

# PINCHAS ZUKERMAN CELEBRATION

Marking Pinchas Zukerman's 70th birthday and the 25th anniversary of the Pinchas Zukerman Performance Program



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PROGRAM

NICOLÒ PAGANINI (1782–1840) Caprices for Solo Violin

No. 11

No. 24

Jesús Reina, violin

HENRYK WIENIAWSKI

(1835-1880)

Études-Caprices, Op. 18

No. 2 in E-flat Major

No. 4 in A Minor

Bela Horvath, Asi Matathias, violin

FELIX MENDELSSOHN

(1809-1847)

Octet for Strings in E-flat Major, Op. 20

Pinchas Zukerman, Asi Matathias,

Bela Horvath, Anna Magrethe Nilsen, violin

Jethro Marks, Cong Wu, viola

Amanda Forsyth, David Geber, cello

J. S. BACH (1685–1750) Concerto for Two Violins in D Minor

Vivace

Nathan Gendler, Pinchas Zukerman, violin

Largo, ma non tanto

SoHyun Ko, Pinchas Zukerman, violin

Allegro

Nathan Gendler, SoHyun Ko, violin

ANTONÍN DVOŘÁK (1841–1904) Slavonic Dances, Op. 46

No. 8 in G Minor (Furiant)

Pinchas Zukerman, Conductor

# ABOUT THE PINCHAS ZUKERMAN PERFORMANCE PROGRAM

Inaugurated in the fall of 1993, Manhattan School of Music's Pinchas Zukerman Performance Program accepts a limited number of exceptionally gifted violinists and violists to study with internationally acclaimed musician Pinchas Zukerman. The class includes three to 10 young musicians, ranging from 15-year-old students to young career instrumentalists, as well as traditional-age conservatory students.

Mr. Zukerman has adjusted his international performance schedule to permit him to work intensively with the students in a number of private lessons throughout the academic year. In addition, weekly lessons are given by Co-Director Patinka Kopec, who was selected by Mr. Zukerman to be his sole teaching associate.

Mr. Zukerman was instrumental in bringing videoconferencing into Manhattan School of Music's curriculum. In 1996, the School became the first conservatory to pilot the use of distance learning in music performance education. Today, Mr. Zukerman's students are able to maintain regular contact and instruction with their mentor through the use of this innovative technology.

Under Mr. Zukerman's supervision, this premier program is devoted to the artistic and technical development of highly talented students.

## Pinchas Zukerman

Pinchas Zukerman has remained a phenomenon in the world of classical music for over four decades, equally respected as violinist, violist, conductor, and chamber musician for his musical genius, prodigious technique, and unwavering artistic standards. Also a devoted and innovative pedagogue, Mr. Zukerman chairs the Pinchas Zukerman Performance Program at Manhattan School of Music, where he pioneered the use of distance-learning technology in the arts over two decadeas ago.

2018–19 marks his tenth season as Principal Guest Conductor of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in London and his fourth as Artist-in-Association with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra.

Pinchas Zukerman's extensive discography has earned him two Grammy awards and 21 nominations. His complete recordings for Deutsche Grammophon and Philips were released in 2016. Recent releases include *Baroque Treasury* on Analekta with the National Arts Centre Orchestra, cellist Amanda Forsyth, and oboist Charles Hamann; Brahms's Symphony No. 4 and Double Concerto with the National Arts Centre Orchestra and Ms. Forsyth; and works by Elgar and Vaughan Williams with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

As Music Director of the National Arts Centre Orchestra in Canada from 1999 to 2015, he established the NAC Institute for Orchestra Studies and the Summer Music Institute. He currently serves as Conductor Emeritus of the National Arts Centre Orchestra and Artistic Director of its Young Artists Program.

Born in Tel Aviv in 1948, Pinchas Zukerman came to America in 1962 and studied at the Juilliard School with Ivan Galamian as a recipient of the American Israel Cultural Federation scholarship. An alumnus of the Young Concert Artists program, Mr. Zukerman has received the Medal of Arts and the Isaac Stern Award for Artistic Excellence, among many honors.

