

**2018 PIERRE MONTEUX SCHOOL  
& MUSIC FESTIVAL**

**CONDUCTOR & INSTRUMENTALIST BIOGRAPHIES**

A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT  
FOR  
SEASON TICKET SUBSCRIBERS

## CONDUCTORS

**Alex Amsel** (2<sup>nd</sup> year, bassoon), an Argentinian-born conductor, currently serves as the Assistant Conductor and Choir Master for the Peabody Conservatory Opera while completing his studies under the tutelage of Marin Alsop at the Peabody Conservatory, and has previously served as Faculty Conductor for the Philadelphia International Music Festival. He is the winner of the Miami Music Festival Conducting Competition and appeared at the New World Center with the Miami Music Festival Orchestra. As a bassoonist, Amsel has appeared with the Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra and held positions with the Boston Philharmonic, Austin Symphony Orchestra, and Breckenridge Music Festival. When not studying music, Amsel is a Golden Retriever and wine aficionado.

**Antoine T. Clark** (4<sup>th</sup> year, clarinet) is the Artistic and Music Director of the McConnell Arts Center Chamber Orchestra in Worthington, Ohio. He was a winner in the 2017 International Conductor's Workshop and Competition (Atlanta, Georgia) and during summer 2017, he served as Assistant Conductor with the Gateways Music Festival at the Eastman School of Music, assisting Michael Morgan and conducting a series of festival performances. Clark has also served as Music Director of the Wayne State College Orchestra in Wayne, Nebraska; Assistant Conductor of the Ohio State University Orchestra; and Artistic and Music Director of the Capital City Chamber Players (Columbus, Ohio). He is currently Lecturer of Music at Ohio Northern University, where he is Music Director of the university's Wind Orchestra, and Adjunct Instructor of Woodwinds at Kenyon College. He has been accepted into the Chicago Sinfonietta's Project Inclusion Conducting Fellowship program.

**Ryan D. Farris** (3<sup>rd</sup> year, cello) is a conductor, composer, cellist, and multi-instrumentalist originally from Boulder, Colorado. He received his BM in cello performance and composition from the University of Colorado, where he studied conducting with Gary Lewis and Nicholas Carthy. Ryan was a composer fellow at the 2015 CU New Opera Workshop, and a visiting artist at the University of Texas, Austin in 2017 as a string-quartet arranger. Ryan is currently living in Seattle, pursuing his master's in cello performance at the University of Washington, studying with Sæunn Thorsteinsdóttir. Ryan currently serves as principal cellist of both the UW Symphony and Seattle Philharmonic Strings. Ryan also plays viola da gamba and baroque cello with the UW Baroque Ensemble, timpani and percussion in the UW Campus Philharmonia, and freelances as a traditional Irish fiddle and pennywhistle player. Ryan enjoys skiing, mountain-climbing, playing with dogs, and a refreshing pint of Guinness.

**Daniel Feng** (1<sup>st</sup> year, piano) is a native of Hong Kong. A prolific pianist and conductor, he founded and is now Music Director of the International Chamber Orchestra of America (ICOA). ICOA's recent concert, *New World, New Music*, features Feng's commission of Bruce Adolphes's virtual reality integrated new work *Dvorshock*, and also violinist Kevin Lin, co-leader of the London Philharmonic. Feng is a graduate of Xinghai Conservatory, Juilliard Pre-College, and Mannes School of Music. His teachers include Pavlina Dokovska, Michael Adelson, Michael Charry and Maurice Peress. Feng focuses his efforts towards the greater integration of classical music into our daily lives.

**Tonatiuh Garcia** (2<sup>nd</sup> year, viola) is equally skilled as a solo, chamber, orchestral violist, and conductor. He has been a member of the Xalapa Symphony Orchestra since August 2002. As an orchestral violist, Tonatiuh has performed with the Youth Chamber Orchestra of Veracruz, National Symphony in Mexico, Philharmonic Orchestra of Acapulco, Academy Orchestra from Gran Theater of Liceu (Barcelona), and National Youth Catalonia Orchestra. Tonatiuh earned his Bachelor of Music degree from University of Veracruz. He holds a Master of Music degree in Conducting from Texas Tech University where he studied with David Becker, and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from TTU, where he studied under Renee Skerik, Katrin Meidell, and Kimberly Sparr. Tonatiuh received postgraduate degrees from Liceu Conservatory of Barcelona, before pursuing his Master of Musicology at University of Granada concentrating in Cultural Politics and Management at the Autonomous Metropolitan University in Mexico.

**Yoona Jeong** (1<sup>st</sup> year, violin) will be pursuing a Doctorate Degree in Orchestral Conducting at University of Texas at Austin this August. Yoona graduated with honors from Pusan Arts High School as a violin performance major. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Musicology at Seoul National University where she graduated summa cum laude and received the chancellor's award. In 2014, she matriculated at the University of Southern California and earned a Master's degree in Choral Music at the Thornton School of Music. In 2018, she earned a second Master's Degree in Orchestral Conducting at Baylor University where she was the graduate conductor, manager and head librarian of the Baylor Symphony Orchestra.

**Jonathan Moser** (1<sup>st</sup> year, violin) has loved music since childhood when he would play under the family piano listening to the classics. Now an active performer, Mr. Moser concertizes in recitals, with Chamber Ensembles, and Symphony Orchestras. This season, he earned tenure as Principal Second Violin with the Erie Philharmonic. During his studies, Mr. Moser discovered his love of conducting. This Fall, Mr. Moser begins his third year as music faculty at Mercyhurst University, and his first full year as Artistic Director of the Erie Junior Philharmonic. Summers, he is the Orchestra Program Director for the Philadelphia International Music Festival. He has held positions at Kutztown University, the Wilmington Community Orchestra, and Westminster College. Mr. Moser has worked with many outstanding pedagogues including Dara Morales, Katie McLin, James Stern, Linda Cerone, and Ronda Cole and has performed in masterclasses with Andres Cardenas, Jaime Laredo, Claude Frank, Sylvia Rosenberg, Shlomo Mintz, and Sergiu Luca.

