



MASTERWORKS  
FESTIVAL

FLORIDA  
**PERFORMING**

S E R I E S 2 4 / 2 5



PRESENTED BY



**MARKER AND PIONEER**  
International Culture Exchange Center

# KICK-OFF CONCERT



FLORIDA  
PERFORMING  
SERIES 24/25



PASCAL'S

## COFFEE HOUSE

Christian Study Center at University of Florida  
112 NW 16th Street Gainesville, FL 32603  
October 23, 2024, 7 PM



PROGRAM

## MUSIC & FOOD

Works by Bach, Mozart, Rolla  
& Arranged Hymns



FEATURING

## JUNE XU, VIOLA

with MasterWorks Festival  
Faculty & Alumni

All donations fund scholarships  
for future MWF students

FREE ADMISSION

# CONCERT PROGRAM



## SOLO

Bach: Cello Suite No.6

Allemande

June Xu, viola

Bach: Violin Sonata No.3

Largo

Abigail Carpenter, violin

## DUO

Mozart: Duo for Violin and Viola in G Major

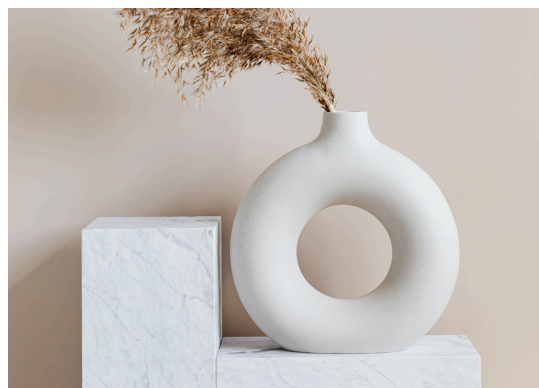
Allegro

Abigail Carpenter, violin; June Xu, viola

Rolla: Duo for Two Violas, No.1, in f minor

Allegro ma non troppo

June Xu & Lauren Hodges, viola



## CHAMBER MUSIC

Mozart: Bassoon Concerto in B-flat Major

Allegro & Andante ma Adagio

Chamber version arranged by Walle Ge

Worship Hymns

Amazing Grace for String Quartet - arr. by

Jennifer Higdon

It Is Well with My Soul for Bassoon and  
String Quartet - arr. by Walle Ge

Aldo Castro, Bassoon

Abigail Carpenter, violin

June Xu & Lauren Hodges, viola

Michael Knowles, cello

# ABOUT PERFORMERS



MWF ALUMNI

## PEIJUN (JUNE) XU

Peijun Xu, “String Artist & Arts Advocacy Champion” (the Special Judges' