

Mina Hong

Sept 17, THU 6:30-8pm EST



Born and raised in Los Angeles, California, Mina Hong had a particular musical upbringing. Her mother being a professional oboist and great-uncle a distinguished violinist, Mina's love for music blossomed early in her life. She attended the Colburn School of Performing Arts during her pre-college career, where she studied with Danielle Belen. Mina continued her studies and holds the Bachelor of Music from the University of Southern California (2017), under the instruction of Margaret Batjer, where she was awarded the Robert Ellis Simon Memorial Endowed Music Scholarship. She has recently completed her Master of Music degree as a recipient of the Charles Walgreen Graduate Fellowship, at the University of Michigan (2019), under the tutelage of David Halen.

Mina served as concertmaster of the National Repertory Orchestra in the 2018 and 2019 season. She made her solo debut with the National Repertory Orchestra in 2018 performing the Barber Violin Concerto and made a second appearance in 2019, performing the Korngold Violin Concerto. Mina has performed with the New World Symphony in recent years and has attended and performed at festivals such as the Aspen Music Festival and School, Great Mountains International Music Festival, and Innsbrook Music Festival.

Sarah Carrier

Oct 15, THU 6:30-8pm EST



Sarah Carrier (DMA) is a New York City-based flutist dedicated to exploring the instrument's sonic and affective potentials through color, space, and media. She has received praise from The New York Times for combining “thoughtful musicality with virtuosity in her alternately energetic and delicate account of a flute line laden with light multiphonics and unusual timbres.” Sarah has appeared in venues such as Carnegie Hall (Perelman and Weill), National Sawdust, The Stone, Le Poisson Rouge, Walt Disney Hall, Merkin Hall, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Guggenheim, Issue Project Room, and many more. She can be heard on American composer Sunny Knable’s album *American Variations* (Centauro Records), an upcoming album featuring works by Lisa Bielawa, as well as a large collection of solo and chamber performance videos available on YouTube. Sarah is a member of the acclaimed Parhelion Trio, an all-female NYC-based flute, clarinet, and piano ensemble that reaches diverse audiences through innovative programming. As the producer of the upcoming multidisciplinary project *Dark Matter: A Tribute to Vera Rubin*, she is the recipient of a \$9,000 grant from New Music USA and a \$2,500 grant from MAP Fund to commission Angélica Negrón, Alexandra du Bois, and Danielle Eva Schwob to compose works for Parhelion Trio in dedication to the late astrophysicist Vera Rubin. In conjunction with the New York Philharmonic’s Very Young Composers program, Sarah gives annual workshops and performances for the student composers at Brooklyn’s P.S. 39, Manhattan’s P.S. 165, and the VYC’s Bridge Program at Lincoln Center. She served as an adjudicator for the 2020 New York Flute Club high school competition and the 2019 New Jersey Flute Society middle school and high school competition.

Sarah holds a DMA from The Graduate Center, The City University of New York where she completed her dissertation “Reimagining the Flute Masterclass: Case Studies Exploring Artistry, Authority, and Embodiment” (2019). While pursuing her DMA (CUNY) and MM (New York University), she studied with Robert Dick. Sarah Carrier previously served on faculty at St. Joseph’s College in Brooklyn where she taught the Postmodern and Music Appreciation course.

Carrington Truehart

Nov 19, THU 6:30-8pm EST



Carrington Truehart is the cello IRIS Artist Fellow for the 2019-2021 seasons. He holds a Bachelors of Music Education from the University of Memphis as well as a Masters of Music in cello performance. Carrington has performed in masterclasses for renowned artists such as David Finckel, Joshua Roman, Joel Krosnick and the Jerusalem Quartet. His frequent orchestral engagements include appearances with the IRIS Orchestra, the Memphis Symphony Orchestra, Tupelo Symphony, Memphis Repertory Orchestra, and the Memphis Sinfonietta. A few of his many mentors include Leo Altino, Seth Russell and Kimberly Patterson.

Brianne Borden

December 17, THU 6:30-8pm EST



Dr. Brianne Borden is a trumpet player and teacher in the Phoenix area, whose primary goal is inspiring musicians to be skillful instrumentalists, collaborative musical community members, creative leaders, and set up for a sustainable career in their chosen field. Brianne has taught through the Phoenix Conservatory of Music and Harmony Project PHX, both organizations that provide musical instruction to under-resourced youth. Pivoting for the current times, she teaches for The Den Collective, an online music studio comprised of top music industry professionals committed to nurturing a musician's growth.

