

The New Crossroads of American Music

Press Release



Eastern Music Festival

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FACULTY PERFORMS A RANGE OF MUSICAL PERIODS AT UNCG & CARNEGIE CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES

Greensboro, NC- EMF's **UNCG & Carnegie Chamber Music Series** continues with the participation of exceptional faculty members in two concerts scheduled on **Monday, July 6, 2009** and **Tuesday, July 7, 2009, both at 8pm**. Monday's performance will include classical and contemporary works for piano and strings by well-known composers: J.S. Bach, Brahms and Grainger. Also featured will be a special presentation of an original piece by pianist Gideon Rubin. The concert will take place in the **Recital Hall of UNCG** (100 McIver Street Greensboro, NC 27403). Tuesday's concert will comprise piano, strings and wind instruments, in a program from various periods including music by Bozza, Villa-Lobos, Webern, Gershwin and Mendelssohn. This performance will be held in the **Carnegie Room of Hege Library at Guilford College** (5800 West Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27410). Monday's tickets may be purchased for \$20 and Tuesday's for \$25 by calling the EMF Box Office at Triad Stage at 336.272.0160 or 866-579-TIXX, or online at www.EasternMusicFestival.org.

Monday's concert at UNCG will be graced with exciting performances by pianists **Gideon Rubin, Yoshikazu Nagai** and **James Giles**. Also showcased during the evening will be violinists **John Fadial** and **Jenny Grégoire**, violist **Daniel Reinker** and cellist **James Wilson**. Tuesday's performance at Guilford College will feature a quintet formed by outstanding members of the brass faculty: trumpeters **Judith Saxton** and **Robert White**, trombonist **Gregory Cox**, **Kelly Schurr** on horn and **Lee Hipp** on tuba. In addition, the concert will include flutist **Ann Choomack**, **Judith Donaldson**, violinists **Uli Speth**, **Ioana Galu** and **Randall Weiss**, violist **Jennifer Puckett**, cellists **Rebecca Zimmerman** and **Marta Simidchieva**, and **Yoshikazu Nagai** on piano.

The UNCG & Guilford College Chamber Music Series features the festival's many outstanding faculty and guest artists performing the celebrated classics of the past, as well as modern masterpieces in the making. These two five-concert series comprise one tier of the Eastern Music Festival & School's vast and varied musical and educational offerings.

Tickets: Triad Stage Box Office 336.272.0160 or 866.579.TIXX or www.EasternMusicFestival.org.

*a service fee will apply

Discounts are available for full-time students with a valid ID, seniors aged 65 or older, and groups of 10 or more for most performances. Young Artists and EMF*kids* concerts offer family-friendly packages. Please call the box office about packages. This season most discounts will be available at the door. Discounts and gift certificates will not be accepted for concerts designated as special events.

**Dates, programs, venues, and artists are subject to change.*

The 2009 Eastern Music Festival season is sponsored in part by the United Arts Council of Greater Greensboro, the North Carolina Arts Council, Lincoln Financial Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Southern Arts Federation, WFDD Triad Arts Station, Greensboro's News and Record, Continental Airways, Yes! Weekly, and Piedmont Music Center (Steinway Pianos).

For more information about EMF or its programs, please visit www.EasternMusicFestival.org, or call toll free: 1.877.833.6753

More about the featured faculty

Gideon Rubin has a multi-faceted career that encompasses performing as soloist, chamber musician, orchestral keyboardist, conductor, and composer. As soloist, he has performed with the Boston Symphony Orchestra in Boston's Symphony Hall, with the Boston Classical Orchestra, with the Mannes Orchestra, several times with the New World Symphony (once conducting from the keyboard), with the New England Conservatory Youth Orchestra on a tour of Israel, with the Longy School Orchestra, and at the Eastern Music Festival where he teaches and performs in the summers. His performance as soloist in John Adams' *Grand Pianola Music* (with the composer conducting) in San Francisco's Davies Hall in 2000 was featured on the "Jim Lehrer News Hour." He has performed on live radio broadcasts in Los Angeles, Boston, and Israel. He has performed solo and chamber music recitals throughout the United States and Europe. During the 2001-2002 season, he was the pianist for the Garth Newel Piano Quartet, performing concerts in Virginia and on tour in Sicily, Italy. From 1997-2000, he was the pianist/keyboardist for the New World Symphony under the direction of Michael Tilson Thomas. He attended the Mannes School of Music and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree *cum laude* from Harvard University, a Master of Music from Boston University, and a doctorate from the University of Southern California. He now serves as music director and faculty member at the Los Angeles Music and Art School (LAMAS) where he won the award for "Teacher of the Year 2005." He is also the conductor and founding artistic director of the LAMAS Youth Orchestra, a chamber orchestra for ages

12-18 which is mentored by members of the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra. Dr. Rubin is an active supporter of new music and has performed many new works in premieres, including some of his own compositions. He has recorded a solo CD of 20th century American music (available on cdbaby.com) and a CD of orchestral music by Steven Mackey on the RCA-BMG label as a member of the New World Symphony. His recording of piano quartets of Dvořák and Martinu with the Garth Newel Piano Quartet won “Best Classical Album of 2004” in the Just Plain Folks Music Awards. Recently, Dr. Rubin has performed at Symphony Space in New York City, the Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C., at the Myra Hess Foundation Concerts in Chicago, and on the Los Angeles County Museum’s “Sundays Live” radio broadcast series. In 2009 Mr. Rubin returns for his eleventh season on the EMF piano faculty.

Yoshikazu Nagai has performed as soloist and chamber musician internationally in such venues as the Shanghai Concert Hall in China, National Recital Hall in Taiwan, Carnegie Recital Hall and Merkin Concert Hall in New York, Kennedy Center's Terrace Theatre, Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall in Canada, and Seattle's Benaroya Hall. His extensive recital schedules in recent seasons have included performances in Taipei, Hong Kong, Italy, San Francisco, San Antonio, New York, Seattle, New Orleans, and Washington, D.C., among others. Mr. Nagai has also appeared at the Aspen Music Festival, the Sarasota Music Festival, Music Academy of the West, Spoleto Music Festival, Eastern Music Festival, the Phillips Collection and in collaboration with Robert Mann, Anthony Marwood, and Yi-Bing Chu. In addition, he is a frequent soloist with orchestras throughout the U.S., and his performances have been broadcast on National Public Radio's "Performance Today," RAI (Italian National TV), Hong Kong National Radio, KUHF-Houston, KBYU-Salt Lake City, WCLV-Cleveland, and worldwide over the internet. Mr. Nagai won first prize at the 2002 Washington International Piano Competition and has also won major prizes at the San Antonio International Piano Competition, Missouri Southern International Piano Competition, New Orleans International Piano Competition, and the Concert Artists Guild International Music Competition (inaugural SVCCS performance prize). Mr. Nagai is currently professor of piano at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music where he teaches piano and chamber music. He is also on the piano faculty at the Beijing International Music Festival and Academy at Central Conservatory in China, as well as a former faculty member at the Interlochen Arts Academy in Michigan, where he taught piano, chamber music and piano literature. Recognized by the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts (NFAA) for excellence in teaching, he frequently gives master classes and serves as juror throughout the United States and Asia. Current and former students of Mr. Nagai are top prizewinners of national and international competitions including the Lev Vlassenko Piano Competition, Kosciuszko Foundation Chopin Piano Competition, Music Teachers National Association Piano Competition, Missouri Southern International Piano Competition, Vladimir Viardo International Piano Competition, Lennox International Young Artists Piano Competition, and Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition. Mr. Nagai studied with John Perry at Rice University and received his Master of Music degree from the Cleveland Institute of Music, where he was awarded the Malvina Podis Prize in Piano upon graduation with Paul Schenly. Other teachers include Sergei Babayan and Duane Hulbert. Mr. Nagai returns for his seventh season at EMF.

James Giles regularly performs to acclaim in important musical centers in America, Europe, and Asia. The past few seasons have included a tour of China, performances in Italy and Bosnia, and a recital at Warsaw's Chopin Academy of Music. Last season, in addition to recitals in Chicago, Oklahoma, and Buffalo, he appeared with the St. Petersburg Chamber Philharmonic in Russia. During 2008-2009, he will return to China for recitals and teaching at the Shanghai Conservatory; perform at the Virginia Waring Competition's Gala Benefit honoring Byron Janis; and perform concertos by Michael Daugherty and Timothy Dunne in Chicago and Ithaca.

