEL MENDOZA Viola ARINA KOMAROVA Viola
BROOKS WHITEHOUSE Cello DMITRI SHTEINBERG Piano

*LIVESTREAM AVAILABLE

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA SCHOOL OF THE ARTS PRESENTS
CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL

CONCERT NO. 2 | **SATURDAY, MARCH 23** | WATSON HALL*

PIANO TRIO IN G MAJOR, HOB XV/25JOSEPH HAYDN
ANDANTE (1732-1809)
POCO ADAGIO, CANTABILE
RONDO ALL'ONGARESE

ELLIE DIXON Violin DONOVAN VEGA Cello PAVEL NERSESIAN Piano

PIANO QUARTET IN G MINOR, K. 493..... WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART
ALLEGRO (1756-1791)
ANDANTE
RONDO: ALLEGRO

SOPHIE ANDERSON Violin JORDAN BAK Viola
ROBERT DEMAINE Cello ERIC HOANG Piano

INTERMISSION

PIANO QUARTET IN G MINOR, OP. 25JOHANNES BRAHMS
ALLEGRO
INTERMEZZO: ALLEGRO MA NON TROPPO
ANDANTE CON MOTO
RONDO ALLA ZINGARESE: PRESTO

IDA BIELER Violin JOSHUA FORBES Viola
ROBERT DEMAINE Cello PAVEL NERSESIAN Piano

*LIVESTREAM AVAILABLE



GUEST ARTISTS



ROBERT DEMAINE

Praised by the New York Times as “an artist who makes one hang on every note,” Robert deMaine is the principal cellist of the Los Angeles Philharmonic. A highly sought-after solo artist and chamber musician, he is a frequent guest artist at many of the world’s premier chamber music festivals, including those of Marlboro, Seattle, Great Lakes, Limoges, Heidelberg Schlossfest, Chamberfest Cleveland, Montréal, Seoul’s Ditto Festival, and most recently featured as a soloist at the 2016 Piatigorsky Cello Festival. His playing is noted for its “beautiful singing tone, lapidary technical precision, and a persuasive identification with the idiom of the music at hand.” As a soloist, he performs the great works of the repertoire both old and new from concertos by Haydn, Dvorak, Elgar and Penderecki, as well as more recent works by John Williams and Christopher Theofanidis. As a recitalist the great works for cello and piano as well as the suites of J.S. Bach remain staples of his repertoire, and as one critic noted, his playing was “magnificent” and that his “technical brilliance is surpassed only by the beauty of tones he produces.”

DeMaine has appeared on the stages of Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center, Teatro Colón, Amsterdam’s Concertgebouw, the Berlin Philharmonie, Vienna Konzerthaus, and Moscow’s Tchaikovsky Hall, Auditorium du Louvre, Suntory Hall and the Seoul Arts Center, as well as the Shanghai Oriental Arts Center and Conservatory and London’s Wigmore Hall, among others. He is the recipient of a career grant from the Helen M. Saunders Foundation, and the gift of a Vuillaume cello from the Cecilia Benner Foundation. His principal teachers include Leonard Rose, Stephen Kates, Steven Doane, Paul Katz, Luis García-Renart and Aldo Parisot. Masterclasses and additional studies were undertaken with Bernard Greenhouse, János Starker, Boris Pergamenschikow, Felix Galimir and Jerome Lowenthal.

DeMaine studied at The Juilliard School, the Eastman School of Music, the University of Southern California, Yale University and the Kronberg Academy in Germany. A first-prize winner in many national and international competitions, deMaine was the first cellist ever to win the grand prize at San Francisco’s prestigious Irving M. Klein International Competition for Strings. As soloist, he has collaborated with many of the world’s most distinguished conductors, including Neeme Järvi, Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos, Gustavo Dudamel, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Peter Oundjian, Mark Wigglesworth, Joseph Silverstein, Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla, and Leonard Slatkin, and has performed nearly all the major cello concertos with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, where he served as principal cello for over a decade. DeMaine has also served as guest Principal Cellist of the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Toronto Symphony and the Bergen Philharmonic in Norway. A founding member of the Ehnes Quartet in 2010, he also performs in a piano trio with violinist Hilary Hahn and pianist Natalie Zhu.