**John Norine, Jr.** (10<sup>th</sup> year, cello) John is a native of upstate New York, currently living north of Dallas, TX. He is a graduate of the University of North Texas with a Doctor of Musical Arts and Master's degree in Music Performance (Orchestral Conducting), where he studied under Monteux alumni Anshel Brusilow and Clay Couturiaux. He also holds a Bachelor of Music in Theory from the State University of New York at Potsdam, where he studied conducting with Christopher Lanz and Timothy Topolewski. He works during the year as a freelance music director and conductor for musical theatre in the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

**David S. Platt** (2<sup>nd</sup> year, violin/viola) hails from Cleveland, Ohio, where he maintains an active performing and teaching career. David has conducted a variety of orchestras from around the world, including Italy, Greece, Sweden, Bulgaria, and throughout the United States. As a dedicated educator, he conducts the Baldwin Wallace Youth

Orchestras and works with the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra and Akron Youth Orchestras. Notably, David is a Visiting Assistant Professor at Oberlin College & Conservatory, where he teaches courses in undergraduate conducting. Formerly the Assistant Conductor of the Austin Symphony Orchestra, he presently serves as Assistant Conductor of the Firelands Symphony Orchestra (Ohio) to Carl Topilow, and was named a Semi-Finalist for the 2016-2017 New World Symphony Conducting Fellowship in Miami. Aside from music, David enjoys Italian language and culture, kayaking and hiking, traveling, and philosophy.

**Hannah Reitz** (1<sup>st</sup> year, violin) enjoys a varied career as a performer, teacher, and conductor. She has worked for years as a string coach, educator, and conductor with various young string symphonies including Minnesota All-State Orchestra, St. Olaf Music Camp Orchestra, the Lincoln Youth Symphony, UNH Youth Symphony, and Seacoast Youth Symphony Orchestra. Currently, Hannah is Assistant Director of the UNH Youth Symphony Orchestra, Resident Artist of Violin/Viola at the University of New Hampshire, a UNH SYMS instructor, and Music Director of the Seacoast Youth Symphony Orchestra. Hannah graduated with distinction from St. Olaf College in 2010 (B.M. Violin Performance) and served as concertmaster of the St. Olaf Orchestra. In 2013 she graduated with honors from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Master of Music program. Hannah has been a member of the AIMS in Graz Festival Orchestra, National Repertory Orchestra, Charleston Symphony and Lincoln Symphony.

**Kyle Ritenauer** (7<sup>th</sup> year, percussion) enjoys a diverse musical career in New York City, where he founded the Uptown Philharmonic. Kyle has worked in the role of cover conductor for the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, and the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra. As an instrumentalist, Ritenauer has served as Principal Percussionist of the Hudson Valley Philharmonic since 2011, and regularly plays with numerous orchestras including the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra, the Phoenix Symphony Orchestra, and the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra, among others. Kyle has also played on Broadway several times in shows such as *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* and *Pippin*. Passionate about education, Ritenauer has worked with the New York Philharmonic's Very Young Composers program and served as Artistic Director of the Bridge Arts Ensemble. This Fall, Kyle will attend The Juilliard School as the Bruno Walter Conducting Fellow studying with David Robertson.

**Allion Salvador** (3<sup>rd</sup> year, violin; 2<sup>nd</sup> year, conductor) serves as concertmaster of the Seattle Philharmonic, Seattle Metropolitan Chamber Orchestra, Sammamish Symphony, and assistant concertmaster of the Yakima Symphony. He has worked with the Aspen Festival and Opera Orchestras, Tacoma Symphony, Seattle Collaborative Orchestra, Pacific Northwest Ballet, City Opera Ballet, and many more. At the start of a promising conducting career, Mr. Salvador holds assistant conductor positions at the Seattle Philharmonic, Sammamish Symphony, and Seattle Collaborative Orchestra. He is the founder and music director of the Seattle Philharmonic Strings, a chamber orchestra promoting potent music in free community concerts. Mr. Salvador has studied violin with Ron Patterson and David Halen, and conducting with Ludovic Morlot and Adam Stern.

**Duo Shen** (3<sup>rd</sup> year) earned his BM and MM in violin performance at the University of Delaware with Xiang Gao. He is pursuing his DMA at the University of Maryland under

Dr. James Stern. Shen's conducting teachers include James Ross, James Anderson, Jorge Mester, and Michael Jinbo. He was selected as one of eight participants worldwide for the 2018 Ithaca International Conducting Masterclass with Larry Rachleff. He has conducted in workshops with Mark Gibson, Matthew Halls, Tito Muñoz, Samuel Jones, Donald Portnoy, Victoria Bond, and Diane Wittry. As a violinist, Shen was second prizewinner of 2011 Delaware National String Competition and won the University of Delaware concerto competition in his freshman year. Shen has served as guest conductor and Dean of International Students at the Master Players Festival. Mr. Shen is violinist and co-founder of the Beijing-based, nationally touring trio "Tongyan." This June, Mr. Shen led the University of Delaware Symphony Orchestra as guest conductor and violinist on tour throughout China, sharing the stage with "6wire", Chen Zimbalista, and James Anderson.

Dr. **Shen Yiwen** (4<sup>th</sup> year, piano) currently serves as Assistant Conductor of the Prince George's Philharmonic. Previous positions include Assistant Conductor of the National Ballet of China Symphony Orchestra, Prep Conductor of the Juilliard Orchestra, Co-Director of the University of Maryland Repertoire Orchestra, and Assistant Conductor of the school's Symphony Orchestra. As a composer, Yiwen's music has been performed in all six habitable continents and hailed as "a jaunty, vibrantly scored canvas" and "with a lucid, economical lyricism" by the *New York Times*. He has had works commissioned and premiered by the National Ballet of China, the Albany, American, Beijing, Minnesota, and Nashville Symphony Orchestras. For more information, please visit [www.shenyiwen.com](http://www.shenyiwen.com).