# Patinka Kopec

# Co-Director of the Pinchas Zukerman Performance Program

Born in Slovakia, Ms. Kopec moved to Israel where she remained until age 11. After emigrating to New York, she entered the Juilliard Pre-College, where she studied violin with Ivan Galamian and Dorothy DeLay, also receiving her BS and MS degrees. She was also Assistant to Ms. DeLay at the Juilliard School and at the Aspen Summer Festival. She did Professional Studies in viola at the Juilliard School with Lillian Fuchs and William Linzer. She has been a member of the Manhattan School of Music faculty since 1987.

Since 1993 Ms. Kopec has been Co-Director and Co-Teacher of the Pinchas Zukerman Performance Program at MSM. She has been Co-Director of the Young Artists Program summer festival at the National Arts Centre in Canada with Pinchas Zukerman since 1999 and of the Heifetz International Music Institute since 2008. Ms. Kopec has presented master classes all over the world in person and via videoconferencing. Her students are soloists, members of important quartets, major orchestras and chamber music groups, and teachers at major conservatories, including the New York Philharmonic, Metropolitan Opera, London Symphony, National Arts Centre, Indiana University, Rice University, Juilliard, and Manhattan School of Music. She was a founding artist of the Perlman Music Program, where she taught for 10 years.

Ms. Kopec has participated in many festivals, including the Aspen, Keshet Eilon (Israel), Feher (Israel), Prague, Pilsen, Germany, Miyazaki, Slovakia, London, Spain, China, Brazil, and the Perlman Music Program in Shanghai. In recent years she has adjudicated international competitions and participated in festivals started by her own former students all over the world.

In 2011 Manhattan School of Music established the Patinka Kopec Endowment in her honor. In 2016 Ms. Kopec received the President's Medal for Distinguished Service to the School.

# ABOUT THE ARTISTS

# Amanda Forsyth, cello

Canadian Juno Award-winning Amanda Forsyth, principal cellist of Canada's National Arts Centre Orchestra from 1999 to 2015, is one of North America's most dynamic cellists, known for her richness of tone, remarkable technique, and intense musicality.

Ms. Forsyth has performed on international tours with the Royal Philharmonic and Israel Philharmonic Orchestras and appeared with Orchestre Radio de France, Lisbon's Gulbenkian Orchestra, English Chamber Orchestra, Calgary Philharmonic, Toronto Symphony, National Arts Centre Orchestra, Vancouver Symphony, Luxembourg Philharmonic, and Gyeonggi Philharmonic. In Australia, she has appeared with the Sydney, Perth, and Adelaide symphonies. In the U.S. she has performed with the Chicago, Washington National, San Diego, Colorado, Oregon, New West, Dallas, and Grand Rapids symphonies. Ms. Forsyth has appeared numerous times on tour and in St. Petersburg with the Mariinsky Orchestra conducted by Valery Gergiev. In 2014, she made her Carnegie Hall debut with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra.

As a founding member of the Zukerman ChamberPlayers and as cellist of the Zukerman Trio, she has performed on six continents, appearing at the Edinburgh, Miyazaki, Verbier, BBC Proms, Tanglewood, Ravinia, Spring Festival of St. Petersburg, White Night Festival, and La Jolla Summer Fest, among other music festivals.

Highlights of Ms. Forsyth's season include the world premiere of Marjan Mozetich's Cello Concerto with the National Arts Centre Orchestra and her debut with the Los Angeles Philharmonic performing the Brahms Double Concerto with Zubin Mehta conducting. Amanda Forsyth's most recent recording features the Brahms Double Concerto with Pinchas Zukerman and the National Arts Centre Orchestra, released by Analekta Records.

Ms. Forsyth began playing cello at age 3, was a protégé of William Pleeth in London, and studied with Harvey Shapiro at the Juilliard School. She performs on a rare 1699 Italian cello by Carlo Giuseppe Testore.