Robert deMaine has recorded for Naxos, Chandos, Onyx, CBC, DSO, Elysium, and Capstone and has been featured on the BBC, PBS, NPR’s Performance Today, the Canadian Broadcasting Company, France Musique, and RAI, among others. His recording of the John Williams Cello Concerto (Detroit Symphony, Leonard Slatkin conducting) was released by Naxos in fall 2015. DeMaine is an exclusive Thomastik-Infeld artist, and performs on a cello made in 1684 by Antonio Stradivari, the “General Kyd, ex-Leo Stern.”



PAVEL NERSESSIAN

“His performance brought a veritable roar of approval from the audience,” wrote the Irish Times, after Pavel Nersessian received the 1st Prize in the GPA Dublin International Piano Competition in 1991. Being one of the most remarkable pianists of his generation in Russia, he is known for his ability to play equally convincingly in the whole palette of the piano repertoire. He won prizes in the Beethoven Competition in Vienna in 1985, the Paloma O’Shea Competition in Santander and the Tokyo Competition.

Nersessian was a pupil of the famous Central Music School of the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatoire, where his teacher was Yu. Levin. Later he was a student of the Conservatoire under Prof. S. Dorensky. Upon graduating from the Conservatoire in 1987 with maximum marks he was invited to join the faculty.

Pavel Nersessian has been touring Russia and surrounding states from the age of eight, and has given performances in London, Glasgow, Edinburgh, New York, Los Angeles, Paris, Cannes, Leipzig, Vienna, Budapest, Madrid, Tokyo, Osaka, Seoul, Dublin, Rio de Janeiro, Belgrade, Cairo, Kiev, Beijing and many other cities.

Nersessian, by special invitation from the Kirov and the Perm Ballet, performed solo part in Balanchine’s Ballet Imperial based on the music of Tchaikovsky’s 2nd Piano Concerto with performances in the Kirov, Bolshoi, Chatelet and Covent Garden. He also played a solo part in J. Robbins’ ballet “The concert, or The Perils of Everybody” on the music of Frédéric Chopin.

He is known for his collaboration with chamber music groups and other musicians, such as Borodin and Glinka Quartets, National Symphony Orchestra in Russia, Thomas Sanderling, Tugan Sokhiev, Alexandr Chernushenko, Valeriy Polyansky, Mikhail Agrest, Pascal Moragues, Julius Milkis, Evgeny Petrov, Pavel Kogan, Abel Perreira, Benjamin Schmid, Stepan Yakovich, Ani Kavafian, Andrei Gridchuk, Alena Baeva, Zlatomir Fung, Filip Kopachevsky, Yana Ivanilova, Nina Kogan, Mikhail Berezniitsky, Maxim Emelyanychev, Diana Vishneva, Philippe Cassard, Alexandre Lazarev, Gaik Kazazyan, Lukas Geniushas, Richard Young, Valentin Uriupin, Itamar Zorman, and many others. He has recorded numerous disks with compositions of Chopin, Schumann, Schubert, Brahms, Tchaikovsky, Beethoven, Shostakovich, and he has given masterclasses in the USA, Russia, Estonia, Kazakhstan, Ireland, Germany, Spain, Italy, Korea, Brazil, and Japan.

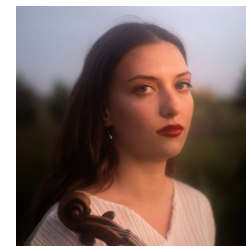
In 2005, Nersessian became a merited artist of the Russian Federation.

For more than 25 years Nersessian has been assisting his teacher, Professor S. Dorensky. He has worked with such talented pupils as N. Lugansky, D. Matsuev, V. Rudenko, O. Kern, A. Shtarkman, Yu. Stadler, I. Tasovats, F. Amirov, M. Amara, A. Dossin, V. Igoshina, A. Mamriev, V. Korchinskaya-Kogan, S. Simonian, Z. Chochieva, G. Chaidze, N. Pisareva, A. Sychev, F. Kopachevsky, P. Kolesnikov, A. Tarasevich-Nikolaev, L. Bernsdorf, P. Elisha, A. Malofeev, A. Kliuchko and many others.

Pavel Nersessian served as a jury member in many international piano competitions: Dublin, Hamamatsu, Sendai, Maria Canals in Barcelona, Hilton Head, Almaty, Valencia, Tbilisi and other competitions.

In 2013, he started to work as a professor of piano at Boston University, and in 2022, Nersessian worked as a professor of piano at the New England Conservatory.

Nersessian’s recent recitals include chamber programs with violinists Kirsti Kuusk, Garry Levinson, Daniil Kogan as well as singers Ilya Silchukou and Julia Lezhneva.



DELPHINE SKENE

Delphine Skene is a French-Canadian violinist based in New York City. An enthusiastic chamber musician, Skene has collaborated with artists Ida Bieler, Colin Carr, David Shifrin and Peter Wiley, among others. She won a Bronze medal at the 2022 Fischhoff Chamber Music competition, a special prize at the 2022 Wigmore Hall International String Quartet Competition and 1st prize of the Ackerman Competition with the Pelia Quartet.

She has recently performed at the Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival, La Jolla SummerFest, Jeunesses Musicales Deutschland and Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center Education. As a soloist, Delphine has won top prizes at the Rosen-Schaffel, MANC, and MTNA competitions. She has appeared in recital at the Place-des-Arts in Montreal, and has performed in festivals across North America and Europe. Skene is currently completing her D.M.A. under the tutelage of Philip Setzer and the members of the Emerson String Quartet at Stony Brook University. Skene holds both a Bachelor of Music and a Master of Music from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts (UNCSA) where she studied with Ida Bieler.

Delphine plays instruments generously on loan from Animex, inc. in Drummondville, Quebec.

FACULTY



JORDAN BAK

Award-winning Jamaican-American violinist Jordan Bak has achieved international acclaim as a trailblazing artist, praised for his radiant stage presence, dynamic interpretations, and fearless power. Critics have described him as “an exciting new voice in Classical performance” (I Care If You Listen), “a powerhouse musician, with a strong voice and compelling sound” (The Whole Note) and lauded his “haunting lyrical grace” (Gramophone). The 2021 YCAT Robey Artist and a top laureate of the 2020 Sphinx Competition, Bak is also a Grand Prize winner and Audience Prize recipient of the 2019 Concert Artists Guild Victor Elmaleh Competition, the recipient of the 2019 Samuel Sanders Tel Aviv Museum Prize and the 2019 John White Special Prize from the Tertis International Viola Competition. Other recent accolades include being named one of Classic FM’s “30 Under 30” Rising Stars, Musical America’s New Artist of the Month and being a featured artist for WQXR’s inaugural Artist Propulsion Lab.

Bak’s enthusiastically-received debut album IMPULSE (Bright Shiny Things) was released in May 2022, garnering over one million streams on major digital media platforms and featuring new compositions by Tyson Gholston Davis, Toshio Hosokawa, Anne Leilehua Lanzilotti, Quinn Mason, Jeffrey Mumford, and Joan Tower. A proud new music advocate, Bak gave the world premieres of Kaija Saariaho’s *Du gick, flög* for viola and mezzo-soprano, Jessica Meyer’s *Excessive Use of Force* for solo viola and *On fire...no, after you* for viola, mezzo-soprano and piano, and Augusta Read Thomas’ *Upon Wings of Words* for string quartet and soprano. He has additionally championed works by H. Leslie Adams, Esteban Zapata Blanco, Carlos Carillo, Caroline Shaw, and Alvin Singleton.

Bak has appeared as soloist with such orchestras as Sarasota Orchestra, London Mozart Players, New York Classical Players, Juilliard Orchestra and Brandon Hill Chamber Orchestra among others, and has performed under such esteemed conductors as Howard Griffiths, Stephen Mulligan, Keith Lockhart, Gerard Schwarz, and Ewa Strusińska. As a recitalist and chamber musician, he has been heard at some of the world’s greatest performance venues including Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, the Concertgebouw, Wigmore Hall, Jordan Hall, Merkin Concert Hall, Princeton University Concerts, Perelman Theater at The Kimmel Center, Elgar Concert Hall, and Helsinki Musiikkitalo. Bak’s recent performances include recitals at Kravis Center, Wiltshire Music Centre, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Harriman-Jewell Series, Lichfield Festival, and Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival.

In 2023 Bak joined the faculty of the UNCSA.



IDA BIELER

Described by Fanfare Magazine as “a specialist in everything, from Bach to new-music premieres...” violinist Ida Bieler is renowned as a musician of extraordinary scope. A winner of prestigious competitions on three continents, she has enjoyed an exceptional solo, collaborative and recording career worldwide, and is one of the most sought-after teachers of her generation.