**Guillermo Villareal** (4<sup>th</sup> Year, percussion), a Mexican orchestra conductor, has conducted over forty professional symphony orchestras including the National Symphony of Mexico, OFUNAM, among others. He holds a Doctorate in Arts with specialty in Music from the National Institute of the Arts in Cuba. Guillermo is associate professor at the Facultad de Música of the UANL in Monterrey, where he leads an academic research group. He is the chief conductor of the Sinfonietta UANL, artistic director of the OSJNL, and associate conductor of the Symphony Orchestra of Santiago de Cuba. He enjoys spending time with his family and cooking diverse dishes.

**Wayland Whitney** (2<sup>nd</sup> year, viola) began conducting in 2009 after co-founding the Placer County Youth Orchestra in Roseville, CA. While conducting the PCYO and maintaining a studio of private viola, violin, and piano students, he earned his B.A. in music performance from UC Davis and graduated in 2015. In 2016, he left the PCYO to become music director and conductor of the Music in the Mountains Youth Orchestra in Nevada City, CA, as well as Music Specialist for Yuba River Charter, a Waldorf school in Nevada City. In 2018 he conceived and conducted the Auburn Symphony's 19th annual School Tour program, as well as making his first foray into conducting musicals with the State Theater in Auburn, CA. In Fall of 2018, he will begin a Master's program in Orchestral Conducting at SUNY Fredonia. When he's not in rehearsal, Wayland enjoys homemade pizza, gardening, printmaking, and sangria.

**Xuecong Xia** (1<sup>st</sup> year, violin) currently serves as assistant conductor at the Cleveland Institute of Music Orchestra and Opera Theater while pursuing a Master of Music degree in Orchestral Conducting and Violin Performance. Additionally, Xuecong makes regular appearances at the New Music Series directed by Dr. Keith Fitch at CIM. Xuecong has worked with many prominent conductors around the globe, including

Kenneth Kiesler, JoAnn Falletta, Romolo Gessi, Markand Thakar, Peter Stark, Brett Mitchell, and Jørgen Fuglebak. As an accomplished violinist, Xuecong has served as concertmaster of the Cleveland Institute of Music Orchestra and performed as a soloist with orchestras in China and Australia.

## **CONDUCTING ASSOCIATE**

**Tiffany Lu** (2012-2015, violin; 2<sup>nd</sup> year Conducting Associate) currently resides in College Park, MD, where she is a doctoral candidate at the University of Maryland. Tiffany is the conductor of the University of Maryland Repertoire Orchestra and assistant conductor of the University of Maryland Symphony Orchestra and the Maryland Opera Studio. Tiffany is Music Director for the Wilmington Community Orchestra in Delaware and assistant conductor of the Capital City Symphony in Washington, D.C. Tiffany has become an active freelance musician in the DC-Metro area collaborating with multidisciplinary artists to create genre-bending orchestral concerts. Recently, she has also served as producer on recordings with the Virginia Symphony Orchestra and the Smithsonian Chamber Players.

Previous positions include cover conductor and principal librarian at the 2016 and 2017 National Orchestral Institute, and conductor of the Young Artists' orchestra at the DC Youth Orchestra Program. Tiffany has also been assistant conductor at the Tampa Metropolitan Youth Orchestras and at Ithaca College, where she earned her masters' degree studying with Dr. Jeffery Meyer. She has performed in master classes led by Mark Stringer, Carl St. Clair, Alan Gilbert, Larry Rachleff, David Effron, Lior Shambadal, Mark Shapiro, Marin Alsop, and Victor Yampolsky.

Tiffany grew up in Tampa, Florida and regularly performs as a violinist with the Annapolis Symphony Orchestra and the Florida Orchestra.

# INSTRUMENTALISTS

## FLUTE

**Patricia Anselmo** (1<sup>st</sup> year) has completed her first year of her Masters' Degree in flute performance at Mason Gross School of the Arts under the instruction of Mr. Bart Feller. A life-long resident of Rockaway Township, New Jersey she began private flute lessons at the age of 11, actively involved in the Rockaway Township Music Program. Patricia earned her Bachelors Degree in classical flute performance at Rutgers University. As the winner of the NJ Flute Society Competition in May 2017 she was the guest artist with the Central Jersey Symphony Orchestra performing the Mozart Concerto in G Major at Drew University. In addition to being on the teaching faculty at the Most Music School in Metuchen, Patricia also teaches privately. She has attended many flute masterclasses from summer 2014-2017. Patti's flute teachers include Pao-Chieh Tseng, Kaoru Hinata, and Keith Underwood.

**Sophia Ennocenti** (2<sup>nd</sup> year) is a recent graduate of Rutgers University, earning a master's degree in flute performance under the tutelage of Mr. Bart Feller. A native of Rochester, NY, she studied at the Eastman School of Music's prestigious pre-college program. She went on to attend Ithaca College where she earned a bachelor's degree in flute performance and music education. Sophia actively participates in festivals and masterclasses which have brought her to such locations as New York City, Estes Park, Carmel Valley, Paris, Salzburg, Florence, and numerous other cities abroad. She is an active chamber musician and has commissioned several works as part of the flute-percussion duo "Ohm Duo." Sophia is currently on teaching faculty at Rutgers University Extension Division. Principal teachers have included Jan Angus, Wendy Herbener-Mehne and Claudia Anderson.