# David Geber, cello

David Geber is a longtime member of the cello and chamber music faculty at Manhattan School of Music and served as a senior administrator of the school for 14 years. As founding cellist of the American String Quartet, Mr. Geber concertized internationally and recorded with the ensemble for 28 years, including concerts in all 50 of the United States. He has been artist/faculty at Aspen Music Festival and School, Tanglewood Music Center, and Meadowmount School of Music, in addition to his current relationships with the National Arts Centre of Canada, Music Academy of the West, and Heifetz Institute. Trained at the Juilliard School, his principal teachers and mentors included Claus Adam, Ronald Leonard, and Robert Mann. Mr. Geber is an exclusive artist for Jargar Strings and plays a rare Ruggieri cello, made in Cremona in 1667.

# Nathan Gendler, violin

Nathan Gendler, a 12-year-old violinist from Los Angeles, California, has been studying with Patinka Kopec and mentored by Pinchas Zukerman since he was eight. He made his orchestral debut in Germany at the age of six and was invited to perform at the Stradivari Society in Chicago, resulting in the loan of a fine ¼-size violin made in 1800. Nathan won first place at the 47th Palisades Young Artist Competition, finished in second place at the Gail Newby Concerto Competition, and received a scholarship from the Westside Committee of the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Most recently, he won first place at the Parness Concerto Competition. A student at the Ad Astra School on the campus of SpaceX, Nathan also competes in speed Rubik's Cube and swims.

# SoHyun Ko, violin

SoHyun Ko, a student of Patinka Kopec, was born in 2006 in South Korea and began playing the violin on her third birthday. When she was eight years old, the Stiftung Mozarteum Salzburg invited her to Salzburg, where, at the Mozart Residence museum, she played the violin Mozart had originally played. The performance was recorded by Austria's ORF TV and broadcast in Europe. She has also appeared on many major TV programs.

SoHyun Ko entered Korea National Institute for the Gifted in Arts in 2015 and met Pinchas Zukerman, who became a mentor to her. She was selected as one of the "Stars of Tomorrow" at the HeifetzPEG. Her 2018 HeifetzPEG performance of Sarasate's *Zigeunerweisen* has had over 420,000 views on YouTube. In June 2018 at Cadogan Hall in London, SoHyun played with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Mr. Zukerman.

# Graduates of the Pinchas Zukerman Performance Program

# Marjorie Bagley (MM '95), violin

Marjorie Bagley, a member of the inaugural class of the Pinchas Zukerman Performance Program, is Professor of Violin and String Area Chair at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, and concertmaster of the Greensboro Symphony. As founder and first violinist of the Arcata String Quartet, she played concerts across the U.S. and Europe and helped create the quartet-in-residence faculty position at Utah State University. Marjorie has also been Associate Professor of Violin at Ohio University, held principal positions with the ProMusica Chamber Orchestra, and served as co-concertmaster at the Brevard Music Festival. She has also held artist/teaching positions at the Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival and the International Music Academy at Pilsen. She enjoys presenting music by living composers and can be heard on the VOX and Equilibrium labels. Marjorie received her Master of Music degree in the Pinchas Zukerman Performance Program in 1995.

# Emre Engin (MM '16), violin

Emre Engin, born in Turkey, received a First Class diploma at the Royal College of Music in London, where he studied with Professor Itzhak Rashkovsky and was supported by the Yehudi Menuhin Award, Talent Unlimited Foundation, and CEV Outstanding Talents Project. He received his Master of Music degree at Manhattan School of Music with Pinchas Zukerman and Patinka Kopec on a full scholarship.

Emre Engin is a proud holder of many awards and prizes, such as the Yehudi Menuhin Award given by the Royal College of Music, the Young Soloist of the Year award at the Istanbul International Music Festival, Grand Prix at the International Presidential Violin Competition in Ankara, the N. Eczacibasi Classical Music Career Grant, and Best Emerging Artist award at the Donizetti Classical Music Awards. Currently continuing his doctoral studies at the Stony Brook University School of Music, he has recently been appointed concertmaster of the New Manhattan Sinfonietta, based in New York City.