Bieler has performed the canon of major violin concertos with over forty orchestras on four continents, including the premiere of Penderecki’s second violin concerto under the direction of the composer. Her groundbreaking achievement as the first American woman appointed concertmaster of a major European orchestra, the “Gürzenich Orchestra” of Cologne, led to a major ensemble career in Germany’s legendary Melos String Quartet and the acclaimed Xyrion Piano Trio. Over the course of a celebrated performing career spanning more than thirty years she has also produced an impressive catalogue of solo and chamber recordings with such labels as Naxos, MDG, Harmonia Mundi Musique, Coviello and Genuin. Awards and prizes have included the Cannes “Classical” award, the Echo “Klassik,” Fono Forum’s “Stern des Monats,” and Strad’s “Chamber Music Selection.”

Bieler has performed and been a frequent guest artist in major international festivals, including the Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival, the Beethovenfest Bonn, the Music Academy of the West and the Ravinia and Marlboro festivals. One of today’s preeminent pedagogues, Bieler has held full professorships in Germany, England, Austria, and the US, and leads annual masterclasses worldwide. Bieler’s outstanding students are international prize laureates, thriving chamber musicians, and winners of positions in major orchestras. Since 2013, she has been a faculty-artist of violin at UNCSA, and is a new faculty member of NYU’s Steinhardt School of Music and Performing Arts.



KEVIN LAWRENCE

Praised by The Times, London, for his “vibrant intensity,” violinist Kevin Lawrence has consistently elicited superlative responses for his performances in major musical centers of the United States and Europe. His assertive style and strong musical personality have thrilled audiences at the National Gallery of Art in Washington; Merkin Hall and Lincoln Center in New York; and in Chicago, Houston, London, Amsterdam, Frankfurt, Rome, Prague, St. Petersburg and Moscow. Lawrence has premiered works by contemporary American compositional voices Laura Kaminsky, Judith Shatin, Lawrence Dillon, Michael Rothkopf and Evan Chambers. His recordings of American sonatas and chamber music on the New World and Bridge labels won significant critical recognition and were named as Critics Choice by American Record Guide.

Lawrence’s release of the complete violin works of the American composer Arthur Foote on the New World label was “highly recommended” as “beautifully played” by The Washington Post, and heard on the Ken Burns series “Not for Ourselves Alone,” broadcast on PBS. His second CD of American violin sonatas, released recently by New World, was hailed as “vital playing” and “a labor of love” by ClassicsToday.com.

Lawrence studied with Ivan Galamian and Felix Galimir at The Juilliard School and with Josef Gingold at the Meadowmount School in Westport, New York. In 1980, Galamian appointed Lawrence to the Meadowmount faculty, where he taught for 14 summers. After serving as dean and then artistic director of the Killington Music Festival, he founded Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival in Vermont in 2004; at the conclusion of the 2021 season, he announced his retirement as the festival’s artistic director. Lawrence has given master classes throughout the United States and in Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Romania, Slovenia, Russia, Canada, Israel, Venezuela, Costa Rica, China, Thailand and Korea. He is currently the chair of the string department at UNCSA, which recognized him with its Excellence in Teaching Award in 2007.



DMITRI SHTEINBERG

A native of Moscow, Dmitri Shteinberg holds a doctorate in piano performance from the Manhattan School of Music, and is currently Clifton Matthews Distinguished Professor of Piano and department chair at the UNCSA. His performance credentials include Jerusalem Symphony, The Italian Filarmonica Marchigiana, Israel Chamber Orchestra, Israel Camerata Orchestra and Porto National Symphony under the batons of Massimo Pradella, Roger Nierenberg, Florin Totan and David Shallon, among others. In the United States, he appeared with the Baton Rouge, Richmond, Charlottesville, Salisbury and Manassas symphony orchestras. Shteinberg was a guest artist at the Mostly Mozart Festival, Summit Music Festival, Music Festival of the Hamptons, the “Oleg Kagan” Festival in Germany, Festival Aix-en-Provence in France and Open Chamber Music in Cornwall, England. Chamber music appearances include the Stern Auditorium at Carnegie Hall, The Kennedy Center, The Kimmel Center in Philadelphia, Alice Tully Hall in New York and the Saunders Theatre in Boston.



