

CollabFest 2019 Performer Bios and Headshots

Emily Alves is a Brazilian-American cellist from New Orleans. She began playing violin under the Suzuki method when she was four years old, and switched to cello when she was ten. Emily received her Bachelor's in Music Performance from Loyola University New Orleans this past Spring, and is now a Master's of Music Performance student here at UNT. An avid chamber musician, she has played in many different chamber groups, receiving coaching from Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg for the past two years and playing for groups such as the Miró Quartet and the Goldstein-Peled-Fiterstein trio. Last year, she was featured as a soloist alongside Philip von Maltzahn with the Loyola Strings, and was Loyola's 2018 Presser Scholar. She has spent her summers doing studio recording and working with young musicians in the Greater New Orleans Youth Orchestras.



Ina Apostolova

Ina Petkova-Apostolova began her professional musical education at the age of 6 years. With 13 years she won her first prize from an international competition “Young musical talents”- Sofia (Bulgaria). Ina Petkova graduated the National High School of Music in Sofia (Bulgaria) and continued her Bachelor and Master studies at the Vienna Conservatory Private University (Austria) with Walther Schulz and Lilia Schulz-Bayrova. She studied as well at “Concervatoire a rayonnement deparémental”- L’hay les roses – Paris (France) with Romain Garioud. Ina Petkova-Apostolova received Master Interpretation at Haute Ecole de Musique – Lausanne (Switzerland) with Xavier Phillips and a certificate for Artist Diploma program at Schwob School of Music at Columbus State University - Columbus (USA) with Wendy Warner. She participated in master classes of: Heinrich Schiff, Young Chang Cho, Marc Coppey, Marko Ylönen, Richard Hirschl, Stephen Balderston, Stefan Popov, Ventseslav Nikolov, and others.

Ina Petkova-Apostolova won several 1st prizes on international and national competitions. She was selected as principal cellist in orchestras as: Young Philharmonic Sofia (Bulgaria), Young Philharmonic Vienna (Austria), Sinfonietta Sofia (Bulgaria) and Sinfonietta dell’Arte (Austria). Since 2009 Ina Petkova is a member of the chamber music ensemble “Trio Consenso Vienna” (Vienna- Austria). Recently she performed as a soloist with the Radio Symphony Orchestra - Vienna in the big hall of Konzerhaus (Vienna/Austria). She has performed on the stages in Bulgaria, Austria, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, France, Slovakia, Greece, Canada and the United States.



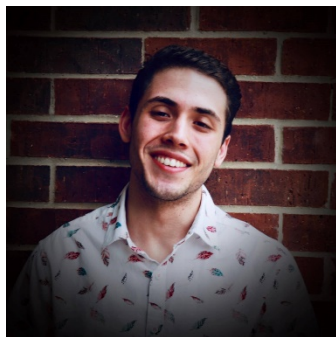
Ruslan Apostolov

Ruslan Apostolov graduated from the National Music School “Lubomir Pipkov” and the National Music Academy “Pancho Vladigerov” in his native Sofia, Bulgaria with Yosiff Radionov. He is also a violin graduate of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music in London. Ruslan continued his violin studies towards “Master of Interpretation” and “Master Soloist” degrees at Haute Ecole de Musique in Lausanne (Switzerland) with Sergiu Schwartz; and “Artist Diploma” at Schwob School of Music of Columbus State University (USA) with

Sergiu Schwartz. Among professors with whom Ruslan has studied are Mincho Minchev, Bartek Niziol, and Gerhard Shultz.

Ruslan has been concertmaster and soloist of the Youth Philharmonic Orchestra in Sofia, the Academic Orchestra Sofia, Lausanne Chamber Orchestra, String chamber orchestra "Orfey", Sliven Symphony Orchestra, Razgrad Symphony, Vidin Symphony orchestra, Columbus State University Symphony orchestra. He has recorded for the Bulgarian National Radio and Bulgarian National Television and has participated in the International Music Festival "Sofia Music Weeks" and in chamber music projects between Konservatorium Privatuniversität Wien (Vienna), Royal Conservatory of Liege (Belgium), and Haute Ecole de Music de Lausanne (Switzerland).

Ruslan Apostolov is a winner of national and international competitions, including “Musica Insieme” (Italy) – first prize; Winner of Schwob concerto competition; international competition “Professor Nedyalka Simeonova” (Bulgaria) - special prizes; international competition “Hope. Talents. Masters” (Bulgaria) - first prize; international competition “Vasko Abadjiev” (Bulgaria) – special prize.



Jesús Bravo

Jesús Bravo is most interested in delivering a unitary message of respect through music. His sensibility and charm when performing make up for a peaceful and calm atmosphere. He is deeply passionate about Classical music, Jazz and Afro-Cuban rhythms. Born in Maracaibo, Venezuela, Jesús first began his musical training as a percussionist in "El Sistema", which awakened his curiosity for Music. In 2014, He moved to Houston, Texas, where he developed a passion for singing due to the teachings of

his High school choir directors. He currently studies Vocal Performance at UNT under the guidance of Molly Fillmore.

While at UNT, Jesús has been involved in many Opera productions. He has performed Daniel Buchanan in Kurt Weill’s *Street scene*, 1st Men in Armor in Mozart's *Magic Flute* and Oronte in

Handel's *Alcina*. He is a member of the UNT A Cappella Choir and Collegium Singers, where he has performed Handel's *Messiah*, Verdi's *Requiem*, and Puccini's *Turandot*.



Caroline Busselberg

Caroline Busselberg, soprano, is a senior from Houston, Texas studying vocal performance with Dr. Carol Wilson. She is a member of the A Cappella choir and Collegium Singers at UNT. Recent roles with UNT Opera include chorus in *Die Zauberflöte*, Shirley Kaplan in *Street Scene*, Hen in *Cunning Little Vixen*, and Nella in *Gianni Schicchi*.



Dr. Amy Canchola

Dr. Amy Canchola is originally from Indiana where she completed her Bachelor of Music degree in vocal performance at Butler University. She has called Texas “home” since 2004 after moving to Dallas to attend Southern Methodist University. At the University of North Texas, Dr. Canchola centered her doctoral research on the life and work of Mexican-American composer Maria Grever. Aside from her advocacy of the music of Latin women, Dr. Canchola also recently completed the Fall Island Vocal Arts Seminar, the Bach-Millennium Festival, and the Summer Voice Institute at North-western University with W. Stephen Smith. In addition to performing, Dr. Canchola is on the voice faculty at Highland Park High School and maintains an independent studio in Garland, TX. She and her husband, Gil, have four wonderful children and operate Canchola Handyman Services. Professional memberships include the National Association of Teachers of Singing, Music Teachers National Association, National Opera Association, Mu Phi Epsilon, and the Voice Foundation.