# Julia Grueninger Cox (MM '95), violin

One of five musicians invited to participate in the inaugural studio class of the Pinchas Zukerman Performance Program, Julia Grueninger Cox is currently in her 20th season as Principal Second Violin with the Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra in Washington, D.C. She also performs chamber music regularly in the Millennium Stage concert series at the Kennedy Center, as well as at many other venues in the Washington, D.C., area.

Her career began when at just 12 years of age she became the youngest member ever of the Billings Symphony. She has since held positions in the Austin Symphony and Delaware Symphony, among others, and has been a regular guest musician with the San Antonio and Baltimore symphonies, joining them for tours and recordings. She has served as concertmaster at the University of Texas at Austin, Peabody Institute, Manhattan School of Music, and the Tanglewood Fellowship Orchestra; associate concertmaster of the Annapolis Symphony; and Principal Second Violin of the Harrisburg Symphony, to name just a few.

She began her undergraduate studies on full scholarship at the University of Texas at Austin, completing her Bachelor of Music degree at the Peabody Institute in 1993. Later that year, she was invited to participate in the inaugural class of the Pinchas Zukerman Performance Program, receiving her Master of Music degree in 1995 from Manhattan School of Music. Her main teachers were Eugene Gratovitch, Herbert Greenberg, Patty Kopec, and Pinchas Zukerman, with additional studies with Almita Vamos and Josef Gingold.

# Bela Horvath (BM '06, MM '09), violin

Hungarian-born violinist Bela Horvath began to play the violin at age three with his grandfather then studied for many years with Valeria Baranyai, winning a number of national violin competitions in Hungary and international violin competitions in Prague and Vienna. In 1996, he entered the Béla Bartók Conservatory, where he studied with Istvan Kertesz. Bela won the National Janos Koncz Violin Competition in Hungary in 1997 and won fourth prize, as the youngest contestant, in the Ninth International Carl Flesch Violin Competition the following year.

In 2000, Bela Horvath began his studies with Miklos Szenthelyi at the Franz Liszt University of Music. In 2002, Pinchas Zukerman invited Mr. Horvath to study with him and Patinka Kopec at Manhattan School of Music. During his studies he worked with leading violinists such as Zakhar Bron, Leonidas Kavakos, Jaime Laredo, Gyorgy Pauk, Ruggiero Ricci, Aaron Rosand, and Joseph Silverstein. He was also coached by

chamber musicians including Daniel Avshalomov, Steven Dann, Eugene Drucker, Lawrence Dutton, Timothy Eddy, Joseph Kalichstein, Robert Mann, Sylvia Rosenberg, David Soyer, and Michael Tree.

Bela Horvath made his debut recital at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall in 2003. He has played concerts around the world as a soloist and recitalist, including in the Czech Republic, Austria, Germany, France, England, Slovakia, Hungary, the United States, Canada, and Brazil.

Mr. Horvath completed his Bachelor and Master of Music degrees at Manhattan School of Music. He has been a member of the Manhattan School of Music Precollege faculty since 2009.

# Koh Gabriel Kameda ('95), violin

First-prize winner of the Henryk Szeryng Violin Competition, Koh Gabriel Kameda is internationally recognized as one of the most remarkable players of his generation. He was lauded as "outstanding," and a "genius violinist" by the Tel Aviv newspapers after Pinchas Zukerman presented him with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. In recent seasons, Mr. Kameda has appeared in concerts in Japan (Suntory Hall, Tokyo), the United States (Carnegie Hall), Germany, Switzerland (Tonhalle, Zürich), Brazil (Sala Cecilia Meireles, Rio de Janeiro), Paraguay, and Costa Rica.

Mr. Kameda is a professor at the Detmold University of Music and the University of Münster in Germany. Many of his students are winners of international competitions such as the Szeryng, Brahms, Flesch, Kloster Schöntal, Lipizer, Postachini, and Grumiaux, among others. He plays a "Holroyd" Stradivari from 1727.