BROOKS WHITEHOUSE

UNCSA cello professor Brooks Whitehouse has performed and taught throughout the United States and abroad. As a member of the Guild Trio, Whitehouse won USIA Artistic Ambassador and Chamber Music Yellow Springs competitions, and he has toured extensively in the United States, Europe, Canada and Australia. The trio has been a frequent feature on National Public Radio’s “Performance Today,” and has also appeared on the University of Missouri’s public television series “Premiere Performances,” and “Front Row Center” on KETC-TV9 in St. Louis.

He is the co-creator with Paul Sharpe of the popular cello/bass duo Low & Lower which has performed together as soloists with the Boise Philharmonic and the Winston-Salem Symphony and in recital at Interlochen, the University of Michigan, Arizona MusicFest, Garth Newell Music Festival, Mallarme Chamber Players, “The Martha Bassett Show” and live on the radio on WGBH’s “Drive Time Live” and WUNC’s “The State of Things with Frank Stasio.”

Whitehouse has held fellowships at the Blossom and Bach Aria festivals, and he was winner of the Cabot Prize as a fellow at the Tanglewood Music Center. He currently teaches and performs during the summer at the Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival. Whitehouse has appeared as guest artist with the American Chamber Players, Villa Musica (Germany), the Ciompi Quartet, The Apple Hill Chamber Players, the New Zealand String Quartet and the Garth Newell Piano Quartet, with whom he appeared in Carnegie Hall as part of their 40th anniversary celebration.

Before joining the faculty of UNCSA, Whitehouse held professorships at the University of Florida and the University of North Carolina Greensboro (UNCG). While at UNCG, he was artistic director of three international cello celebrations honoring the legacy of cellists Luigi Silva, Bernard Greenhouse and Laszlo Varga, and hosted some of the world’s finest cellists, including Janos Starker, Steven Doane, Joel Krosnick, Timothy Eddy and Paul Katz. Whitehouse currently serves on the board of the Greenhouse Foundation, an organization dedicated to creating opportunities for aspiring young cellists around the world.

STUDENTS



SOPHIE ANDERSON

Sophie Anderson is a first-year graduate student at UNCSA, where she studies violin with Ida Bieler and Janet Orenstein. She is an active performer in ensembles at UNCSA and other organizations such as the Western Piedmont Symphony and the Salisbury Symphony, where she frequently plays as a substitute violinist. In past summers, she has attended Eastern Music Festival, Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival, and the International Chamber Music Festival of Southern Germany.

Anderson graduated from the UNCSA high school program in 2018 and subsequently attended Bard College and Conservatory for the first two years of her undergraduate study, which enabled her to pursue a variety of academic interests alongside her musical studies. She returned to UNCSA in 2020 and graduated in 2023 with a Bachelor of Music and a German Studies minor. In addition to practicing and performing, Anderson enjoys learning about aural skills pedagogy and tutoring undergraduate students as part of her position as aural skills graduate teaching assistant.



GUSTAVO ANTONIACOMI

Cellist Gustavo Antoniacomi has been on stages across the U.S., Europe and South America both as a chamber musician and a recitalist. Besides his experience with the 19th- and 20th-century repertoire, Antoniacomi is a baroque cello specialist and has performed with the Boston Early Music Festival Orchestra, Les Arts Florecent, Juilliard Baroque and other mainstream historical ensembles. Antoniacomi has recently graduated from The Juilliard School where he studied with cellist Phoebe Carrai, and he is now pursuing a Performance Artist Certificate at the UNCSA.

He has shared the stage with conductors such as Gustavo Dudamel, John Williams, Pablo Heras Cassado, Richard Egarr, Masaaki Suzuki and William Christie, among others. Antoniacomi has worked as a mentor at The Juilliard pre-College program and was part of the faculty team at the Sphinx Performance Academy summer program in New York City for 2022 and 2023.



ELLIE DIXON

Ellie Dixon, age 17, is a high school senior from Charlotte, North Carolina. She began playing violin at the age of five and currently studies with Kevin Lawrence at UNCSA. In 2019, Dixon won the Arts+ String Orchestra Camp Solo Competition and was a Debbie Abels Strings Scholar. Dixon has won prizes in both the junior and senior divisions of the Symphony Guild of Charlotte Young Artists Competition and was a finalist in the 2022 Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra Youth Concerto Competition. In past summers, Dixon has attended the Meadowmount School of Music, East Carolina University's Four Seasons Chamber Music Festival, and the Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival. When she is not practicing, she enjoys reading, going on walks, and sharing her music at retirement homes and at church.