Brianne is an active clinician and soloist, having presented recitals and masterclasses at numerous universities and conferences around the country. These include Colburn Conservatory, Ithaca College, University of North Carolina Greensboro, University of Northern Arizona, the Hawaii Youth Symphony, the International Trumpet Guild Conference and the International Women's Brass Conference, among more. Brianne has competed in the National Trumpet Competition as both a soloist and an ensemble member, as well as having coached students successfully into the semi-final rounds of the competition. Brianne completed her doctoral studies in Trumpet Performance at Arizona State University, where, alongside her playing and appointment as Teaching Assistant, she researched heavily in the field of wellness for musicians and served as instructor for a weekly class titled Movement for Musicians. As an entrepreneur, Brianne currently acts as co-owner and CEO of a virtual yoga studio, Yoga for All Musicians, catering specifically to the physical and emotional needs of musicians. She has published multiple articles and developed workshops on ways to incorporate wellness into a musician's lifestyle in order to counteract repetitive motion injuries, battle performance anxiety, and maintain a sustainable music career.

Brianne received her Master's Degree in Trumpet Performance from the University of Colorado - Boulder where she taught as Teaching Assistant as well as performed with the Graduate Brass Quintet. She is also a proud alumna of SUNY Potsdam where she received a Bachelor's Degree in Trumpet Performance and her love of brass chamber music was established in the Frackenpohl Honors Brass Quintet. Her principal trumpet teachers include David Hickman, Dr. John Ellis, Terry Sawchuk, Justin Bartels, and Herb Smith.

Caitlin Edwards

Jan 14, THU 6:30-8pm EST



Caitlin Edwards began studying the violin at the age of eight, through the Music Opportunity Program in Birmingham, Alabama. In 2018, she was awarded the Rising Star award from the Gateways Music Festival and helped lead the Nairobi Philharmonic in Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker, the first live ballet/orchestra production in Kenyan history. She also recorded the movie score for Disney movie, "The Lion King", in April 2019. She's performed and recorded behind artists such as Ms. Lauryn Hill, John Legend, Common, Yolanda Adams, India Arie, and etc. She has had the pleasure to perform with orchestras such as the Chicago Sinfonietta, Grant Park Orchestra, the National Repertory Orchestra, and Re-Collective Orchestra. Caitlin was featured as a soloist in the "Dreams of Hope" documentary which premiered on PBS stations across the US in early 2020. Caitlin is a recent graduate of DePaul University, receiving her Masters with distinction.

Alexis Lovelady

Feb 18, THU 6:30-8pm EST



A1C Alexis Lovelady performs on Horn in the Concert Band and Heritage Brass Ensemble within the United States Air Force Heritage of America Band at Langley AFB, Virginia. A native of Madison, Alabama, A1C Lovelady earned her Bachelor of Science in Horn Performance from the University of North Alabama and Master of Music in Horn Performance from the University of Florida. She is currently a candidate for the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Arizona State University. Her major teachers include Mr. Mark Gessner (Huntsville Symphony Orchestra), Dr. David McCullough (University of North Alabama), Dr. Paul Basler (University of Florida), and Dr. John Ericson (Arizona State University).

Prior to enlisting in the United States Air Force, A1C Lovelady regularly performed as a solo, orchestral, and chamber musician. She served as third horn in the Ocala Symphony (2015-2016) and performed regularly with the Prescott Pops Symphony, Gainesville Orchestra, Valdosta Symphony Orchestra, and the Gainesville Brass Quintet. She has performed with the University of Florida Concert Band as a featured soloist. In July 2017, A1C Lovelady toured Europe as a member of the American Chamber Winds. She is an alumna of the Kendall Betts Horn Camp (2016, 2017) and served as a camp staff member in 2018. A1C Lovelady served as a Teaching Assistant at Arizona State University.

A1C Lovelady joined the Heritage of America Band in September 2018. In March 2020, she won a position in the Ceremonial Brass of the United States Air Force Band in Washington, D.C. where she will begin her assignment in December 2020.