In an eclectic repertoire encompassing the solo and chamber music literatures, Giles is equally at home in the standard repertoire as in the music of our time. He has commissioned and premiered works by William Bolcom, C. Curtis-Smith, Stephen Hough, Lowell Liebermann, Ned Rorem, Augusta Read Thomas, Earl Wild, and James Wintle. Most of these new works are featured on Giles' new Albany Records release entitled *American Virtuoso*.

His Paris recital at the Salle Cortot in 2004 was hailed as "a true revelation, due equally to the pianist's artistry as to his choice of program." After a recital at the Sibelius Academy, the critic for Helsinki's main newspaper wrote that "Giles is a technically polished, elegant pianist." And a London critic called his 2003 Wigmore Hall recital "one of the most sheerly inspired piano recitals I can remember hearing for some time" and added that "with a riveting intelligence given to everything he played, it was the kind of recital you never really forget."

In the fall of 2005, and in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, Dr. Giles joined three other pianists as a part of a "Pianists for New Orleans" tour. They raised over \$70,000 for the Musical Arts Society of New Orleans, a non-profit group that supports classical music in the city.

He has performed with New York's Jupiter Symphony, the London Soloists Chamber Orchestra in Queen Elizabeth Hall, the Kharkiv Philharmonic in Ukraine, and with the Opera Orchestra of New York in Alice Tully Hall. After his Tully Hall solo recital debut, critic Harris Goldsmith wrote: "Giles has a truly distinctive interpretive persona. This was beautiful pianism – direct and unmannered." Other tours have included concerts in Chicago's Dame Myra Hess Series, Salt Lake City's Assembly Hall Concert Series, and in Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, the Musikhalle in Hamburg, and the Purcell Room at London's South Bank Centre. He has given live recitals over the public radio stations of New York, Boston, Chicago, and Indianapolis. His compact disc of works by Schumann and Prokofiev is available on England's Master Musicians label. As a chamber musician, he has collaborated with members of the National and Chicago symphonies and with members of the Pacifica, Cassatt, Chicago, Ying, Chester, St. Lawrence, Essex, Lincoln, and Miami quartets, as well as singers Aprile Millo and Anthony Dean Griffey.

A native of North Carolina, Dr. Giles studied with Byron Janis at the Manhattan School of Music, Jerome Lowenthal at The Juilliard School, Nelita True at the Eastman School of Music, and Robert Shannon at Oberlin College.

The pianist received early career assistance from the Clarisse B. Kampel Foundation and was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study in Florence with the legendary pianist Lazar Berman. He was the recipient of a fellowship grant and the \$25,000 Christel Award from the American Pianists Association and now serves on the APA's National Advisory Board. He won first prizes at the New Orleans International Piano Competition, the Joanna Hodges International Piano Competition, and the Music Teachers National Association Competition. As a student, he was awarded the prestigious William Petschek Scholarship at The Juilliard School and the Rudolf Serkin Award for outstanding graduate at the Oberlin College Conservatory. He has written for *Piano and Keyboard* magazine and has presented lecture-recitals at the national conventions of the Music Teachers National Association, the College Music Society, and Pi Kappa Lambda. He has served on the juries of several international piano competitions, including the Cleveland International Piano Competition (screening jury), New Orleans International Piano Competition, and the Oberlin International Piano Competition.

Dr. Giles is on the piano faculty at Northwestern University. He has served as conference artist for the music teachers associations of Oklahoma, Arizona, and Nevada and frequently gives master classes at colleges and universities nationwide. He has been a guest professor at the Sibelius Academy in Finland and at Indiana University, where he has twice taught the students of Menahem Pressler. He has served on the faculties of the University of North Texas and the Interlochen Arts Academy. He is the founder of the Las Vegas Piano Institute, an educational summer program for young pianists, and is the chair of the piano department at the Eastern Music Festival during the summers, now in his 14th year. More information may be found at jamesgiles.net.