JOSHUA FORBES

Joshua Forbes, a natural-born violist, was raised in Durham, North Carolina. As a child he was always interested in music. At the age of seven he started out as a singer for a music school called Cinitapp located in Raleigh N.C. By being a part of this team it piqued his interest in the arts. His true passion for the viola began in middle school at Durham School of the Arts. He was first introduced to the viola by the music teacher Boyd Gibson. That is when Joshua fell in love with music. During 2017, Forbes decided it was time to pursue music as a career and began to study under Simon Ertz. In 2018, Forbes took a leap of faith and decided to attend UNCSA for high school. As a high school student, Joshua studied viola with Ulrich Eichenauer. A native of Durham, North Carolina, Joshua began his studies on the viola at the age of eleven. He is pursuing his lifelong dream of becoming a soloist, and professional chamber musician. Since then he has attended summer intensives across the United States: Northern Lights Music Festival, Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival, and Landesakademie für Musizierende. He's also been able to play under several professional conductors. When not performing, Forbes spends his free time as a traveling musician.

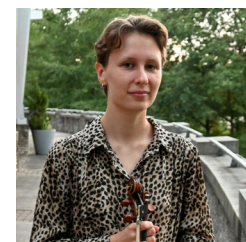


ERIC HOANG

Born in 2003, Eric Hoang is an American pianist currently holding a full scholarship to the UNCSA studying under Dmitri Vorobiev. Mostly self-taught, he met Vorobiev when he was 16, and officially began studying with him at 17 finding his true passion. Hoang was most recently featured on "The Art of Piano," a PBS Premier Stage documentary which aired January 4, 2024, for his interpretations of Mozart and his insight on life as a pianist. In 2023, Hoang was also a guest on NPR's WUSF 89.7 Live Radio for his interpretations of Schubert.

Hoang's heavily anticipated upcoming project includes Chopin's gargantuan Op.28, 24 Preludes in collaboration with local North Carolina artist, May Mckinney. In 2022, Hoang won First Prize at the North Carolina MTNA Young Artist Competition. He also attended the Vivace International Music Festival in 2021 and 2022; and attended Rebecca Penneys Piano Festival in 2022 and 2023, an exclusive tuition-free residency. In 2023, he was awarded a grant from the Thomas S. Kenan Institute for the Arts to cover all summer projects ventures for that year. He is also the recipient of the John and Jane Gehring Piano Scholarship, the Robert and Elizabeth Strickland scholarship, the Ralph P. Hanes Endowment Scholarship, and the first pianist to ever have won the Fuller Blunt Memorial Scholarship.

Hoang has had masterclasses with many of the world's leading performers, such as Stanislav Ioudenitch, Roberto Plano, Yakov Kasman, Antonio Pompa-Baldi, and more. As a budding teacher, Hoang is the youngest person to ever have been awarded a piano faculty position at the UNCSA Community Music School, and currently maintains a studio of about twelve students.



ARINA KOMAROVA

Arina Komarova was born in Saint-Petersburg, Russia. She began to study the violin at the age of six and started to play viola in 2015. Komarova graduated from Moscow Chopin College in 2019 and continued her education at Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory before transferring to UNCSA.

Komarova has a rich orchestral background, having played in an international children's orchestra in Norway in 2015 and as a member of the British-Russian Youth Orchestra in 2020. Participating in a film music orchestra since 2022, she performed in different cities, including Moscow, Kazan, Ekaterinburg, Russia and Antalya, Turkey.

Komarova's musical interests range from baroque to modern classical music, and she aspires to enrich her repertoire with uncommonly played pieces. Also, she enjoys adapting pieces, originally written for other instruments, for viola — her favorite adaptation so far is Romanian dances by Bella Bartok, which she first performed in Moscow in 2020. Besides her professional interests, Komarova likes listening to rock music, watching movies and traveling.