**Michael Huerta** (1<sup>st</sup> year) is currently an undergraduate at The Eastman School of Music where he studies under the soloist and former principal flute of the Rochester Philharmonic, Bonita Boyd. He is active in ensembles such as the Eastman Wind Orchestra, Symphony Orchestra, and the "Con Fuoco Wind Quintet." Michael also freelances for initiatives like Artists Unlimited, performing pit orchestras on shows such as "The Wizard of Oz." He also attended the 2013 season on the Sewanee Summer Music Festival where he studied under Patricia George while playing in the Sewanee Symphony and Cumberland Orchestra. Previous teachers that have led Michael to success today include Jamie Hunt, and Jennifer Keeney.

**Erika Rohrberg** (1<sup>st</sup> year) is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Music degree in Flute Performance and Music Management at The Hartt School, where she is a student of Janet Arms. While at school, she is an active participant in ensembles such as the Hartt Orchestra and Hartt Wind Ensemble. Her experience with chamber music has included duos with percussion and guitar, and she was recently accepted into Performance 20/20, Hartt's intensive chamber music program. In the past year she has performed in masterclasses for Stefán Höskuldsson, Cynthia Meyers, and Emmanuel Pahud. A native of Massachusetts, Erika enjoys coaching archery, reading, and running in her spare time.

## OBOE

**Stefanie Cohn** (2<sup>nd</sup> year) is a Cleveland-based oboist, oboe instructor, and math tutor. Currently the principal oboist of the Solon Philharmonic and substitute oboist for the Ashland Symphony, she was formerly the 2<sup>nd</sup> Oboist/English Hornist with Sinfonia Gulf Coast and English Hornist with the Albany Symphony Orchestra.

Ms. Cohn holds a Master of Music degree from Florida State University, where she attended under full scholarship as a graduate teaching assistant for the oboe studio. She also holds both a B.M. in Oboe Performance and a B.A. in Mathematics from Duquesne University. Her teachers include Dr. Eric Ohlsson, Scott Bell, and Danna Sundet.

**Emily Damelio** (1<sup>st</sup> year) is currently finishing her undergraduate degree double majoring in Oboe Performance and Music Education at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. During her time at CCM, she has worked Admissions Office as a receptionist and a tour guide. Emily has also recently started spending time volunteering at MYCincinnati, the El Sistema program in Cincinnati. This program inspired her to make her senior recital a benefit concert where she raised over \$600 to donate to winds class. Emily has attended Eastern Music Festival and Hot Springs Music Festival in previous summers. Her current and past teachers include Dr. Mark Ostoich, Dwight Parry, and Danna Sundet.

**Kelly Smestad** (2<sup>nd</sup> year) is a New York-based musician and teacher. Ms. Smestad has been seen performing with groups such as the Park Avenue Chamber Symphony, the Litha Symphony, and the Massapequa Philharmonic. She was recently selected as a semi-finalist by the New World Symphony for their 2018-2019 season. Ms. Smestad holds a Master of Music degree from Stony Brook University where she studied with James Austin Smith of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and Pedro Diaz of the Metropolitan Opera. Ms. Smestad also holds a Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Music Education from the University of Colorado where she studied with Peter Cooper of the Colorado Symphony. Previous teachers include Jason Lichtenwalter, James Brody, and Rita Mitsel.

## CLARINET

**John Antisz** (1<sup>st</sup> year) is currently a Master's Student at the Lynn Conservatory of Music where he studies with Jon Manasse of the American Ballet Theatre. He is currently the 3rd Clarinet/Bass Clarinet of the South Florida Symphony and a mathematics tutor for Lynn University in their Institute for Achievement & Learning. John also earned his Bachelor of Music degree from the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University. As an active freelance musician in South Florida, John frequently performs with The Palm Beach Symphony, The Florida Grand Opera, and The Boca Symphonia. His former teachers include Jessica Phillips, Dan Gilbert, David Sapadin.

**Jacob Bleeker** (1<sup>st</sup> year), originally from Big Rapids, Michigan, is an undergraduate student at Grand Valley State University with Dr. Arthur Campbell. Jacob started his career with the Grand Rapids Youth Symphony in 2016. He was also named principal clarinetist of the Michigan Youth Arts Festival Band for two years, and was a semi-finalist in the MYAF concerto competition while winning the Grand Rapids Symphonic



Band's concerto competition the following year. This past fall during his first semester of college he placed first in the state of Michigan for clarinet in the Music Teachers' National Association Senior Division concerto competition.

**Antoine T. Clark** *see Conductor Biographies.*

**Bryce Kyle** (2<sup>nd</sup> year) began playing clarinet when he was ten years old. After cultivating his love for music with clarinetists Kent Krive and Suzy Bratton, Bryce went on to study at Grand Valley State University with international soloist, Arthur Campbell. While at Grand Valley, Bryce has been awarded numerous competitive honors based on his solo performances to include The Arthur C. Hills Music Award, The Alexander Calder Honors Scholarship, the Anne Gannett Award for Veterans and the Lucile Parrish Award for Veterans. Formerly the principal clarinetist in the Symphonic Wind Ensemble and Orchestra at GVSU, Bryce has now accepted a graduate assistantship at Carnegie Mellon University where he will be pursuing a Masters in clarinet performance.

## BASSOON

**Alex Amsel** *see Conductor Biographies.*

**Iain Forgey** (1<sup>st</sup> year) is a freelance bassoonist hailing from sunny South Florida and currently living in San Francisco. Iain has studied at the University of Miami Frost School of Music, the Louisiana State University, and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. His primary teachers have been Luciano Magnanini, Darrel Hale, and Stephen Paulson. He has performed with the Baton Rouge Symphony, Miami Symphony, and a number of other ensembles during his studies. The past two summers Iain has served as an Opera Fellow at the Miami Music Festival. In his free time Iain enjoys cooking, drinking coffee, and spending time with friends.