Autumn Capocci

Autumn Capocci is a mezzo-soprano hailing from Buffalo, New York. She is currently a master's student at the University of North Texas in *the studio of William Joyner*. She has appeared previously in Collabfest, working with composer Juliana Hall. Last season at UNT she performed the roles of Zita in *Gianni Schicchi* and *Lapák the dog* in *The Cunning Little Vixen*. She is currently performing as a member of the Fort Worth Opera Studio Artist Program. Most recently, she performed in Pittsburgh Festival Opera's *Fight for the Right* series as Hortense in *Virgula Divina*. She received her Bachelor of Music Education from the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam. While there, she performed in the chorus of *The Tender Land* with the Crane Opera Ensemble, as well as in the chorus of the world-premiere opera *SHOT!* with the Nickel City Opera Company.

Upcoming engagements include the world-premiere of *Frida Kahlo and the Bravest Girl in the World* at Fort Worth Opera and Handel's *Messiah* with the St. Thomas Aquinas Choir in Dallas, TX.



Chia-Wen Chen

Taiwanese soprano, Chia-Wen Chen, is currently pursuing her D.M.A. in voice performance at University of North Texas under the tutelage of Molly Fillmore. She completed her M.M. at Manhattan School of Music. Her previous works include ensemble in *La clemenza di Tito*; *La Badessa* and ensemble in *Suor Angelica*; *Susanna* from *Le nozze di Figaro*; *Antonia* in *Les contes d'Hoffmann*.



Hyiyoung Choi

Pianist Hyiyoung Choi is a frequent partner in song, instrument, and chamber music recitals. Highly experienced in all genres from opera and musical theater to orchestral and choral playing, she has performed on multiple guest artists and faculty recitals in UNT with partners including Boston Symphony trombonist James Markey, trombonist, Dennis Whittaker, bassist (Houston

Grand Orchestra), Dr. Kristyn Son, flutist (Kansas State University), Dr. Tod Kerstetter, clarinetist (Kansas State University), in TWU with Valerie Coleman, flutist and composer, and in UTA with Dr. Soohong Kim, soprano. Very familiar with the double bass repertoire, she has served as studio pianist for Jeff Bradetich at UNT for two years, and as staff pianist for the Pirastro Strings Elite Soloists Program, an international double bass intensive summer program held by the Bradetich Foundation.

A specialist in vocal and operatic repertoire, Hyiyoung recently served as a vocal coach and pianist in the Spotlight on Opera in 2019. She also has worked as a staff pianist for operas, including *The Flying Dutchman* (2018) in The Dallas Opera, *Turandot* (2017), *Walküre* (2015), *Il barbiere di Siviglia* (2014), and *Lucia di Lammermore* (2011) in University of North Texas. Also, as a member of the Dallas Opera Education and Outreach program, she has played for “Dr. Miracle” (2011), “Jack and the Beanstalk” (2012-2013), and numerous recitals with outstanding singers.

As an ABD in collaborative piano at University of North Texas, she currently works as a Teaching Assistantship at University of North Texas and a staff pianist at Texas Woman’s University.



Libby Clark

American soprano, Libby Clark has appeared in numerous concerts in the United States, Germany and Austria, in major venues including Carnegie Hall and Beacon Theatre in New York City, NY. While touring with Voices of Lee under the direction of Danny Murray, she was also featured in Day Star TV show in Bedford, TX. Clark recently won the 2nd place in the MTNA Mid-South regional competition and has performed in the MTNA National semi-final round at St. Olaf college in Northfield, MN. Clark has sung as the First Cercatrice and the Novice in *Suor Angelica* by Puccini and covered a role – *A Woman with a Child* in *What men lived by* by Bohuslav Martinů at Lee Opera Theatre. She also

appeared in the Masterworks concert at Lee under the baton of Bob Bernhardt. Clark was awarded the Presser Scholarship and a Young Musician’s Scholarship at Lee University. She is currently

pursuing her bachelor's degree in Music Education under Ms. Cynthia Johnson at Lee University (Cleveland, TN).



Samantha Dapcic

Praised for her “innate artistry,” Dallas-based soprano Samantha Dapcic brings a “significant strength, beauty, and versatility” to the stage. Experienced in opera, musical theater, and art song repertoire ranging from Monteverdi to Harbison, she is establishing herself as a dynamic and multifaceted performer.

Samantha’s operatic performances include the title roles of Suor Angelica and Dido as well as Donna Elvira in *Don Giovanni*, Contessa Almaviva in *Le nozze di Figaro*, Liù c.v. in *Turandot*, Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte*, Giulietta in *Les contes d’Hoffmann*, Nerone in *L’incoronazione di Poppea*, Nora in Vaughan Williams’s *Riders to the Sea*, and Geraldine in Barber’s *A Hand of*

Bridge.

Recently on the concert stage, she made her debut with the McCall Music Society (McCall, ID); Chelsea Opera (New York, NY); Lewisville Lake Symphony Chamber Series (Lewisville, TX); and the Abilene Philharmonic Orchestra (Abilene, TX). She has been a featured soloist in Harbison’s *Mirabai Songs*, Brahms’s *Ein deutsches Requiem*, Ticheli’s *Angels in the Architecture*, Vaughan Williams’s *Hodie*, as well as Bach’s *Cantata 36*, and Handel’s *Messiah*. Samantha was also featured soloist with *Vox Peregrini* in Dublin, Ireland.

Samantha’s affinity for 20th and 21st century American works has inspired collaboration with composers and chamber musicians on premieres of new works including: Rachel Whelan’s *how(this)*, Benjamin Shirey’s *Transient Delete*, Ermir Bejo’s *Catullo Songs*, Qi Shen’s *Summer Moonlight*, Brad Robin’s *Limud*, Larry Reed’s *My Heart and I*, Pan Xingzimin’s *Three Sarcastic Songs*, and Amber Zingler’s *Particles*. She was also invited to perform Thomas Kotcheff’s *Cecila Speaks* for UNT’s *First Annual CollabFest*.

Samantha is a 2019 winner of the Lewisville Lake Symphony International Voice Competition as well as a 2019 winner of Mobile Opera’s *Madame Rose Palm-Tenser Competition*. In 2014, she was named a winner of the University of North Texas *Concerto Competition*, as well as the recipient of the highly-competitive *Robert B. Toulouse Fellowship*.

She recently earned her DMA in Voice Performance and Pedagogy from the University of North Texas, where she studied with Carol Wilson and was awarded a Teaching Fellow in Applied Voice. She earned her MM and BM in Voice Performance from the University of Northern Iowa, where she was also awarded a Graduate Teaching Assistantship in Voice. Samantha is a SVI-trained Vocologist. She received further stage experience and training at Opera NEO (San Diego, CA) and the Amalfi Coast Festival (Amalfi, Italy)

Ryan De Boer

Ryan De Boer is a first year DMA student and teaching fellow in the College of Music at UNT. He is also a PhD student in Performing Arts Health. Ryan was awarded a Masters degree in Pedagogy and Performance from Penn State University in 2016. Following graduation, he moved to Philadelphia where he had a private studio. He then relocated to Sacramento, California, where he presented workshops on healthy singing, served as vocal coach for the Sacramento Master Singers, and taught adjunct voice at American River College. Ryan is elated to be joining the UNT college of music and looks forward to his time in such a vibrant musical community.