John Fadial, associate professor of violin at the University of Wyoming in Laramie and concertmaster of the Greensboro Symphony Orchestra, has garnered critical acclaim for performances around the globe (“Wow!” *The Washington Post*, “sparkling technique” *L’Est Republicain*, Nancy, France). Recent seasons have featured concerts throughout the U.S., Brazil, and France. Highlights include: performances of the Brahms Violin Concerto with the Greensboro Symphony Orchestra; the French premiere, with cellist Beth Vanderborgh, of William Bolcom’s *Suite for Violin and Cello*, performed in the historic Salle Poirel in Nancy, France; and chamber music performances with Dmitry Sitkovetsky, Konstantin Lifschitz, Lynn Harrell, Bella Davidovich and the Quatuor Stanislas. Fadial’s recording of the chamber music of Samuel Coleridge-Taylor for the Centaur label was deemed “not to be missed” by *American Record Guide*. In October of 2005 he gave the world premiere of Arthur Gottschalk’s *Concerto for Violin and Symphonic Wind Ensemble* for the Society of Composers International Conference for contemporary music. His performance on the disc *Where Does Love Go?: Chamber Music of Mark Engebretson* for Innova was a Grammy™ semi-finalist for best chamber music recording for 2007. Currently, he is recording the complete *Sonatas for Violin and Piano* of Johannes Brahms, also for Centaur, scheduled to be released in spring of 2010.

Fadial holds a D.M.A. from the University of Maryland, the M.M. from the Eastman School and the B.M. from the N.C. School of the Arts. His teachers have included Elaine Richey, Charles Castleman, Zoltan Szekely, and Arnold Steinhardt.

Violinist **Jenny Grégoire** was appointed concertmaster of the Mobile Symphony Orchestra in August 2001 and in 2006 was offered the same position with the Meridian and the Gulf Coast symphonies. Born in Québec, Canada, she studied at the Québec Music Conservatoire with Jean Angers and Liliane Garnier-Le Sage, where she earned both undergraduate and graduate degrees in violin performance and a minor in chamber music. Upon leaving Québec, Mrs. Grégoire moved to Chicago to attend Northwestern University, where she would obtain a master's degree in violin performance and pedagogy with Dr. Myron Kartman. While at Northwestern, she played with the University Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Victor Yampolsky and was concertmaster for both years of study. She was also a member of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago and worked with conductors Cliff Colnot, Mstislav Rostropovitch, Pierre Boulez, and Daniel Barenboim. In September 2000, Mrs. Grégoire won a fellowship position with the New World Symphony under the direction of Michael Tilson Thomas. She currently lives in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. As a freelance musician, she plays regularly with the Tuscaloosa Symphony and the Pensacola Symphony. In addition to having a full private studio, she is an adjunct violin instructor at the University of Alabama and returns to EMF for her sixth year.

Daniel Reinker has been a member of the EMF viola faculty since 1987. He joined the Nashville Symphony as principal violist after a number of seasons as associate principal with the San Antonio Symphony. In Nashville, he also serves as a member of the viola faculty at the Blair School of Music at Vanderbilt University. While living in San Antonio, Mr. Reinker taught at the University of Texas at San Antonio and was a founding member of the chamber ensemble Musicopia. He has performed as principal violist with the Ohio Chamber Orchestra. Mr. Reinker received his education at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory, the Yale School of Music, and the Cleveland Institute of Music. He is serving again as co-principal violist for EMF.

For the past twenty years, cellist **James Wilson** has performed to the delight of audiences throughout the world. He has appeared in America's Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, and Kennedy Center, Casal's Hall in Tokyo, and the Sydney Opera House. As recitalist and chamber musician, he has performed at music festivals around the world such as the Hong Kong Arts Festival, the City of London Festival, the Deutches Mozartfest in Bavaria, the Mostly Mozart Festival in New York and the Aspen Music Festival in Colorado. Mr. Wilson has collaborated with such diverse artists as violinist Joshua Bell, flutist Eugenia Zukerman, guitarist Eliot Fisk, the Tokyo String Quartet, and the Mark Morris Dance Group. Championing musical works from all periods, Mr. Wilson performs on Baroque as well as modern cello in many ensembles including the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Music from Copland House, and the Music of the Spheres Society, as well as the Dodd String Quartet, an ensemble devoted to early string repertoire. A former member of the Shanghai and Chester String Quartets, he recorded and toured extensively worldwide with both groups. Mr. Wilson's performances have been broadcast

on West German Radio and Bavarian Radio in Germany, CBC radio in Canada, CBS television, and National Public Radio's "Performance Today" and "Saint Paul Sunday." A resident of both New York City and Staunton, Virginia, Mr. Wilson is currently the artistic director of the Chamber Music Society of Central Virginia and teaches cello and chamber music at Columbia University in New York. This year is Mr. Wilson's first with Eastern Music Festival.

Judith Saxton enjoys an international career as a versatile and sought-after performer, chamber musician, and clinician. Currently, she is principal and soloist with Key West Symphony and Shenandoah Valley Bach Festival and performs regularly with North Carolina, Greensboro, and Winston-Salem symphonies and various chamber organizations on the eastern seaboard. Most recently, she was a guest artist at Lieksa Brass Week, Finland, and toured Brazil with Musica Harmonia. Previously, she was associate professor at Wichita State University and principal with the Wichita Symphony and Wichita Brass Quintet. For three seasons, she was principal and soloist with the Hong Kong Philharmonic. A veteran Chicago freelancer, she performed with the Chicago and Grant Park symphonies and the CSO brass quintet, along with seven Chicago area orchestras. Ms. Saxton has performed and toured with the newly formed Tromba Mundi trumpet ensemble, UNCSA Brass Quintet, Jazz Septet, the Chicago Chamber Musicians, Sierra Brass, Millar, and Monarch Brass ensembles. Her recordings are on Crystal, Koss, Proto, Novitas, MSR Classics, and Moravian Music Foundation labels. She is on the boards of the International Trumpet Guild, International Women's Brass Conference, and the National Trumpet Competition. Her degrees are from Mansfield and Northwestern Universities. Her teachers include Vincent Cichowicz, Arnold Jacobs, William Scarlett, Susan Slaughter, and Michael Galloway. She taught previously at Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts and Illinois Wesleyan and Northeastern Illinois universities. She is artist faculty and brass coordinator at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts and returns for her twelfth season at Eastern Music Festival.

Robert White holds the position of second trumpet with the Charlotte Symphony. Prior to joining them in 2004, Dr. White was on the faculty of Indiana State University and enjoyed an active career in Indianapolis as a studio musician and freelance trumpeter. While in Indianapolis, Dr. White also performed regularly with the Indianapolis Symphony, the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra, the Columbus Symphony, the Fort Wayne Philharmonic, and the New World Symphony. He has also participated in the Spoleto USA Festival, Music Academy of the West, and the Aspen Music Festival. Dr. White completed a Doctor of Music degree in trumpet from Indiana University, where he also received his master's degree, and appeared as soloist with the IU Chamber Orchestra. He completed a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Western Michigan University. His primary trumpet teachers are John Rommel, Stephen Burns, and Scott Thornburg. This is his fourth season with EMF.

Gregory Cox returns for his 32nd season as principal trombone with the Eastern Festival Orchestra. During the remainder of the year, he is a member of the Vancouver Symphony. In addition to his orchestral position, he serves on the faculties of Western

Washington University, the University of British Columbia, and the Vancouver Academy of Music. Mr. Cox is active as an adjudicator, clinician, chamber musician, and recitalist, and he has performed extensively in British Columbia, Washington, and North Carolina. Mr. Cox has recorded extensively on Polydor, Mark, CRI, and CBC labels and is also active as a studio musician. A former member of the North Carolina Symphony and a former faculty member of the North Carolina School of the Arts, Mr. Cox has also performed with the Rochester Philharmonic, the Regina and Winnipeg symphonies, and the CBC Vancouver Chamber Orchestra. Mr. Cox received his Bachelor of Music degree from the Eastman School of Music. His major teachers include Kenneth Cloud, William Gray, and Emory B. Remington.