**Nina Scheibe** (3<sup>rd</sup> year) is pursuing her doctorate in music performance at Florida State University, where she studies with Jeffrey Keesecker. She has freelanced with the Tallahassee and Pensacola Symphony Orchestras, Tallahassee Community Chorus, and the Panama City Pops Orchestra. Nina is also an active performer of early music on period instruments. Besides Monteux, her past summer experiences include the Prague Summer Nights Festival, Brevard Music Center Institute, Marrowstone Music Festival, Curtis Summerfest Bassoon Institute, and Tafelmusik Baroque Summer Institute. Nina received her Master's from FSU, and her bachelor's from the University of Kansas, where she studied with Eric Stomberg.

## HORN

**David Anders** (1<sup>st</sup> year), from Kennesaw, Georgia, is a horn player based in the Metro-Atlanta area. He recently moved from Waco, Texas where he graduated with his MM from Baylor University in May of 2018. While at Baylor, David performed extensively with the Graduate Woodwind Quintet, the Baylor Wind Ensemble, and the American Prize-winning Baylor Symphony Orchestra. Before his time in Texas, David received his BA in Music from Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, Georgia. During his undergraduate studies, he became a co-founder of Spectacle Brass, which is an Atlanta-based brass quintet that has played throughout the region. David has

performed with the Temple Symphony and Georgia Symphony Orchestras, and recently won an audition for a full-time position in the United States Navy Fleet Bands. His teachers include Jeffrey Powers, Jason Eklund, and Thomas Witte.

**Laura Chicarello** (2<sup>nd</sup> year) is a private horn teacher and performer in the Dallas and Fort Worth metroplex. She has appeared as a lecturer and Regional Artist at several regional horn workshops, most recently including the 2018 Mid-South Horn Workshop. Laura has played with the Odysseus Chamber Orchestra, Irving Symphony Orchestra, and San Angelo Symphony Orchestra, as well as several orchestras in Louisiana, including the Shreveport, Baton Rouge, and Rapides Symphony Orchestras. Laura holds a MM from Northwestern State University of Louisiana and an BME from the University of New Hampshire. While not performing or teaching, Laura enjoys distance running and eating Tex Mex, but not at the same time.

**Liz Fryer** (1<sup>st</sup> year), a native New Yorker, is a graduate of the Peabody Institute of Music in French horn Performance and Music Education. Liz currently performs in the Hudson Valley with regional orchestras. She is also a brass teaching artist with CHIME in Schenectady, as well as Peabody Preparatory, and TUBA; The Uganda Baltimore Alliance, an extra-curricular music school in Kyngera, Uganda where she continues to travel to implement a brass music education curriculum. She also holds a Masters Degree from the University of Colorado in French Horn Performance and Pedagogy.

**Matthew Ropa** (2<sup>nd</sup> year) is a southwest Florida native with a Bachelor of Arts in Music from the University of Central Florida and a recent Masters graduate of the Hartt School of Music at the University of Hartford, where he studied with former American Brass Quintet hornist David Wakefield. He has performed with various orchestras around central Florida and Connecticut, as well as been in attendance at the Aspen Music Festival.

**Josh Schwartz** (1<sup>st</sup> year) is a recent graduate of the Mason Gross School at Rutgers University, where he received a Master of Music under the tutelage of Richard Deane. He previously received a Bachelor of Music at the University of Miami, where he studied with Richard Todd. Josh is a current semi-finalist for the New World Symphony, a former winner of the same orchestra's Young Artist Concerto Competition, and a 2014 winner of the Jan and Beattie Wood Concerto Competition at the Brevard Music Center. Josh has attended the Brevard Music Center and the Banff Brass and Drum Residency, among other music festivals. His other teachers include Alexander Kienle and his father, Gary Schwartz.

## **TRUMPET**

**Douglas Amos** (2<sup>nd</sup> year), originally from Bennington Vermont, is the new Third Trumpet of the the Erie Philharmonic. In 2017, he earned his Masters of Music from the New England Conservatory as a student of Ben Wright. Doug has held orchestral positions in the Atlantic Symphony and Phoenix Orchestra, both located in the Greater Boston Area. In past summers, Doug has attended the Aspen Music Festival and Pierre Monteux Festival. In August of this year, he will perform in the Lake George Music Festival before moving to the Midwest for the upcoming season.

**James McAloon Jr.** (2<sup>nd</sup> year) is currently a senior at the Hartt School of Music studying with Phil Snedecor. He hails from Williamstown, New Jersey, where his playing first started in a very musical family. James has been recognized by the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra and the Union League of Philadelphia for outstanding leadership and citizenship. James is also a member of the 20/20 Chamber Ensemble, the highest and most prestigious ensemble at Hartt while being one of the youngest in the group. He has been accepted into other groups such as All National Honors Orchestra, All Eastern Symphony Band, All State Orchestra and Wind Ensemble, along with numerous regional ensembles. He has also participated in masterclasses with John Wallace and James Thompson. Some of his previous teachers include Kevin Cobb and Darin Kelly.

**Phillip Tsigolaroff** (1<sup>st</sup> year) recently graduated with a Master of Music in trumpet performance from the Frost School of Music at the University of Miami where he studied with Craig Morris. A native of Decatur, IL, he began playing trumpet when he was in fourth grade in his school's band. He went on to earn a Bachelor of Music from Millikin University in Decatur where he studied with Randall Reyman. During his first year at Millikin, Phillip fell in love with orchestral music after hearing the Millikin Decatur Symphony Orchestra perform Mahler's 6<sup>th</sup> Symphony. Phillip also studies with Karin Bliznik, Principal Trumpet of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra.

**Julia Tsuchiya-Mayhew** (1<sup>st</sup> year) is currently pursuing her master's degree in trumpet performance at DePaul University, where she studies with Matt Lee, Matt Comerford and Bill Denton. She is from St. Louis, Missouri and went to Northwestern for her bachelor's degree, studying with Robert Sullivan and Channing Philbrick. In the past, she has attended Miami Music Festival and Philadelphia International Music Festival where she played chamber and orchestral music. In Chicago, Julia is also a member of the Origin Brass quintet, a group that premieres contemporary works by emerging composers.