Hollie Dzierzanowski

A native Texan and lover of breakfast tacos, Hollie Dzierzanowski is a classically trained violist currently pursuing her DMA in Viola Performance with Dr. Susan Dubois with a related concentration in Performing Arts Health. She has attended festivals such as the Texas Music Festival, the Viola Institute at Interlochen, Interlochen Arts Camp, Cactus Pear Music Festival, and Round Top Festival Institute. An avid chamber musician, Ms.Dzierzanowski was a member of the first quartet in residence at the Interlochen Arts Camp as well as a chamber coach and viola teacher at UNT's Summer String Institute this past summer. Ms.Dzierzanowski received her bachelor's and master's degrees in viola performance from the Cleveland Institute of Music where she studied with Stanley Konopka and Mark Jackobs.



Sarah England

Sarah England is a collaborative pianist and teacher in the Dallas Fort Worth area. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Piano Performance from Southern Methodist University with a minor in German. She works at SMU as a staff pianist, accompanying both vocal and instrumental students. Currently she is working towards an MM in Collaborative Piano at the University of North Texas, where she also serves as a Graduate Teaching Assistant.



Diego Villamil Gómez

A native from Bogota Colombia, Diego Esteban Villamil Gómez is a versatile violinist. His accomplishments include being concertmaster of the UNT Concert Orchestra, USM Symphony Orchestra, and the Youth Philharmonic Orchestra of Colombia. He has been a loyal member of the main symphony orchestras of Mississippi and Colombia, including the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra, Gulfport Symphony Orchestra, Bay Atlantic Symphony, and the Colombian Youth Philharmonic. Diego has been invited to be a faculty member of the Play, On Philly! summer program, and to the Techne Musical Festival. Mr. Villamil Gómez was a teaching artist at Play, On Philly!, which is a El Sistema-based music program in Philadelphia. Diego was also a member of the Rowan Prep music faculty in New Jersey, and the Delaware School of Music faculty. He has performed in several master classes for accomplished artists such as Mikhail Kopelman, Diane Moore, Juliette Kang, Regis Pasquier, Pierre Amoyal, Nicholas Kitchen, the American String Quartet, and the Cuarteto Latinoamericano. He holds a B.A in violin performance from the National University of Colombia. He continued his studies and received his M.M in violin performance from the University of Southern Mississippi and Rowan University. Currently he is pursuing his DMA at University of North Texas. Diego studies violin with Dr. Olschofka, and serves as Teaching Assistant for the University of North Texas Early Music Program.

Jen Guzmán

Clarinetist Dr. Jen Guzmán's mission is to guide and support others to discover their self-worth so that they are empowered to positively change the world. Jen brings this mission to life through her role as Instructor of Music Business at the University of North Texas and Instructor of Clarinet at Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

Jen and her husband, instrument repair specialist and saxophonist Tony Barrette, own and operate TB Winds, a woodwind and brass repair and retail store. TB Winds is a part of the thriving downtown Denton small business scene. In addition to providing a place for musicians to play test equipment and receive expert level repairs, TB Winds provides performance opportunities through monthly classical music open mic nights at a local wine bar, Wine Squared.

Engaging with the community in a meaningful way is important to Jen. One way in which she does this is through her role as a performing musician and program director for Texas Winds Musical Outreach, a non-profit that brings music to nursing homes.



In May 2019, Jen graduated with a doctorate of musical arts degree (DMA) in clarinet performance from UNT. While at UNT, Jen was a recipient of the Robert B. Toulouse Fellowship and worked as the music entrepreneurship teaching fellow.

Jen received bachelor of music education from the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam (2011) where she studied with Raphael Sanders, and a master of music in

clarinet performance from UNT (2013) where she studied with Kimberly Cole Luevano.



Morgan Horning

Morgan Horning, soprano, holds a BA in Music from Luther College, an MM from the University of Northern Iowa, and is pursuing her DMA from the University of North Texas. Ms. Horning has made it her artistic mission to explore works of underrepresented composers, with an emphasis on contemporary music and Russian song literature.

Szu-Ying Huang

Taiwanese pianist Szu-Ying Huang has performed extensively as soloist and chamber musician in major cities throughout the United States, Canada, Austria, China, and Taiwan. With significant background in art song, opera, and choral music, Huang holds the Master of Music degree in piano performance from the Peabody Institute, where she studied with Marian Hahn and will earn the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in piano performance at University of North Texas in December 2019 where she held assistantships in opera accompanying, collaborative piano, and choral accompanying,

under the instruction of Gustavo Romero and Elvia Puccinelli. Huang joined the musical staff of AIMS in Graz (Austria) since 2015, and also served as the resident pianist in Chicago Summer Opera in 2016. She has been a Fellow at the Mimir Chamber Music Festival (Fort Worth, 2010), SongFest (Los Angeles, 2014 and 2019), Toronto Summer Music Festival (Canada, 2014), and Source Song Festival (Minnesota, 2019). From 2016 to 2018, Huang was the collaborative piano fellow at Bard College Conservatory of Music, working closely with Grammy Award winner soprano Dawn Upshaw and vocal coach Kayo Iwama.



Han Hsiao

HAN HSIAO, soprano, is a third-year doctoral student from Taiwan under the tutelage of Molly Fillmore at the University of North Texas. Ms. Hsiao is a past winner of the South Sea Rotaract Club Award Vocal Competition and a recipient of both the Toulouse Academy Achievement Scholarship and Winspear Opera Scholarship. Previous credits include Lucia in *Cavalleria rusticana* with Asian Opera Project, the chorus of *La Traviata* with Kaohsiung Spring Festival, Sapho with National Theater and Concert Hall workshop, a spirit in Massenet's *Cendrillon*, and the principal role in the Educational Outreach Program with Manhattan School of Music. Ms. Hsiao was invited to perform with NTNU Symphony Band and C.Y.C Wind Orchestra as the solo singer around the world, including China, Russia, Singapore, Malaysia and Japan. Most recently Han has performed Marguerite in *Faust*,

La Ciesca in *Gianni Schicchi* with UNT Opera, and *Don Elvira* in *Don Giovanni* with The Fillmore Studio. Upcoming UNT opera role will be *Ninfa* in *Madrigals of Love and War* by Monteverdi.



Dr. Elizabeth Janzen

A native of Newfoundland, Canada, Elizabeth Janzen serves as Associate Professor of Flute at Texas A&M University – Kingsville and as Second Flute in the Victoria Symphony Orchestra. Her playing has been hailed in the *New York Times* as "...athletic, graceful..." and she has established herself as a prominent musician, teacher and clinician across North America.