# Katharina Kang (BM '14, MM '18), viola

Violinist Katharina Kang has performed in many of the world's great concert halls, including Tchaikovsky Concert Hall in Moscow, St. Petersburg Philharmonic Hall, Alte Oper Frankfurt, Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Tonhalle Düsseldorf, Wuppertal's Historic Concert Hall, Grieg Hall in Bergen, Baltimore Symphony Hall, Konzerthaus Berlin, and in the Philharmonic halls of Essen, Cologne, Hamburg, Munich, New York, Washington, D.C., Cleveland, and Tel Aviv, among other cities.

Her performances include collaborations with Pinchas Zukerman, Amanda Forsyth, Mathias Tacke (Vermeer Quartet), David Geber, Hagai Shaham, Pavel Gililov, Midori Goto, Viviane Hagner, Elmar Oliveira, Amit Peled, the Schumann Quartet, Matan Porat, Boris Bloch, Timothy Eddy, Franz Helmerson, Shmuel Ashkenasi, and Philip Setzer (Emerson Quartet).

Ms. Kang attended the Robert Schumann Musikhochschule Dusseldorf as a precollege student and studied with Rosa Fain. She received her Bachelor of Music degree from Manhattan School of Music under the tutelage of Pinchas Zukerman and Patinka Kopec; earned her Artist Diploma at the Cleveland Institute of Music with Jaime Laredo; then returned to Manhattan School of Music and received her Master of Music in viola with Pinchas Zukerman.

In 2018, Ms. Kang was appointed Principal Violist at the New York City Ballet Orchestra. As a violinist, she plays an 1864 Jean Baptiste Vuillaume made in Paris.

# Shmuel Katz (BM '98, MM '00, faculty), violin

Shmuel Katz, a member of the Manhattan School of Music viola faculty, is a "world-class musician" (*Frankfurter Rundschau*). A newly appointed member of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, he is also Principal Violist of the Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra and the American Ballet Theatre Orchestra and Associate Principal Violist of the New York City Ballet Orchestra. Previously Principal Violist of the Pennsylvania Ballet and a member of the New York City Opera and Orchestra of St. Luke's, he has toured Europe, Asia, and North America and appeared as concertmaster and soloist in Carnegie Hall with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra.

Shmuel Katz has recorded for EMI, Deutche Grammophon, and Ondine with the Philadelphia Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, and Orpheus Chamber Orchestra. His studio work includes albums of Sting, Bruce Springsteen, and Lou Reed, as well as more than 20 movie soundtracks.

Recently, Mr. Katz has performed with the Concertante, Richardson and American Chamber Players, St. Luke's Chamber Ensemble, and the Israeli Chamber Project. He has collaborated in chamber music performances with Pinchas Zukerman, Itzhak Perlman, Yefim Bronfman, Michael Tree, Ralph Kirchbaum, Vadim Gluzman, Leif Ove Andsnes, American String Quartet, and Tabea Zimmermann. As a recitalist, he has performed in Weill Recital Hall, David Geffen Hall, the Jerusalem Music Centre, and the National Library in Ottawa, among other venues.

Shmuel Katz received his Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from Manhattan School of Music, where he studied violin and viola with Pinchas Zukerman, Michael Tree, and Patinka Kopec. In Israel he studied with Haim Taub, Ora Shiran, and Yair Kless. He is also on the viola faculty at SUNY Purchase and previously taught at New York University.

# Daniel Khalikov (BM '05, MM '08), violin

Born in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, Daniel Khalikov is the third generation of a well-known and highly respected family of musicians in Uzbekistan, in Leipzig, Germany, and in the United States. Khalikov began his studies at the Uspensky School of Music in Tashkent at the age of six. He has since performed throughout the United States, Canada, Brazil, Europe, Turkey, and his native Uzbekistan. As a soloist, he has given recitals around the world in such venues as the Berlin Philharmonic Hall and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. He has appeared with the BBC Concert Orchestra, the National Arts Centre Orchestra of Ottawa, the Brighton Philharmonic, the Uzbekistan National Symphony Orchestra, Turkey's BASSO Orchestra, and the Reno Philharmonic. He made his Aber Diamond Debut as part of the CBC Radio Canada Series.

In the U.S., Khalikov is the concertmaster of the Chamber Orchestra of New York, founded in honor of Ottorino Respighi and primarily devoted to the Italian repertoire, and has been a member of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra's first violin section since 2008.

Daniel Khalikov earned his Bachelor and Master of Music degrees at Manhattan School of Music, where he studied with Pinchas Zukerman and Patinka Kopec. He previously attended the Curtis Institute of Music and the Toulouse National Conservatoire and has studied with Raphael Druian, Burkhard Godhoff, and Nathan Mendelssohn. Khalikov plays an 1804 Francois Pique violin made in Paris.

# Chloé Kiffer (PS '15), violin

Praised for her electrifying performances, violinist Chloé Kiffer has claimed top prizes at multiple international competitions. An early success led her to solo and orchestral engagements throughout Europe, Canada, North and South America, the Middle East, and Asia, playing in concerts halls such as Théâtre des Champs-Élysées in Paris, Beethoven Hall in Bonn, Frankfurt Radio Symphony Hall, Opera House in Tel Aviv, and Beijing National Center. In 2015 Chloé made her debut at Carnegie Hall's Stern Auditorium with the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto.

A native of France, Chloé Kiffer graduated from the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris at the age of 16. She went on to earn an Artist Diploma in Germany and postgraduate degrees at Manhattan School of Music as a student of Pinchas Zukerman and Patinka Kopec. She is completing her Doctor of Musical Arts degree at Stony Brook University.

An enthusiastic chamber musician, she has collaborated with artists such as Pavel Vernikov, Gustav Rivinius, Shmuel Ashkenasi, Joshua Epstein, Vladimir Mendelsohn, Timothy Eddy, and the Emerson String Quartet. Her recording of Ravel Violin Sonatas on the Steinway & Sons label is scheduled for release in June 2019.

# HyunJung Kim (PS'11), violin

Violinist HyunJung Kim, praised by *Strad Korea* for her "beautiful tone and nuanced phrasing," is sought after as an expressive, vibrant performer. She has recently performed in Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Troy Savings Bank Hall, and the Théâtre de Valère in Switzerland. She was the winner of the Sion International Competition, Moscow International Competition, Yokohama International Competition, and was a 2008 Kumho Rising Star. She has been featured on Korean Broadcasting System's Classic Odyssey, Switzerland's Espace 2, and KBS's Classic FM. Dr. Kim holds degrees from Seoul National University, New England Conservatory, Manhattan School of Music, and Boston University. She joined the Concord Conservatory of Music violin faculty in 2018. Currently managed by New York's Unique Network, Inc., she is engaged with Soloists of New England, Philharmonia Boston, and New England Symphony as concertmaster.

# Jethro Marks (MM '00), viola

Vancouver-born violist Jethro Marks was appointed Principal Viola of the National Arts Centre Orchestra in 2011. He has distinguished himself as one of Canada's leading violists, performing solo and chamber music throughout the U.S., China, Mexico, Europe, and Canada. Jethro Marks was a founding member of the Zukerman Chamber Players, a string ensemble led by Pinchas Zukerman that has toured worldwide and released four CDs. He is also a frequent collaborator with Ottawa pianist Mauro Bertoli in recitals around Canada. Currently on the faculty of the University of Ottawa and the National Arts Centre Summer Music Institute, Jethro studied at Indiana University with Atar Arad and at Manhattan School of Music with Patty Kopec and Pinchas Zukerman. In his spare time he plays tennis and drives a VW bus.

# Asi Matathias (BM '11, MM '14), violin

Violinist Asi Matathias made his debut at age 14 with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Zubin Mehta. This success was immediately followed by another invitation from Maestro Mehta to perform with him the following season. Since then, he has performed as a soloist with numerous orchestras across the globe with such conductors as Eliahu Inbal, Dan Ettinger, Leon Botstein, and Frédéric Chaslin.