## **TROMBONE**

**Ben Larson** (2<sup>nd</sup> year) will be starting his Master's in Trombone Performance at Cleveland State University in the fall. A native of Boise, Idaho, he attended Arizona State University. While in Arizona, he taught a full studio of high school trombonists and played with many community orchestras and jazz bands in the Phoenix area. In his free time, Ben enjoys reading, getting outdoors, and watching baseball.

**Michael Martinez** (1<sup>st</sup> year) grew up playing trombone under the direction of his father, Alex Martinez. Since then, he has gone on to receive degrees from Southwestern University in Georgetown, TX (B.M. Music Education) and Texas State University in San Marcos, TX (M.M. Trombone Performance). During that time, Michael had the pleasure of performing at venues such as the Big XII Trombone Conference, American Trombone Workshop, Texas Music Educators Association Convention, and College Band Directors National Association Convention. He is currently pursuing a D.M.A in Trombone Performance & Literature at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY under Mark Kellogg.

## **BASS TROMBONE**

**Collin Logsdon** (1<sup>st</sup> Year) is a native of Arizona and holds a Bachelor of Music in Performance from Arizona State University. Collin has studied under many accomplished trombonists, principally Dr. Seth Vatt, author of "The Perceptive Trombonist" series; Dr. Brad Edwards, professor of trombone at the University of South Carolina and Arizona State University; and Douglas Yeo, former Bass Trombonist for the Boston Symphony Orchestra and retired professor of trombone at Arizona State University. Collin has pre-professional and professional experience with the Phoenix Youth Symphony, Young Sounds of Arizona, Valley Youth Theater and Scottsdale Musical Theater Company.

## **TUBA**

**Samantha Lake** (1<sup>st</sup> year) has performed in a wide variety of ensembles from chamber music, to orchestra, to marching band. Ms. Lake is also a recognized soloist, winning the Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp Staff Solo Competition, the University of Connecticut Concerto/Aria Competition, and placing second in the Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra Instrumental Competition. As a community engagement teaching fellow, Ms. Lake enjoyed teaching young student in New York City. Ms. Lake earned her Bachelor of Music from the University of Connecticut and her Master of Music degree at the Juilliard School as a student of Alan Baer.

## **PERCUSSION**

**Kyle Ritenauer** *see Conductor Biographies.*

**Neil Rao** (2<sup>nd</sup> year) of Louisville, Kentucky, is a Composer, Conductor, and Percussionist. As a percussionist, he has performed in concert halls around the world, including the Mozarteum, Konzerthaus Berlin, and Carnegie Hall, and performed alongside members of So Percussion, Eighth Blackbird, and the John Cage Trust in nontraditional programs. He is currently pursuing a Master's degree in composition at the University of Louisville, where he studies with Marc Satterwhite, Director of the Grawemeyer award for music, Steve Rouse, and Krzysztof Wolek. He holds a B.M. in Percussion from the Curtis Institute of Music.

**Guillermo Villarreal** *see Conductor Biographies.*

## **HARP**

**Zane Mallett** (1<sup>st</sup> year) is currently a Junior at Southern Methodist University in Dallas pursuing degrees in Music Education and Music Performance. A finalist of the SMU Meadows Concerto Competition, Zane has been a featured performer at Eastern Music Festival and in masterclasses with harpists such as Judy Loman and Sasha Boldachev. Other musical interests allow Zane to be an active member in various ensembles, some of which include the SMU's Symphony, Band, contemporary ensemble SYZYGY, and the Meadows Chorale. He maintains an active performance

and teaching schedule based in Dallas. Zane has been playing the harp since his Junior year in high school under the tutelage of Naoko Nakamura.

**Caitlin Thom** (3<sup>rd</sup> year) recently graduated from Augustana College. Her involvement at Augustana included touring with ensembles, performing as a soloist upon winning the college's first concerto competition, premiering faculty and student compositions, and conducting her own chamber ensembles and the Symphonic Band on student-conductor concerts. She was principal harpist of the Knox-Galesburg Symphony and performed in several Quad City area ensembles. She also worked as the music theory and history instructor at a Rock Island music academy which served at-risk youth. This fall, she will be a graduate assistant pursuing her master's degree in harp at Baylor University.

## PIANO

**Daniel Feng** *see Conductor Biographies.*

**Yiwen Shen** *see Conductor Biographies.*

## VIOLIN

**Jose Alberto Aponte Trujillo** (1<sup>st</sup> year) started his musical studies in 2000 at the age of 8 in Xalapa, Mexico. Later he enrolled at the Universidad Veracruzana, where he got his Bachelor's Degree. During his time as a student he performed in several chamber music ensembles and orchestras.

José Aponte was a violinist in Orquesta Juvenil del Estado de Veracruz and also played with Orquesta Filarmónica de Boca del Rio under the baton of Jorge Mester for three years. Aponte has participated in music festivals such as San Miguel de Allende Music Festival, Zacatecas 2013 Music Festival, Miami Summer Music Festival, Academia Orquestal Teatro del Lago, Chile.

Currently, José is getting his Master's Degree at Colorado State University. He is a student of Dr. Ron Francois.

**Valeria Blanco Mota** (2<sup>nd</sup> year), originally from Xalapa, México, is currently pursuing a Master's degree at the University of Maine, as a student of Anatole Wieck. She also holds a Diploma from the Musikhochschule Münster where she studied with Helge Slaatto. Valeria is an active chamber musician, as a member of the Tamayo String Quartet she was awarded the Manuel M. Ponce prize for chamber musicians and played in several venues in Mexico and South America. She has collaborated with symphonic ensembles in Mexico, USA, Germany and the Netherlands. In her free time Valeria enjoys biking, gardening and learning languages.

**Bronwen Chan** (1<sup>st</sup> year), a Hong Kong native, graduated from Columbia University this May. She majored in Comparative Literature, but spent more time doing music and theater (sometimes both simultaneously). She played with the New York Youth Symphony and various chamber and orchestral groups, while producing, sound designing, directing, composing and conducting for theater productions. She plans to figure out what to do with all this during her time at the Pierre Monteux School and as she moves to Minneapolis to work at the Playwrights Center in August.

**Yoona Jeong** *see Conductor Biographies.*

**Jonathan Kuehn** (2<sup>nd</sup> year), baroque and modern violin, was born and raised in the Puget Sound region. Currently he studies with former Seattle Symphony concertmaster Maria Larionoff. He performs regularly with numerous orchestras in the area including the Seattle Philharmonic, the Seattle Phil String Orchestra, and Philharmonia NW. Additionally he was a founding member of the UW Baroque Ensemble as Principal Second Violin. Recently he lead the UW Campus Phil as concertmaster performing Mendelsohn's Symphony no.1 and Fauré's Pavane. Beyond music, he holds a BS in Atmospheric Sciences from the University of Washington and enjoys flying recreationally.

**Tiffany Lu** *see Conducting Associate.*

**Jonathan Moser** *see Conductor Biographies.*

**Gerardo Pérez Vargas** (2<sup>nd</sup> year), originally from Mexico City, is currently pursuing his Master's degree in Violin Performance at University of Maine studying under the guidance of Dr. Anatole Wieck. After finishing his undergraduate studies at Conservatorio Nacional de Música de Mexico he became member of the Orquesta Juvenil Universitaria Eduardo Mata, one of the leading orchestras in Mexico, performing a vast range of symphonic repertoire with conductors such as Jan Latham-Koenig, Avy Ostrowsky, Massimo Quarta, Ronald Zollman, among others. His interest in chamber music has led to collaborations with several ensembles performing in Mexico, USA and Italy.

**Hannah Reitz** *see Conductor Biographies.*

**Allion Salvador** *see Conductor Biographies.*

**Duo Shen** *see Conductor Biographies.*

**Isaac Suarez** (2<sup>nd</sup> year) was born in Monterrey Nuevo Leon. He began studying music at the age of 9 under the tutelage of Professor Lilia Naydenova. Later he was accepted in the Superior School of Music and Dance of Monterrey, beginning his formal studies at the age of 16 under the direction of Master Bozhidar Stoykov. Isaac has performed in many parts of the city, won the internal contest of high school soloists in 2011 and in 2013. In 2015, he performed as soloist with the ESMDM Orchestra in the National Conservatory and is currently a concertmaster of the ESMDM Orchestra. He is also the principal of the ESMDM quartet, which has been presented at chamber music festivals in and out of the country, and was the winner of the award for greatest interpretation of the Obligatory Work in the National Quartet Contest of the Latin American Quartet in 2017.

**Matthew Woodard** (1<sup>st</sup> year) is a student of Syoko Aki at the Yale School of Music, where he is pursuing a Master of Music in Violin Performance. Matthew has appeared as soloist with the Holyoke Civic Symphony, Windham Orchestra, Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra, and The Orchestra Now of Bard College, with whom he performed Ligeti's Violin Concerto last season. As a composer, Matthew's works have been performed at Bard College, the New England Conservatory and the Rivers School, as well as on the national radio and television program From the Top. Matthew has attended many

summer festivals as both a performer and composer, including Greenwood Music Camp, Yellow Barn Young Artists Program, Bowdoin International Music Festival, Music Academy of the West, and Kneisel Hall. He recently earned his Bachelors of Music from Bard Conservatory of Music, where he studied violin with Laurie Smukler and composition with Joan Tower and George Tsontakis. As a dual-degree student at Bard College, Matthew also received a Bachelor of Arts in French Literature.

**Xuecong (Sunny) Xia** *see Conductor Biographies.*

## **VIOLA**

**Rosa Cole** (1<sup>st</sup> year) began her musical studies playing the violin at age of 6 in Veracruz, Mexico at Escuela Municipal de Bellas Artes. Later, she switched to viola taking her first lessons with Prof. Antonio Mendez Escobar. In 2012 she enrolled at the Universidad Veracruzana studying with Prof. Yurii Inti Bullón Bobadilla and getting her bachelor's degree in viola in 2015. She has participated in different festivals and masterclasses studying with professors like Kim Fredenburg, Eric Shumsky, Ervin Schiffer, Jerzy Kaplanek, Christine Vlajk and Katie Schlaikjer. Rosa performed for three years at Orquesta Sinfónica de Xalapa and she is currently getting her master's degree at Colorado State University with Prof. Margaret Miller.

**Tonatiuh Garcia** *see Conductor Biographies.*

**Kathryn Krajewski** (1<sup>st</sup> year) lives in Downers Grove, Illinois. In May she completed and received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Instrumental Performance from Augustana College where she studied with Dr. Deborah Dakin. During her time at Augustana she was a member of the Augustana Symphony Orchestra, a string quartet, and the improvisation group Kali Yuga. As well, she played in the pit for the winter opera for three out of her four years at the college. She will be continuing her studies in graduate school in the fall at the CCPA at Roosevelt University in Chicago where she will study with Professor Mark Braunstein.

**David Platt** *see Conductor Biographies.*

**Rachael Szewc** (1<sup>st</sup> year) received her Bachelor's in Music Education and Violin Performance from the University of Maine, where she studied under Dr. Anatole Wieck. Her love of chamber music led her to explore the viola during college and she eventually chose viola as her primary instrument. Rachael also has a strong interest in Baroque music and has participated in workshops in the United States and Italy. An active educator, Rachael has taught privately, directed a youth orchestra and coached chamber music throughout Maine. Rachael plans to begin a Masters in Viola Performance at Southern Illinois University this fall.

**Wayland Whitney** *see Conductor Biographies.*

## CELLO

**Marcos Daniel Aponte Trujillo** (1<sup>st</sup> year) started his musical studies at the age of 7 with Alfredo Escobar Moreno, and subsequently entered the Facultad de Música from Universidad Veracruzana under the tutelage of José Arias Luna. He has taken lessons with Jiri Bunata Smolik, Davis Sheeps, Gabriel Arias, Javier Arias, Álvaro Bitrán, Arón Bitrán, Saúl Bitrán, Javier Montiel, Misha Vitenson, Diego Carneiro and Anthony Kitai. He has also participated in many festivals including the Curso de Música Barroca (2008); Jornada Musical (2008) at Universidad Veracruzana; and Miami Summer Music Festival (2014) with Grzegorz Nowak (principal associate conductor of Royal Philharmonic Orchestra of London). In 2015, he was selected for the orchestra of the Academia Internacional Teatro del Lago and performed in Santiago and Frutillar, Chile. In 2015 he earned his Bachelors' in Music at the Facultad de Música from Universidad Veracruzana. He has been a member of Orquesta Sinfónica de Xalapa with whom he toured across Brazil in 2016 with conductor Lanfranco Marcelletti Jr. Currently he is a member of the Orquesta Filarmónica 5 de Mayo in Puebla.

**Ryan D. Farris** see *Conductor Biographies*.

**Max Hanks** (1<sup>st</sup> year) is currently attending Baldwin Wallace Conservatory of Music. He is going into his senior year, working towards a Bachelor of Music degree in Cello Performance under the instruction of Regina Mushabac. Max is a member of the BW Symphony Orchestra; where he has been under the direction of Dr. Octavio Mas-Arocas and Dr. Tiffany Chang, with whom he has completed an Apprenticeship in Conducting. He has been a part of numerous chamber ensembles during his time at Baldwin Wallace; these include several piano trios, a jazz string quartet, and his current piano quartet. He stays highly active in New Music Series concerts throughout the year, working with Music Composition majors to premier their works. In addition to cello, Max often collaborates with others on drum set; he plays in the Oxford Island Trio (jazz), and his indie rock band, Young Steve.

**John Norine, Jr.** see *Conductor Biographies*.

**Benjamin M. Stayner** (1<sup>st</sup> year), age 20, is a conductor, cellist, composer, pianist, and organist from Niagara Falls, NY. He has conducted the Hartt Orchestra and the Foot in the Door Ensemble, as well as the String Orchestra of Brooklyn in a masterclass with Tito Muñoz. In 2014, he won a TANYA Award for Outstanding Musical Direction of *Fiddler on the Roof* with Theatre in the Mist. As a strong advocate for new music, he has commissioned many new works for himself, as well as his cello and double bass duet, Duo716. He conducted the premiere of his piece, *Wake Up!* for solo percussionist and chamber ensemble, this last March with the Foot in the Door Ensemble. Benjamin is currently pursuing undergraduate studies in music theory and composition at The Hartt School. He studies conducting with Edward Cumming, cello with Mihai Tetel, and composition with Larry Alan Smith.

**Natalia Vilchis** (2<sup>nd</sup> year) began musical studies at the age of 5 in Monterrey, Mexico; at 14 she entered the Escuela Superior de Música y Danza de Monterrey. She was first place winner in each of the three consecutive editions of the Concurso Nacional de Violonchelo de Monterrey (2010, 2012, and 2014), and was also awarded Best Interpretation of a Mexican piece. She has taken master classes with internationally renowned artists such as Yo-Yo Ma, Zvi Plessner, Tanya Carrey, Alvaro Bitrán, Karla



Hamelin and Claire Bryant (the Juilliard Music School). Natalia has been selected for three consecutive years to perform as a soloist with the Orquesta Juvenil de la ESMDM. She has also performed as a soloist at the Festival Santa Lucía 2015 in Monterrey city and the Festival Internacional de Música in Morelia. She is in the ninth year of undergraduate studies in Cello Performance studying with Marieta Ivanova.

## **CONTRABASS**

**Alexander Burns** (1<sup>st</sup> year) is a bassist from Lynbrook, New York. Alex started playing the cello at age 7 and switched to the bass at age 13. He is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Music Education at Hofstra University, where he is the principal bassist in the symphony orchestra, and plays with the wind ensemble. Alex also sings in chorale, plays cello in chamber orchestra, and fills in on trombone parts. He is a student of Martin Wind. After completing his bachelor's, he would like to work towards a masters in bass performance.

**Isaac Gadikian** (1<sup>st</sup> year) is a double bassist from Buffalo, New York. Isaac has performed with many ensembles around the Western New York area, including the Greater Buffalo Youth Orchestra, Orchard Park Symphony, as well as the Southern Tier Symphony. He has performed in masterclasses with bassists such as Michael Klinghoffer, Brett Shurtliffe, and Kieran Hanlon, and currently studies with Robert Black. Isaac is currently pursuing a dual degree in Acoustical Engineering and Music Performance at the Hartt School of Music, University of Hartford. He is an active member of the Hartt Orchestra and has premiered several new works in performances given by the Hartt Bass Band and his cello and double bass ensemble, Duo716. While not playing bass, Isaac spends his time rehearsing, performing, and arranging for Hawkapella, Hartford's premier all-male a cappella group, for which he will serve as music director this coming academic year.

**Matthew Henson** (1<sup>st</sup> year), of Kennesaw, Georgia, is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Double Bass Performance at The New England Conservatory, in Boston, Massachusetts. Beginning his studies at age 13, he spent the following years studying with Messrs. Douglas Sommer and Joseph McFadden of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. In high school, Matthew won the Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition, performing as a soloist with the orchestra. Currently, he is a student of Mr. Todd Seeber of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and a member of the NEC Symphony Orchestra. In addition to playing bass, Matthew enjoys studying music theory and history.

## NOTES