Kelly Schurr is in her fifth season with EMF. She is currently third horn with the Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra and is an active freelancer in the greater Chicagoland area. In addition to two seasons with the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, her freelance career has taken her beyond Chicago where she has performed with the Kansas City Symphony, the Fort Wayne Philharmonic, the Nashville Symphony, and many others. In her extra time, she performs at many retirement homes under the name "Music Elyon." Ms. Schurr has studiously attended Northwestern University, New England Conservatory, and the Cincinnati Conservatory and is honored to have studied with Gail Williams, Dick Mackey, Randy Gardner, and Ted Thayer. Ms. Schurr is engaged to EMF violist Jamie Hofman.

Lee Hipp, principal tuba of the San Antonio Symphony and the San Antonio Brass since 1989, has also performed with the Dallas, Houston, and Atlanta symphonies, the Miami City Ballet Orchestra, the Southwest Florida Symphony, and two seasons as acting principal tuba with the Utah Symphony. Mr. Hipp has also taught tuba and euphonium at the University of Texas at San Antonio and the University of Utah and is currently instructor of tuba and euphonium at St. Mary's University. Mr. Hipp is a native Texan and received his B.M. in education from Texas Tech University, studying with David Payne. He earned his M.M. in tuba performance at Southern Methodist University, studying with Everette Gilmore and Sandy Keathley. Mr. Hipp has also studied with David Kirk of the Houston Symphony, Dennis Miller of the Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal, and Donald Little of the University of North Texas and the Dallas Opera. Mr. Hipp has performed as a soloist, in concert, and recital, with groups such as the San Antonio Symphony, the Utah Symphony, the Dallas Wind Symphony, the Winters Chamber Orchestra, the San Antonio Brass, the King William Winds, and the University of Utah Wind Symphony. He has recorded with the Utah and Atlanta symphonies and can be heard on the 1999 Telarc recording of the Brahms *Requiem* with the Utah Symphony and the Mormon Tabernacle Choir as well as the 2005 GRAMMY® Award-winning Atlanta Symphony and Chorus recording of the Berlioz *Requiem*. Mr. Hipp has also conducted educational clinics throughout the state of Texas and across the United States. Along with his many performing and teaching duties, Mr. Hipp was also a contributing editor for *The Tuba Source Book* published by Indiana University Press. Mr. Hipp is a *Yamaha Artist* performing on the Yamaha 822 F Tuba and the Culbertson "Neptune" CC. He has served as principal tuba at EMF since 2000.

Ann Choomack performs with the Richmond Symphony in Richmond, Virginia as third flute/piccolo. A graduate of the Eastman School of Music, she went on to complete her master's degree at the New England Conservatory in Boston. Before arriving in Richmond, Ms. Choomack participated in numerous music festivals including Music Academy of the West, National Repertory Orchestra, and the Tanglewood Music Center. In addition to her duties with the Richmond Symphony, she also performs regularly with the Virginia Symphony and the Virginia Opera, as well as maintaining a private teaching studio in Richmond. This is Ms. Choomack's fifth summer at EMF.

Clarinetist **Judith Donaldson** is the second and E-flat clarinetist of the Alabama Symphony Orchestra. As a freelancer, she has also played with the Tuscaloosa Symphony, with the orchestras of Tampa and Jacksonville, and with The Florida Orchestra. She is on the faculties of Birmingham Southern College and the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Former teaching affiliations include the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, and the University of Montevallo. She was a founding member of the Cahaba Trio and Birmingham Musica Antiqua. Ms. Donaldson received bachelor's and master's degrees from the New England Conservatory. She has been a member of the EMF faculty since 1976.

A native of Germany, **Uli Speth** completed his undergraduate studies at the Mozarteum in Salzburg/Austria where he was a student of Harald Herzl of the Pro Arte Quartet Salzburg. He participated in numerous performance classes given by Yfrah Neaman, Thomas Brandis, Jaap Schroeder, and Nicolaus Harnoncourt, among others. After migrating to the U.S., he earned his Master of Music degree from the Mannes College of Music. He was a student of Felix Galimir from whom he received both violin and string quartet training. He is first violinist of the Diller-Quaile String Quartet in residence at the Diller-Quaile School of Music in New York. This group has played concerts throughout the U.S., has commissioned and premiered new pieces for string quartet, and performed live on Vermont Public Radio and KMFA of Texas. It maintains a vital presence in the New York community by offering a series of recitals and giving outreach concerts for children in public schools in the South Bronx, Harlem, and the Lower East Side. As a chamber musician, Mr. Speth has also enjoyed the opportunity of performing alongside well-known soloists and members of the Hagen, Pro Arte, Cavaliere, and Ying quartets. His recent solo performances of various concerti by Bach, Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, and Mendelssohn and recitals with pianist Mary Robbins have earned him praise by the critics for his "brilliant sound and facile fingers" (*Austin American Statesman*) and "gorgeous tone and stunning technique" (*Salzburger Nachrichten*). He serves as concertmaster of the Binghamton Philharmonic Orchestra. This is Mr. Speth's fourth season on EMF's faculty.