Mr. Matathias has recorded for the BBC, CBC, WQXR, IBA, and ORF. He has performed in venues including Carnegie Hall's Stern Auditorium and Zankel Hall, 92Y, Berlin Philharmonie, Izumi Hall (Japan), and Liederhalle (Stuttgart).

An enthusiastic chamber musician, he has collaborated with Yefim Bronfman, Nikolaj Znaider, Nobuko Imai, and Frans Helmerson, among other artists, and has played in festivals such as the Jerusalem Chamber Music Festival, the Vienna Bezirk Wochen Festspiele, and the Israel Festival.

Matathias was awarded the 2017 "Salon de Virtuosi" career grant award.

# Anna Margrethe Nilsen (BM '10, MM '12), violin

Anna Margrethe Nilsen is a winner of the Eisenberg-Fried and Lillian Fuchs competitions at Manhattan School of Music and of the Sparre Olsen Competition (Norway) and the National Violin Competition for Youth (Norway). She is a recipient of the Medal of Honor of Málaga City. She has performed as a soloist with the Bergen Philharmonic, Norwegian Broadcasting Orchestra, Kaliningrad Chamber Orchestra, and the symphony orchestras of Trondheim, Kristiansand, Romerike, Bærum, and Asker, and Jeunesses Musicales, Novgorod Chamber, Norwegian Opera, Musicus Concentus, Galician Chamber, Manhattan School of Music Philharmonia, St. Petersburg State Symphony, and Belarusian State Chamber Orchestra. From the age of four she studied with Professor Isaac Schuldman, then obtained a Bachelor and Master of Music degree at Manhattan School of Music, studying with Patinka Kopec and Pinchas Zukerman. Nilsen is a Centaur Records artists, cofounder and professor of violin at the Galamian Academy in Málaga, and cofounder and director of the Málaga Clásica International Chamber Music Festival.

# Cecee Pantikian (BM '05, MM '07, PS '09), violin

New York-based violinist Cecee Pantikian enjoys a rich and versatile career as an orchestral musician, chamber player, and soloist. As an orchestral musician, Ms. Pantikian has been invited to perform as a substitute violin with the New York Philharmonic and the Pittsburgh Symphony, where she played for two full seasons. Since 2016 she has also been playing on Broadway as substitute on Disney's *Aladdin, Hello Dolly*, and *SpongeBob SquarePants: The Broadway Musical*, and during the 2018 holiday season she was a first violin member of the Radio City Christmas Spectacular. Cecee Pantikian has been part of the Pinchas Zukerman's Young Artists Program, Itzhak Perlman's Chamber Music

Program, the Verbier Festival, and the Artosphere Festival. She has studied with Pinchas Zukerman, Patinka Kopec, Glenn Dicterow, Lisa Kim, and Albert Markov and holds Bachelor and Master of Music degrees and a Professional Studies Certificate in Orchestral Performance from Manhattan School of Music.

# Jesús Reina (BM '09, MM '11), violin

Jesús Reina has been praised for his "beautiful sound" and "true musicality, temperament, and charisma" in Spain's national press. He has performed with the Mariinsky Orchestra, Munich Chamber Orchestra, National Arts Centre Orchestra, and Málaga Philharmonic and appeared in venues such as Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall, Wigmore Hall, Royal Festival Hall, and Wiener Konzerthaus, as well as most of the major halls in his native Spain. His debut CD for Sony Classical, featuring Paganini and Tchaikovsky violin concertos, will be released this year. Reina has received the "Door of Andalucia" cultural award and Musical Achievement of the Year award from Málaga. Upcoming engagements include concerts at the National Philharmonic Hall in Minsk and Salon Christophori in Berlin; with the orchestras of Timisoara and Ploiesti in Romania; and in various concert series in Spain and Latin America. Cofounder and director of the Málaga Clásica Festival and Galamian Academy, Reina obtained his Master of Music degree from Manhattan School of Music, studying with Patinka Kopec and Pinchas Zukerman.