Elizabeth pursued formal studies at the University of Toronto with Susan Hoepfner and at the Manhattan School of Music, where she completed her Master and Doctorate degrees with Linda Chesis. In 2007 she was appointed the first flute fellow in The Academy, a prestigious post-graduate program developed by Carnegie Hall, the Weill Music Institute, and The Juilliard School.

Elizabeth's debut solo recital at Carnegie Hall was praised in the New York Concert Review for the "...velvety tone radiating from her flute..." and her "...impressive technical abilities...flair and wit with the musical phrase..." She has also been featured as the soloist in Pierre Boulez's "...explosante-fixe..." conducted by the composer himself and has given solo performances in Canada, the United States and Mexico. As an orchestral musician, Elizabeth has had the privilege of working on both contemporary and period music with some of the world's most recognized conductors, including David Robertson, Sir Simon Rattle and Sir Christopher Hogwood. A dedicated chamber musician, Elizabeth has toured throughout North America with The Fireworks Ensemble, the ACJW Alumni Ensemble, Dark X Five, and the Vista Trio and internationally including, Japan, India, Germany and Mexico.



Colleen Kilpatrick

Colleen Kilpatrick earned a Master of Music in Collaborative Piano from the University of North Texas in 2019 and a Bachelor of Arts in Music from Ave Maria University in 2016. While a student at UNT, she was the accompanist for University Singers and Women's Chorus, and served as staff accompanist and coach at AMU from 2016-2017. A lover of opera, Ms. Kilpatrick was rehearsal pianist for *The Magic Flute* and keyboardist for *L'incoronazione di Poppea* at the Miami Summer Music Festival in 2019. She has performed in masterclasses with Margo Garrett, Susan Youens, Margaret Singer, and Roy Howat, among others, and is a staff pianist at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. Ms. Kilpatrick loves to share her passion for the piano with students of all ages, and has been teaching privately since 2009. Also a trained organist and soprano, she has held several church positions in the Dallas-Fort Worth area and her native Southwest Florida, and is a member of the Dallas Symphony Chorus.



Mi-Jin Kim

Mi-Jin Kim was born in Incheon, Republic of Korea and started studying piano at six years of age. Her significant talent received recognition and awards from numerous competitions in such major musical venues as Korea, Bulgaria, and the United States. She received the Gold Medal at the Joong-Ahng Music Newspaper Competition (Korea), the Silver Medal at the Incheon City Piano Competition (Korea), the Bronze Medal at the International Piano Workshop Competition (Bulgaria),

and a prizewinner of the Solo Division at the International Bicentennial Liszt Competition (Los Angeles). She has appeared as soloist with the Sejong University Symphony Orchestra and Good Classic Music Festival Orchestra in Korea, and with the Philharmonica Bulgarica in Bulgaria. More recently, Ms. Kim was invited to perform at the 2015 American Liszt Society Festival "Liszt and Dammnation", held at the University of North Texas.

Ms. Kim is also an active collaborative pianist. As a collaborator she performed in numerous concerts and festivals such as Opera Theatre and Music Festival of Lucca and Centro Studi Carlo della Giacoma Master Class for Clarinet and Piano in Italy. Also, her collaborative performances have been live-broadcasted by the WRR 101.1 "Classic Cafe" at the Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas. She also has coached and performed as a collaborative artist at the Tarrant County College, Oklahoma State University, University of Texas at Arlington, and University of North Texas. Ms. Kim holds a double master's degree in piano performance and collaborative piano from Michigan State University and the doctor of musical arts degree in piano performance from the University of North Texas. Her piano studies were under the tutelage of Erica Ohm, Deborah Moriarty, and Joseph Banowetz and her collaborative piano studies with Marie-France Lefebvre and Elvia Puccinelli.



Dr. Sehee Lee

Pianist Sehee Lee, a native of Korea, has appeared as a collaborative pianist and chamber musician across the United States, Germany, Luxembourg, Mexico and Korea. She received her Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Piano Performance from the Kyunghee University in Seoul, Korea. She continued her studies with Anita Pontremoli at Cleveland Institute of Music, where she earned her Artist Diploma and Master's Degree in Collaborative Piano, receiving multiple honors, including the Rosa Lobe Memorial Award in Accompanying, recognizing the highest level of artistic achievement. She earned her doctoral degree in Collaborative Piano at the Arizona State

University, where she studied with Andrew Campbell as a full-scholarship recipient. She also attended Music Academy of the West and the Kent Blossom Festival as a fellowship recipient.

She currently serves as a Lecturer of Piano and Collaborative piano at Texas A&M University - Kingsville. She has previously served as collaborative artist in residence at multiple summer festivals including the Bowdoin International Music Festival, the Vianden Music Festival, and the Killington Music Festival and is now piano faculty at the New England Music Camp in Maine. She is a founding member of the Vista Trio, a flute, saxophone and piano ensemble and also serves as organist at the Church of the Epiphany in Kingsville, TX.

Jeong-Eun Lee

Jeong-Eun Lee, piano Dedicated to performing a wide range of solo and chamber repertoire, pianist Jeong-Eun Lee has been recognized in numerous competitions and festivals such as the Coleman

National Chamber Competition, Northwest Chopin Festival, Seattle Young Artists Music Festival, the MTNA Washington State Competition and the Sturm Page Competition. Since her debut with the Skagit Valley Symphony, Dr. Lee has appeared as a soloist with the Seattle Symphony, Eastman School Symphony Orchestra and Eastern Music Festival Orchestra. She performed at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., Benaroya Hall in Seattle, WA and performed in Italy, Czech Republic and the Netherlands. As an avid chamber musician, Dr. Lee performed as one of the young artists at the Kneisel Chamber Festival, where she studied with Jane Coop, Bonnie Hampton, Bayla Keyes and Seymour Lipkin. She also served as a collaborative fellow at the Aspen Music Festival, where she studied with Andrew Harley and Rita Sloan. Other summers were spent at the Amalfi Coast Festival, Bowdoin International Music Festival, Holland International Music Sessions, and Songfest. Dr. Lee is also one of the founding members of Trio 507, which was featured in concerts in the San Francisco Bay Area. Originally from Seoul, Korea, Dr. Lee received degrees from the Eastman School of Music and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, where she studied with Jean Barr, Nelita True and Yoshikazu Nagai. Dr. Lee previously worked at the State University of New York— Geneseo and is currently a collaborative pianist at the Riverside City College.



Yunjung Lee

Yunjung Lee, violin Korean violinist Dr. Yunjung Lee began studying the violin at the age of five. An active performer, she appeared as a soloist with many orchestras, such as Greece Symphony Orchestra, Seoul Philharmonic, Korean Symphony Orchestra, and many others, as well as in international music festivals participating in the Music Academy of the West (2010, 2011), the Brevard Music Festival (2013), the Orford Art Center (2015), and the International Chamber Orchestra of Puerto Rico (2017). Dr. Lee was the first Artist-in-Residence at Valley Manor, senior living facility in Rochester, NY, a position which she was selected by both the Eastman School of Music and Valley Manor. In 2018, she has also appeared as a speaker/performer in ‘The Sound of Connection’, a presentation of TEDxRochester series of events. She earned her Bachelor, Masters, and Doctoral degrees in violin performance at the Eastman School of Music, where she studied with Zvi Zeitlin and Federico Agostini. Dr. Lee had taught at Drake University, at the Eastman School of Music and at the University of Rochester. She had instructed violin, viola as well as chamber music ensembles. Some of her students won concerto competition, concertmaster position, and second violin principal position at the University of Rochester Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra. Dr. Lee is currently teaching at the School of Music, Louisiana Tech University. Besides her strong interest in broadening her solo violin repertoire, she is an enthusiastic chamber musician, and is passionate about teaching.



Hongling Liang

Born in Jilin, China, pianist Hongling Liang, received her bachelor's degree in Piano Performance with Hesong Wang as her primary teacher at Jinan University. She continued on to obtain her master's degree at the Longy School of Music of Bard College with Rieko Aizawa as her primary instructor. Ms. Liang also studied with world renowned pianists Peter Serkin, Kobrin Alexander, and Robert Merfeld. She recently completed the artist diploma program under the tutelage of Tatiana Muzanova at Schwob School of Music of Columbus State University. As a concert pianist, she has successfully performed at world class venues such as Jordan Hall, Bill Heard Theatre, Legacy Hall, Granoff Music Center, Pickman Hall, Westport Town Hall, HingXai Concert Hall, Jinan University and Southern Normal University as a soloist, collaborative pianist, and chamber musician.

Ms. Liang has won prizes in numerous competitions including the Yangtze Piano Competition, Hong Kong International Piano Competition, and the Macaw International Piano Competition. Ms. Hongling is pursuing her Doctorate of Music degree in collaborative piano at University of North Texas in studio of Dr. Steve Harlos and Dr. Elvia Puccinelli



Chiaoyu Lin

Taiwanese pianist Chiaoyu Lin has been recognized both in Asia and the United States for her musical achievements. She is a prizewinner of the International Steinway Piano Competition (Taiwan), the Yamaha Piano Competition, the Kawai Piano Competition, and other Chinese piano competitions (Nanjing, Beijing, Shenzhen, and Shanghai). She performs solo recitals annually in Taiwan, and gave her Chinese recital debut in Suqian. In the US, Chiaoyu was selected as a state and division winner of Music Teachers National Association Young Artist Competition, and won the Merit Prize in the MTNA national competition. This year she was the winner for the George R. Johnson Concerto Competition and performed Rachmaninoff Second Concerto with the Cleveland Orchestra of Tennessee, she was also selected as the winner for the Lee University Concerto Competition. She has performed and studied at several prestigious classical music festivals, including the Halle Music Festival in Germany and the Atlantic Music Festival in Maine, where she performed Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1 as the winner of the concerto competition. Chiaoyu has performed in public masterclasses with Sergei Babayan, Ning An, Natalya Antonova, Sean Duggan, Bernd Geotzke, ChingYun Hu, Bruce Brubaker, Fei Fei Dong, Elena Cholakova, Gabriel Chodos, Sun Min Kim, and Mei-Hsuan Huang. She also dedicates herself to the study of collaborative piano and chamber music. Chiaoyu was studying with Dr. Tzong-Kai (John)

Kuo before she came to the States and is currently pursuing her Bachelor's degree in Piano Performance at the Lee University School of Music, where she studies with Dr. Cahill Smith.



Junyi Huangfu

Junyi Huangfu is a pianist pursuing her master's degree in collaborative piano, vocally with Dr. Elvia Puccinelli and instrumentally with Dr. Harlos. She attended UNT Collabfest in 2017 and 2018. She has masterclass experience with pianists Lambert Orkis, Ksenia Nosikova, Roy Howat, Eileen Cornett, and Margaret Singer. She has performed with singers, choirs, violinist, clarinetist, oboist, saxophonist and so on. She also had three years of participating in choir experience.

Xiaoyue Liu

Soprano Xiaoyue Liu, a candidate of Doctor degree student, is now studying Voice Performance in UNT and has won an Academic Achievement Scholarship. She received her master degree in Manhattan School of Music and an undergraduate degree in Xinghai Conservatory of Music, China. Ms. Liu was the finalist of the UNT Concerto Competition in Voice Division. She also won the highest Chinese National Scholarship and First prize in Chinese Division at Asia International Music Competition. Xiaoyue Liu's previous credits include *L'enfant et les sortilèges* (The fire), *Le nozze di Figaro* (Susanna), *Carmen* (Frasquida) and so on.



Claire Marquardt

Claire Marquardt, MM, of Poteau, OK, earned her bachelor's degree in piano performance with full academic honors at East Central University in Ada, OK. She studied piano with Dr. Starla Hibler and Dr. Lark Powers and won the national collegiate division of the 2011 Lynn Freeman Olson Composition Contest. Upon graduation, she delivered a commencement address at the university-wide honors ceremony. Claire then achieved her master's degree in piano performance at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, studying private piano with Dr. Stephen Beus and holding a graduate accompanying assistantship with the prestigious OU Weitzenhoffer School of Musical

Theater. Claire then completed a master's degree in collaborative piano at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond, studying with Dr. Sallie Pollack. In October, 2016, Claire presented her paper "Aristotle's System of Rhetorical Discourse Applied to Beethoven's Op. 26 Variations" at the CMS National Conference in Santa Fe, NM. She was instrumental in founding the Chickasaw Nation School of Piano in Ada, OK, and currently teaches all classes and private lessons offered through the School. She is also active as an accompanist and adjudicator throughout the state.



Katayla M. Mongold

Katayla M. Mongold is an undergraduate student at the University of Central Oklahoma and is majoring in violin performance and minoring in collaborative piano. She is a violin student of Dr. Hong Zhu and collaborative piano Dr. Sallie Pollack. Katayla was raised in rural Oklahoma where she started violin at four years old and piano at five years old. She graduated from her homeschool high school education in May 2017 and will complete her undergraduate degree from UCO in May 2020. Katayla intends to pursue her graduate degrees in violin performance and collaborative piano and ultimately obtain a doctoral degree in musicology.



Bree Nichols

Bree Nichols is an operatic soprano known for her warm timbre and compelling stage presence. She is currently working toward the Doctor of Music Arts degree at the University of North Texas, where the Division of Vocal Studies appointed her as a Teaching Fellow in voice. Her career has taken her to the stages of Symphony of the Mountains, Capitol City Opera, Opera Roanoke, Opera on the James, Opera Experience Southeast, Appalachian Opera Theatre, and more. In the summer of 2019, she returned to the Czech Republic to perform in the modern premiere of two operas (Fortuna in *Le veglie ossequiose* and *Witz/Fama/Juno* in *Die sieben Alter stimmen zusammen*) by J. H. Schmelzer as a part of the Olomouc Baroque Festival. This followed her 2018 performance there of Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* with the Ensemble Damian. Her time in the Czech Republic ignited a love for Czech opera and art song that inspired her 2019 recital, *Songs of Czechia*, which featured Dvořák's Gypsy Songs and revived a rare aria from Karel Bendl's grand opera *Lejla*.

Bree recently debuted as Gilda in *Rigoletto* with Capitol City Opera and toured the state of Texas as the Fox in Janáček's *The Cunning Little Vixen* with UNT Opera. Other recent performances include Melani's cantata *Quai bellici accenti* (with UNT faculty Adam Gordon, baroque trumpet, and Bradley Bennight, harpsichord), *Mařenka* in *The Bartered Bride*, *Béatrice* in Roussel's *Le testament*

de la tante Caroline, Nedda in Pagliacci, Jennie in Kurt Weill's Down in the Valley, and Valencienne in The Merry Widow.

Bree Nichols is an innovator in community opera advocacy, where her performance expertise informs her leadership in shaping the next generation of musicians. She is founder of Stafford Opera Troupe in Stafford, Virginia, where she created the tuition-free Summer Opera Program offering opera training and performance opportunities to high school and young collegiate singers. Bree earned her Master of Music degree from University of Georgia and her Bachelor of Music from Liberty University, whose School of Music noted her as an outstanding alumna in 2018 (Liberty News). She currently calls the state of Texas home, where she lives and frequently performs with her husband, tenor Jason Nichols. She studies with Carol Wilson at the University of North Texas College of Music.



Peter Pollack

Dr. Pollack has always been passionate about the study and appreciation of the music that he performs, while exploring its evolutionary, revolutionary, and cultural context. In 2012, Dr. Pollack created the History of Rock and Roll course for the University of Central Oklahoma, teaching it as an adjunct instructor. In 2016, Dr. Pollack joined the faculty as a full time temporary Lecturer.

As a drummer/percussionist, Dr. Pollack performed as a drummer with the Las Vegas production of Blue Man Group from 2000 until 2009. Dr. Pollack has performed and recorded with numerous groups representing diverse styles in New York, Chicago, Las Vegas, and Champaign, Illinois including Genesis tribute band, Fayrewether, Door's tribute band, Mojo Risin', Cheetah Chrome of the Dead Boys, Dis- (Steve Albini, producer), Bale, My Brother's Keeper, and Laurie McColley. He has performed as drummer and percussionist with numerous Broadway shows, the Springfield, Illinois Symphony, Lansing Symphony Orchestra, the Champaign/Urbana Symphony, and the Fort Worth and Midland, Texas Symphonies. While at the University of Illinois, he was timpanist with the Sinfonia De Camera.

Dr. Pollack holds a Doctorate of Music degree; he earned his Bachelor of Music in percussion performance from Oberlin College in Ohio, his Master of Music at Michigan State University, and his Doctorate of Musical Arts at the University of Illinois. As a graduate assistant Dr. Pollack taught studio majors and directed the percussion ensembles. His DMA minor was in the area of Ethnomusicology, with particular emphasis on East Asian and African regions. While at Illinois, he performed with the Indonesian Gamelan, and Zimbabwe mbira ensemble.



Catherine Raible

Up and coming, American soprano, Catherine Raible has been dazzling audiences for years. Renowned for her warm tone and regal stage presence Catherine has studied and performed the roles of Magda Sorel (*The Consul*), Nella (*Gianni Schicchi*), Anna Maurant (*Street Scene*), Announcer (*Gallantry*), and Second Lady (*The Magic Flute*); and scenes from *Dialogues des Carmelites* (*Madame Lidoine*), *Falstaff* (*Alice Ford*), *Norma* (*Adalgisa*), *Le nozze di Figaro* (*Countess*), *La Boheme* (*Mimi*), and *Don Giovanni* (*Donna Anna*).

Catherine has performed in masterclasses, concerts, and programs around the country. Catherine participated in Utah Vocal Arts Academy (UVAA) and Utah Lyric Opera's first Dramatic Voice Program. During this program, she closely worked with world renowned coaches, pedagogues, conductors, and American dramatic soprano, Deborah Voigt. Catherine was awarded a travel grant from the University of North Texas to study and perform with Anthony Laciura Foundation for the Arts in the New York Dramatic Voices Winter Concert this past January making her New York City debut.

While in the Dallas/Fort Worth area, Catherine has performed at local churches and collaborated with the North Texas chapter of Opera on Tap and Lumedia Musicworks. Catherine also collaborates with charitable organizations such as Honor Flight DFW and many others. Catherine's upcoming roles include Donna Elvira, cover (*Don Giovanni*) and a newly designed production of Regina as Birdie Hubbard.



Angela Sakimpa

Angela Sakimpa is a Senior Vocal Performance major at the University of North Texas. Angela has been studying with Dr. Carol Wilson for three years. She has been in the UNT A Cappella Choir for two years under the direction of Dr. Allen Hightower, and is in her second year with the UNT Collegium Singers under the direction of Dr. Allen Hightower. She is also involved in the UNT Opera Program and has been featured in “The Cunning Little Vixen” as a hen and played the role Kelsey in “If I Loved You”. She has also competed in NATS for two years where she placed Third in 2016 and First in 2018, alongside with the “Best College Woman Soloist” award.



Marc Sanders

Marc Sanders is a collaborative pianist from Albany, Texas. He first began taking piano lessons from his mother at age 6. He has also studied under Dan McAlexander, Anastasia Markina, and Mark Puckett. He currently serves as the staff accompanist & music director for opera at Abilene Christian University.

Before his current appointment, Marc held positions as staff accompanist at both Hardin-Simmons & McMurry Universities, where he maintained a prolific performance schedule. Performance opportunities there included undergraduate, graduate, and faculty recitals, studio classes, musicals, and accompanying choral ensembles. In addition, he has performed in masterclasses with Rachel Barton Pine, Thomas Pasatieri, Matt Haimovitz, Richard Sherman, and Tim McAllister, among many others.

He is also an active church musician, having held positions as pianist or organist for nearly twenty-five years. He has been the pianist at Pioneer Drive Baptist Church in Abilene since 2006. He tours and performs with their high school choir every summer.

Other musical endeavors have included work with Abilene Christian University Theatre, the Civic Orchestra of Abilene, Red River Lyric Opera (as conductor for The Little Prince, July 2019), Abilene Chamber Players, the Church of the Heavenly Rest recital series, NATS, Opera Breve, NYAC, North Central Texas College, the Plainview Symphony, the Point Theatre, and the Paramount Theatre in Abilene.



Tookah Sapper

Cherokee soprano, Tookah Sapper, from Oklahoma City, holds a Master of Music degree from Manhattan School of Music and a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Central Oklahoma. “Tookah” means, clear sight and far vision, in the Cherokee language, and is derived from the Cherokee word meaning, “watch tower.” She performed and collaborated with American Opera Projects, based in Brooklyn, NY, during their 2015/16 and 2017/18 seasons as a member of their Resident Ensemble. In May 2018, she collaborated and performed with guitarist, Luigi Attademo, *The Divan of Moses-Ibn-Ezra* by Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco, at the Italian Cultural Institute in New York City. In summer of 2017, she performed as a Studio Artist with The Chautauqua Opera Company. She has performed as soloist in concert works such as, Haydn’s *Theresienmesse*, Mozart’s *Vesperae Solemnes di Confessore* and *Mass in C Minor*, Schubert’s *Mass in G Major*, and Handel’s *Messiah*. Currently based in Oklahoma City, she often performs with Opera On Tap and is a staff singer at Christ the King. Also a pianist, she accompanies dance classes at UCO and Oklahoma City Ballet.



Willem van Schalkwyk

Applauded by the Salt Lake City Tribune for “maturity beyond his years” and “dizzying technical facility,” Namibian pianist Willem van Schalkwyk has concertized throughout the United States, Europe, South America, and Southern Africa - most recently in France and Mexico. Willem regularly returns to Namibia for concert appearances, and some notable events include playing the Rachmaninoff Third Piano Concerto and the Tchaikovsky First Piano Concerto with the Namibia National Symphony Orchestra, and presenting a solo recital as part of the National Theatre of Namibia’s 25-year anniversary celebrations. As collaborative artist Willem has performed with instrumentalists from the New York Philharmonic, the Chicago, San Francisco and Utah Symphonies, as well as the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. As vocal coach and pianist Willem has served with companies that include the Santa Fe Opera, Utah Opera, the Taos Opera Institute, the AIMS program in Austria, Arizona Opera, Opera Fort Collins, and the Opera in the Ozarks. From 2014 until 2019, Willem was Assistant Professor of Piano and Opera/Vocal Coaching at the University of Northern Colorado, and he joins the University of North Texas faculty this fall as Opera Coach.

Sara Steele

Sara Steele is a Presser Award pianist originally from Springfield, Missouri. As an educator, avid performer, and vocal coach, Sara has an affinity for opera and the voice, and strives to help young artists achieve excellence, and find their niche in the musical world.

Nationally, Sara has debuted in Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall as a winner of the chamber music division in the Semper Pro Musica competition. She has accompanied master classes given by Kathleen Kelly, Mary Dibbern, Juliana Hall, and, in addition, frequently serves as an accompanist and coach for high school and undergraduate chamber groups, ensembles, and soloists participating in competitions in Missouri and Texas. During the summer of 2019, Sara was on faculty as a vocal coach and pianist for the inaugural season of the Colorado Vocal Institute in Copper Mountain, Colorado.

Internationally, Sara has served on musical staff of the Music in the Marche and as a voice faculty member at the Brancaleoni International Music Festival. At BIMF, she worked as vocal coach and assistant music director under the direction of Metropolitan Opera coach, Howard Watkins.

Ms. Steele holds a B.M. in Performance from Southwest Baptist University, under the instruction of Melinda Smashey-Jones. Sara holds two Masters degrees, one in Collaborative Piano, and the other in Performance and Pedagogy, both from Baylor University, where she studied with Jane Abbott-Kirk and Kae Hosada-Ayer. During her graduate studies at Baylor, Sara served as pianist for Baylor Opera Theater, the A Cappella Choir, Concert Choir, and a number of students in the voice and instrumental departments. Currently, Sara is in her second year of the DMA in Collaborative Piano at the University of North Texas, where she studies with Elvia Puccinelli and Steven Harlos. During the 2018-19 academic year, Sara served as director of the Rainbow-Froehlich Outreach Program, and is a graduate assistant for UNT Opera. Additionally, Sara is a staff pianist at Texas Women's University, maintains an active private piano studio, and freelances throughout North Central Texas.

Nicole Stover

Nicole Stover, Soprano, is originally from Charlotte, North Carolina. She is an aspiring opera singer and is in the last semester of her Bachelors of Music in Vocal Performance at UNT. Nicole has always had a fierce love for classical music and is a passionate performer of early music, choral literature and opera. This past year, Nicole has had the opportunity to delve deeper into early music with UNT's Collegium Singers, and previously worked in stage management with the American Baroque Opera Company. Collaboration has always been at the forefront of her ambitions and Nicole looks forward to pursuing collaborative works among the company of friends and fellow musicians. Last Summer, she made her opera debut as Nella in Gianni Schicchi with Varna International. She has also had the opportunity of understudying Mozart roles such as Despina, Cosi fan tutte, and Zerlina, Don Giovanni, with UNT Opera. In March of 2019, Nicole was awarded 1st place at the Regional NATS DFW competition in the Upper Collegiate Women division for the second year in a row, also receiving the Betty Udder Award for outstanding soloist in her division.



Nola Strand

Nola Strand is an Oklahoma City-based pianist, teacher, and vocal coach with experience playing a wide array of repertoire and styles. Praised for her sensitive and creative musical collaboration Nola is in high demand as a concert artist and has performed in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, and Austria. She is active as an accompanist for vocal and instrumental studios and plays regularly for NATS competitions.

Nola gained repetiteur and vocal coaching experience at OperaWorks and Opera Breve, and was a resident artist with Pensacola Opera, where she performed regular outreach concerts and was the rehearsal and performance pianist for Piazzolla's Maria de Buenos Aires. She has performed in several art song festivals, including VISI and Source Song Festival, where she participated in master classes with Julius Drake, Isabel Bayrakdarian, and Graham Johnson. She performs regularly with Alicia Wallace as Duo Comosso, an ensemble committed to presenting art song in intimate settings.

Hailing from Merritt, B.C. Canada, Nola completed her B.Mus in Piano Performance at the University of Victoria, and her MM in Collaborative Piano at the University of North Texas, where she studied with Dr. Steven Harlos, Dr. Elvia Puccinelli, and Petra Somlai. While at UNT Nola co-founded and acted as President of North Texas Collaborative Pianists. NTCP was established to create a community of collaborative pianists and help musicians find pianists for events in the DFW area. The group also performed outreach concerts and brought in artists for master classes focusing on collaborative repertoire.



Hayden Turner

Hayden Turner is a Senior Undergraduate Baritone majoring in Vocal Music Education Major studying at the University of Central Oklahoma. He is from Kingfisher, a small town in northern Oklahoma. He is studying under the guidance of Dr. Kevin Eckard. He is extremely excited and honored to participate in Collabfest with the wonderful Katayla Mongold.



Alicia Wallace

Soprano Alicia Wallace has performed across the United States, Italy, Scotland, and China. Performing oratorios of Schubert, Mozart, and many others, she is sought as a soloist and recitalist. Dr. Wallace performs a wide variety of repertoire ranging from Schubert, Schreker, Beethoven, and Strauss Lieder, including the Four Last Songs of Strauss, Barber's Knoxville: Summer of 1915, and Barber's Hermit Songs. She is a co-founding member of the chamber group Duo Comosso with pianist Nola Strand. They perform throughout the country. Dr. Wallace currently resides in Oklahoma and is Assistant Professor of Voice at Southeastern Oklahoma State University. She held previous faculty positions at Tarleton State University and the University of Texas at Arlington.

Katherine Watson

Katherine Watson, soprano, is a second year Masters of Music student at the University of North Texas and a voice student of Professor Molly Fillmore. With UNT Opera she has performed the roles of Fiordiligi (*Così fan tutte*), and Christine (Roussel's *Le testament de la tante Caroline*). This past year, Miss Watson was the soprano soloist for Jonathan Willcocks' Magnificat and Handel's *Messiah* (conducted by Dr. Richard Sparks) at Spring Valley United Methodist Church and Dupré's *De Profundis* with Tyler Civic Chorale. Upcoming engagements include *Donna Anna* (*Don Giovanni*) and *Arianna* (Monteverdi's *Madrigals of Love and War*) in the 2019-2020 season.



Rachel Whelan

The music of composer Rachel Whelan (b. 1992) has been performed by Choral Arts Initiative, Orlando Cela, SBO Wind Ensemble, KC Vitas Choir, Omaha Symphony members, and Whelan has opened for Susan Werner at the Johnny Carson Theatre in Lincoln, Nebraska. Whelan demonstrates versatile compositional abilities with with songwriting, chamber works, and her primary interest, music for choir and wind band. She has also collaborated with film students at the University of Arizona, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and was Head Production Assistant for the UNL Feature Film "DIGS" (2013). She received her master of music degree in Music Composition from the University of South Carolina, studying composition and running the New Voices student composer concerts and the Southern Exposure New Music Series (under the direction of Michael Harley of Alarm Will Sound). She is currently a PhD student and teaching fellow in composition at the University of North Texas in Denton, TX.

A passionate advocate for arts management and administration. She has worked as an administrator or intern for the Cortona Sessions for New Music, Savvy Arts Venture, and for the Lied Center for Performing Arts. Whelan's dedication to the performance of music by living composers is further evident in her with the non-profit concert series Treefalls: New Music Series (501c3) in Spartanburg, SC, where she is assistant director. A typical optimist, she's frequently inspired by the upsides of life: nature reserves, beaches, exceptional food, and talented, spirited friends. When not composing, she can be found in these activities. Her teachers in composition include Sunji Hong, Mandy Fang, John Fitz Rogers, Jesse Jones, and Paul Snell. Her primary flute teachers have been Carolyn Cline Corbett and Laura Schulkind.



Yi Liu

Yi Liu, an active solo and collaborative pianist, has won the 1st Prize in the International Keyboard Odysiad & Festival in 2019, the 2nd Prize of the Chamber Music Division in the ENKOR Int'l Music Competition in 2018, the Third Prize in the 30th Shanghai International Music Festival competition in 2013. He attended the prestigious Mozarteum International Summer Academy in Salzburg in 2016. Yi has many experiences of collaborating with chamber musicians, such as with Violinist Katie Lansdale, Violinist Jin Zhou, Violist Lila Brown, Cellist Rhonda Rider, Cellist Nathaniel Taylor and Flutist Qi wang. He has given many collaborative and solo recitals in many concert halls of big cities, such as Shanghai Symphony Hall, Shanghai Concert Hall, Hangzhou Grand Theater, Seully Hall in Boston, Griffin Concert Hall in Colorado, and Kleines Studio Hall in Salzburg. He was invited to perform in the Mozart's 250th Birthday Chamber Concert Series at Shanghai Symphony Hall in 2006, the Chamber Music Concert Series at Shanghai Symphony Hall in 2007, the Chamber Music Concert Series at the Boston Conservatory both in 2015, 2016 and 2017, the International Musicians Chamber Concert Series at Suzhou University in 2018. In 2019, he was invited to perform the whole piano reduction of Mozart's opera "Don Giovanni" for Molly Fillmore Studio Concert at UNT Voertman Hall. Yi is currently continuing his DMA studies with Polish pianist Adam Wodnicki, Dr. Elvia Puccinelli, Dr. Steven Harlos, Dr. Pamela Mia Paul, Dr. Brad Beckman, also working as TF at UNT College of Music.



Jennifer Youngs

Jennifer made her main stage Dallas Opera debut as Olimpia in Argento's The Aspern Papers and was seen in the role of Laurette in the Dallas Opera Outreach production of Bizet's Dr. Miracle. Opera roles include Lucia in Lucia di Lammermoor, Donna Anna in Don Giovanni, Birdie in Regina, and Vitellia in La clemenza di Tito, Casilda in The Gondoliers, and Clorinda in La Cenerentola. She has been a featured soloist for Mahler's 4th Symphony, Carmina Burana, Beethoven's 9th Symphony, Handel's Messiah, Haydn's Creation, Bach's Cantata #110, Brahms Requiem, Mozart's Exsultate,

jubilate, and Mozart Requiem. She has been a featured soloist with The Dallas Symphony, Abilene Philharmonic, Winston-Salam Symphony, Richardson Symphony, and University of North Texas Symphony orchestras. Jennifer is a champion for living composers and has been featured on several recitals with composer Jake Heggie and Tom Cipullo. Jennifer also is a member of the Grammy nominated ensemble, The South Dakota Chorale.

Jennifer has been nominated for a Richard Tucker Foundation Career Grant, winner of the Lois Alba Aria Competition, winner of the Kansas City District of the Metropolitan Opera Council Auditions, winner of the concerto competition at The University of North Texas, and a semi-finalist in the Loren Zachary Vocal Competition.

Jennifer is the Coordinator of Vocal Studies at Texas Woman's University. She holds both a masters degree and a doctorate from the University of North Texas, and a bachelor degree from The University of the Pacific.



Fu-Jung Yu

Taiwan violinist Fu-Jung Yu, who is an orchestra player and chamber musician. Fu-Jung was not major in music in his undergraduate education. However, depending on strong passion of music, Fu-Jung kept learning the violin. When he was serving for army, he was been choose to Ministry of National Defense Symphony Orchestra, which is the a main professional orchestra in Taiwan, and also the only orchestra in Taiwan ministry. After serving for army, Fu-Jung Yu started his master program at The Boston conservatory. During his master, he completed two recitals in Boston conservatory, and a concert master experience with the Boston Conservatory Symphony Orchestra. Fu-Jung also performed besides school. He went to Europe as the second violin principle for Prague summer night Symphony Orchestra, joined the Napa Valley Festival Symphony Orchestra, and gave two solo recitals to his hometown, Taiwan. Now, Fu-jung Yu is doing his doctoral degree in the University of North Texas College of Music