Sean Krissman

March 18, THU 6:30-8pm EST



Born in Honolulu, Hawaii and raised in Los Angeles, California, clarinetist Sean Krissman has established himself as an engaging, multi-faceted performer and avid educator.

Sean currently serves as Principal Clarinet of the Houston Grand Opera Orchestra. During his tenure at HGO, Sean completed his Master of Music degree at Rice University's Shepherd School of Music under the tutelage of Richie Hawley. He received his Bachelor of Music degree with Highest Honors from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and has studied extensively with Dan Gilbert, Chad Burrow, Helen Goode-Castro, and Yehuda Gilad.

Winner of the Gino B. Cioffi Memorial Prize at the Tanglewood Music Center, Sean has spent previous summers at Crested Butte Music Festival, Spoleto Festival USA, Tanglewood Music Center, Music Academy of the West, The Banff Centre, National Repertory Orchestra, and AIMS Graz. Currently during the summers, Sean serves as 2nd and Eb Clarinet of the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music.

In addition to being featured as a soloist with the National Repertory Orchestra, University of Michigan Philharmonia, and Bob Cole Conservatory Symphony, Sean has performed with the New York Philharmonic as an inaugural Zarin Mehta Fellow. Other orchestral appearances include performances with the Houston Symphony, Houston Ballet, Kansas City Symphony, Sarasota Orchestra, and guest Principal Clarinet with Pacific Symphony.

Beyond performance, Sean holds a strong passion for music education and community engagement. As a former Young Artist with Da Camera of Houston and member of Rice University's JUMP! program, he engaged in numerous outreach events in the greater Houston area and continues to take part in these initiatives. He coaches chamber groups at the Houston Youth Symphony and is on faculty at the American Festival of the Arts in the summer. Sean also maintains a private clarinet studio and is on faculty at Lone Star College-University Park.

Alongside his love of music, Sean has an affinity for traveling, an irrational loyalty to the Los Angeles Lakers, and an appreciation of spending quality time enjoying the simple things in life with family and friends.

Dr. Cullan Lucas

April 15, THU 6:30-8pm EST



A versatile conductor, artistic director Dr. Cullan Lucas is an advocate of new music and traditionally underrepresented composers, regularly incorporating diverse programming, new commissions, and collaborative efforts with his ensembles. Lucas is actively involved in commissioning and premiering new works such as Theresa Martin's "Almost Alice" and Nell Cohen's "The Sphinx and the Milky Way" in 2019. Experienced in a variety of musical genres from video games and film to traditional masterworks, his goal is to bring more of this authentic, meaningful music to the Driftless Region.

In addition to his passion for new voices and diversity in programming, he also actively researches and participates in musician wellness initiatives including adapting sports psychology and mindfulness amidst new developments in cognitive science in music performance. He regularly adapts this research into masterclasses for young musicians, addressing common issues like performance anxiety and memory in musicians. Before founding DUO in La Crosse, Lucas held both professional and academic positions across the country. Currently, Lucas works regularly with Western Technical College, the La Crosse Youth Symphony Orchestras, and the Aquinas School System in La Crosse in addition to his duties with DUO."

Chris “Varghon” McCarthy

May 13, THU 6:30-8pm EST



Chris received his Bachelors in Instrumental Music from California State University Long Beach's Bob Cole Conservatory of Music, studying under Dr. David Garrett, cellist of the Los Angeles Philharmonic. He has attended master classes with Johannes Moser, Matt Haimovitz, Andrew Shulman, Joon Sun Jung, and the Alexander String Quartet. He is a registered teacher with the American String Teachers Association and Suzuki Association of the Americas. Chris has completed Suzuki pedagogy with Rick Mooney and Tanya Carey.

Currently, Chris performs with the Dana Point Symphony as associate principal cello. He was a member of Symphony Irvine, the Montage Civic Orchestra, and the Crystal Cathedral Hour of Power Orchestra. He is a founding member of Love4Cello, a cello quartet based in Los Angeles, where he also serves as the group's arranger. In 2014, as a member of the Southern California Chamber Ensemble, Chris performed in Nagoya, Japan, with renowned urhu virtuoso George Gao. He is the cello teacher for the Casa Romantica Music Festival and Academy, which he has held since 2015. Chris has freelanced and taught privately in the Los Angeles and Orange County areas since 2003. www.fellowcellostudios.com.