Ioana Galu is a graduate of the Gheorghe Dima Music Academy of Cluj, Romania. Before coming to the U.S., she served on the faculty of the Gheorghe Dima Music Academy as an assistant professor of violin and chamber music. She earned a master's degree in violin performance from Bowling Green State University, and currently she is enrolled in a doctoral program at the College Conservatory of Music, University of Cincinnati. Her additional studies include a scholarship at the Academie National de

Villemore in 2000 in France. Since September 2004, she has been appointed to the faculty of the Heidelberg Music College in Tiffin, Ohio, and became the director of the preparatory department in September 2005. Her awards include the second prize in the Mozart International Competition for Piano Trios (Romania) and the first prize and special prize in the SOROS Foundation in the George Enescu Violin National Competition (Romania). She also won the second prize in the Starling Violin Competition (University of Cincinnati), and she was the winner of the University of Cincinnati Concerto Competition in February 2004. She has performed recitals in Romania, Budapest, Düsseldorf, Lyon, and Villemore (France), Bowling Green, Toledo, Cincinnati, and New York City. She appeared as a soloist with several philharmonic orchestras in Romania, with CCM Orchestra in 2004, and with Perrysburg Symphony in March 2005. Currently, Ms. Galu is teaching at Eastern Music Festival in North Carolina for her sixth season and serves on the faculty for the Allegheny Music Festival in Pennsylvania.

Randall Weiss, principal second violin of the Eastern Festival Orchestra, made his solo debut as a winner of the Victoria, BC concerto competition. He studied with Tadeusz Wronski at Indiana University, received his M.M. from the University of Victoria under Paul Kling, and engaged in further study at both the Peabody and Oberlin conservatories, most notably with Sylvia Rosenberg and William Berman. Mr. Weiss spent 17 years as assistant concertmaster of the San José Symphony, regularly substituting as concertmaster. He is currently assistant concertmaster of Symphony Silicon Valley and has been associate concertmaster of the Music in the Mountains Festival, as well as concertmaster of the Santa Cruz Symphony and the AIMS Orchestra in Graz, Austria. He has performed with the San Francisco Opera Orchestra, the San Francisco Ballet Orchestra, and the New Century Chamber Orchestra. As a member of the Louisville Orchestra, Mr. Weiss participated in the First Edition recordings under the direction of Jorge Mester. Mr. Weiss is the founder of Music in the Mishkan, a chamber music series in San Francisco, and he is a founding member of The Bridge Players, a chamber ensemble based in San Francisco. Mr. Weiss joined the EMF faculty in 1989.

Violist **Jennifer Puckett** has just completed her third season as Principal Viola with the Memphis Symphony Orchestra. Prior to her tenure with the MSO, she was a member of the New World Symphony in Miami Beach, Florida for three years. Originally trained as a violinist, she received her bachelor's degree in violin performance from the University of Alabama. She has also attended various summer music festivals such as the Brevard Music Center, Sewanee Summer Music Center, Meadowmount School of Music, National Repertory Orchestra, Sarasota Music Festival, and the Aspen Music Festival. Aspen led her to the University of Colorado in Boulder where she received her master's degree in viola performance. Miss Puckett held teaching assistantships for the three years that she was at the University of Colorado including being a member of the graduate string quartet her first year. Over the years she has played professionally with many orchestras including the Colorado Symphony, Alabama Symphony, Missouri Symphony Society, Tuscaloosa Symphony, Tupelo Symphony, Huntsville Symphony, and the Central City Opera. Her experience as principal viola include the 2005 Mahlerfest in

Boulder, Colorado, numerous occasions with the New World Symphony, and throughout her college career.