# Cong Wu (DMA '18), viola

Cong Wu joined the New York Philharmonic as Assistant Principal Viola, The Norma and Lloyd Chazen Chair, in September 2018, while pursuing his doctoral degree at Manhattan School of Music. He won third prize and the chamber music prize in the Fourteenth Primrose International Viola Competition and the special prize in the Twelfth Tertis International Viola Competition. An avid chamber musician, he has performed at various festivals, including Marlboro Music Festival, the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center's Chamber Music Encounters, Music@Menlo, Perlman Music Program, Lake Champlain Chamber Music Festival, and Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival in Germany. Born in Jinan, China, Cong Wu moved to New York in 2010 and entered the Pinchas Zukerman Performance Program after graduating from the Juilliard School. His teachers include Heidi Castleman, Hsin-Yun Huang, Wing Ho, Patinka Kopec, and Pinchas Zukerman.

# Mialtin Zhezha (MM '09, PS '10), viola

Hailed by the *Hartford Courant* for his "expressive and warm sound, and faultless intonation," Albanian-born Mialtin Zhezha is a versatile violinist and violist. Since his solo debut with the National Orchestra at the age of 13 in Tirana, he has maintained a broad performing career. Mr. Zhezha serves as concertmaster of the Mozart Orchestra of New York, as well as principal player of the New York Chamber Soloists and Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra, and is a visiting artist at Western Michigan University and the Albanian International Academy of the Arts. He has served as an adjudicator of the Vivo, Rising Stars, and IMONYC international competitions.

Mr. Zhezha has won awards in the Islam Petrela, Nicola Piccini, and Young Artist international violin competitions and received "Best Classical Performance of the Year" from *DownBeat* magazine. His mentors include Pinchas Zukerman, Patinka Kopec, Lawrence Dutton, and Renata Knific.

# **MEMBERS OF THE** MSM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

with Students and Graduates of the Pinchas Zukerman Performance Program

**VIOLIN 1** 

Daniel Khalikov,

concertmaster (Bach)

Marjorie Bagley, concertmaster (Dvorák)

Anna Margrethe Nilsen

Chloé Kiffer

**Emre Engin** 

Min Kyum Kim<sup>†</sup>

Yeosu-si, South Korea

Sarah Kuo†

New York, New York

TaTan Huang Tainan, Taiwan

Carlos Martinez Arroyo

Cordoba, Spain

Andi Zhang<sup>†</sup> New York, New York

Dasol Jeong Thornbill, Canada

Anna Takeda New York, New York

Amos Lee Astoria, New York

**VIOLIN 2** 

Cecee Pantikian,

principal

Julia Grueninger Cox

Jennifer Ahn<sup>†</sup> Sejongsi, South Korea

Sage McBride<sup>†</sup> Davie, Florida

Hyunjung Kim

Koh Gabriel Kameda Jonathan Lin

Huier Yiu Taipei, Taiwan

Yeyoung Kim Nam-gu, South Korea

Sarah Kuo

New York, New York

Eliane Menzel<sup>†</sup> Zetel, Germany

Shmuel Katz

**VIOLA** 

Katharina Kang,

principal

Mialtin Zhezha

Tal Mcgee Spring, Texas

Seho Ha<sup>†</sup> Seoul, South Korea

Zhen Calvin Huang

Hangzhou, China

Heejung Yang Seoul, South Korea

Joshua Gomberoff

Vancouver, Canada

**CELLO** 

Tzu-Wei Huang,

principal

Kaohsiung City, Taiwan

**Esther Seitz** Edinburg, Texas

**Aaron Stier** 

Poughkeepsie, New York

Camille Dietrich

West Nyack, New York

San Diego, California Juhyeon Kim

Seoul. South Korea

Xin Shao

Changsha City, China

DOUBLE BASS

Eunsol Jo, principal

Seoul, South Korea

Ryan Sujdak Gainesville, Florida

Xingyuan Weng

Shanghai, China

Julian Barrera Medellin, Colombia

**Kyung Won Park** 

Seoul, South Korea

Yoojeong Kim Seoul, South Korea

**FLUTE** 

Kari Bover\*

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