GABRIEL MENDOZA

Currently in pursuit of a Performance Artist Certificate at UNCSA under the mentorship of Kevin Lawrence, Gabriel Mendoza's education has included a master's degree in violin performance from the University of South Florida under the guidance of Carolyn Stuart, and a bachelor's in music composition from the University of Santo Tomas as a student of Herminigildo Ranera. While studying at the University of South Florida, Mendoza was a member of the Rebecca Penneys Chamber Collective, an ambassadorship for strings and piano chamber music in Tampa, where he also served as coach of the Tampa Metropolitan Youth Orchestra and as a guest instructor for high schools in the area. As a composer, his works have been heard in venues such as the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Fellowship Series and the Tampa Museum of Art, and were showcased by the Asian Development Foundation College Symphony Orchestra and the Manila Philharmonic. Before coming to study in the U.S., he performed regularly with the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, the country's leading orchestra and one of the top musical ensembles in the Asia-Pacific region. This year he has served as concertmaster of the UNCSA Symphony Orchestra, and won a fellowship with the Chamber Orchestra of the Triangle, joining them in performances during their 2023-2024 season. Mendoza has performed in chamber music master classes for Axel Strauss, Kim Kashkashian, Astrid Schween, David Perry and Victoria Chiang.

STUDENTS



RUSLAN USAEV

A native of Moscow, Ruslan Usaev is a clarinetist performing in the French tradition of Guy Deplus. Looking for growth and development, Usaev has taken part in master classes led by Philippe Cuper, Dmitry Rasul-Kareyev, Anthony McGill, Anna Komarova, Imani Winds, Sergey Eletskiy and Charles Neidich.

Usaev's educational journey began at the Gnessin Musical College under the guidance of Evgeny Varavko. Currently, he is pursuing further studies at UNCSA with Oskar Espina Ruiz, where he has received a full scholarship.

Performing on a number of stages across Moscow and on concert tours throughout Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkey, and the United States, has allowed Usaev to connect with diverse audiences and showcase his interpretations. In 2022, Usaev was appointed as a soloist of the Moscow Philharmonic.

Throughout his career, Ruslan has taken part in various competitions. Some of his recent accomplishments include top placements at the International Clarinetists Competition in Kazan, Russia (2019), the XI International Competition "Music and Word" in Moscow (2022), the X International Chamber Music and Piano Ensembles Competition "Music of a Duet" in Moscow (2022), and the Manhattan International Music Competition in New York, USA (2023).

In addition to solo endeavors, Usaev actively engages in chamber music performances. Collaborating with wide range of instruments, he performs diverse music from various epochs, including the exploration of rarely performed pieces. Notably, he recently collaborated with award-winning flutist Ilya Perepelitsa, resulting in exploring and recording of works by A. Jolivet, R. Muczynski and H. Villa-Lobos.

Usaev has more than five years of music teaching experience. He teaches clarinet to students of any age and level, holds a teaching diploma from the Gnessin Musical College, and conducts lessons in Russian, English and French. Moreover, he regularly holds master classes in Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkey, and the United States. Currently, Usaev is working on a clarinet textbook and a series of videos on YouTube called "Clarinet Essentials."



DONOVAN VEGA

An American cellist from Sarasota, Florida, Vega strongly believes in music's ability to bring communities together and is passionate about exploring new ways to engage with audience members. He enjoys programming works from traditionally underrepresented composers, as well as studying contemporary music and collaborating with living composers. Currently Vega is a first-year masters student at UNCSA with a focus in performance. He loves collaborating with other artists, and spends most of his summers studying chamber music at a number of different festivals. As an active member of the orchestral community in North Carolina, Vega plays with the Winston-Salem Symphony, Western Piedmont Symphony and The Chamber Orchestra of the Triangle. He completed his Undergraduate studies at the University of South Florida and his past teachers include Scott Kluksdahl and Helga Winold. In his spare time Vega enjoys cooking, making sourdough bread and hiking.

MEMORIES FROM OCTOBER 2023



RUTH KELLEY, ALLISON GAGNON, MARIA SERKIN,
LAWRENCE DILLON



DMITRI SHTEINBERG, ADRIAN GONZALES, ALEX FITERSTEIN,
DAVID BYRD-MARROW, BARON THOR YOUNG



HAOWEN CHANG, KIM KASHKASHIAN, GUSTAVO ANTONIACOMI,
AXEL STRAUSS



IEVA JOKUBAVICIUTE, SOPHIE LYMAN, KEVIN LAWRENCE,
ERIC KOONTZ, OSKAR ESPINA-RUIZ, DAVID BYRD-MARROW



DMITRI VOROBIEV, KIM KASHKASHIAN, SEBASTIAN LECZKY,
AXEL STRAUSS, BRANT TAYLOR

UPCOMING

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UNCSA SCHOOL OF DANCE AND UNCSA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

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