Rebecca Zimmerman began studying piano at the age of four and cello at the age of ten. Throughout her early development as a cellist, she studied with several teachers including Dajing Yang, Jim Wilson of the Shanghai Quartet, and Neal Cary, principal cellist of the Richmond Symphony. Ms. Zimmerman graduated from the Cleveland Institute of Music in 2003 with a B.M. in Cello Performance, studying under Stephen Geber, former principal cellist of The Cleveland Orchestra. In 2008, she received her master's degree from Northwestern University under the instruction of Hans Jorgen Jensen. Ms. Zimmerman has attended Eastern Music Festival, Tanglewood, Kent-Blossom Music Festival, and the National Orchestral Institute—all of which she served as principal cellist. Ms. Zimmerman's competition winnings include the 1999 Richmond Symphony and the 2000 Eastern Music Festival concerto competitions. Ms. Zimmerman has held positions in the Canton Symphony, the Richmond Symphony, New World Symphony, and Northwest Indiana Symphony. She is currently an active teacher and performer in Chicago where she teaches for the Merit School of Music and plays with several chamber orchestras including Camerata Chicago, New Millennium Orchestra, and Erato Chamber Orchestra.

Cellist **Marta Simidtchieva** enjoys an active career as a soloist, chamber musician, and teacher. She is currently the assistant professor of cello at Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, where she is also a member of the LeClaire Piano Trio and the Illinois Symphony Orchestra. A native of Bourgas, Bulgaria, and graduate of the Bulgarian State Academy of Music in Sofia, she earned her doctorate of music from Florida State University where she was a student of Lubomir Georgiev. Dr. Simidtchieva has also been a member of the Eppes String Quartet with whom she worked closely with composer Ellen Taaffe-Zwlich and performed and premiered contemporary works for string quartet. Her interest in contemporary music has intersected with her desire to perform music by fellow Bulgarians. This research has led to a series of lectures and recitals presented at various universities throughout the United States titled "Lifting the Veil: Presenting Unknown Compositions for Cello and Piano by Bulgarian Composers to American Audiences." In 2004, Dr. Simidtchieva performed the Vivaldi *Concerto for Two Celli* with vocalist Bobby McFerrin as part of the Tallahassee, Florida, *Seven Days of Opening Nights* festival. The recipient of numerous awards and prizes, she has been a member of, or performed with the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra, New Symphony Orchestra (Sofia, Bulgaria), Orlando Philharmonic, Columbus (Georgia) Symphony, Eastern Music Festival Orchestra, Wildwood Opera Festival, and at the New Bulgarian Music Festival.

More about Eastern Music Festival

Now in its 48th year, the Eastern Music Festival & School is recognized for its prodigious contributions to the field of American music and its commitment to nurturing talented American and international youth through a collaborative learning process. The program brings together a cross-section of America's most sought-after artists with pre-professional students in a five-week schedule of 100 concerts and music-related events. **Music Director Gerard Schwarz** heads a distinguished list of participating artists

scheduled for 2009, including **Peter Serkin, Sarah Chang, Horacio Gutiérrez, Nadja Salerno Sonnenberg, Xavier Phillips**, plus many others.

The Festival also produces a popular EMF*fringe* series of alternative programming, featuring everything from Americana to alt country, blues, jazz and gospel with artists such as **Mike Cross, The John Cowan Band, Laurelyn Dossett, Steep Canyon Rangers, Waybacks, The Chris Hicks Band**, blues artist **Larry McCray** and more. EMF*kids* offers camps and concerts with each uniquely designed to foster a love and knowledge for classical and non-classical music. This year's concerts are **Shana Banana** and **Dan Zanes**. EMF*jazz&blues* runs each spring and EMF Fringe on the Fall each autumn. Season tickets on sale through June 27th (EMF*fringe* season tickets on sale through July 9th); single tickets on sale now. www.EasternMusicFestival.org; Box Office 336.272.0160 or 866.579-TIXX.

The Eastern Music Festival's mission is to promote musical enrichment, excellence, professional collaboration, innovation and diversity through a nationally-recognized teaching program, music festival, concerts and other programs which will enhance the quality of life, health and vitality of our region.

EMF is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.
All contributions are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

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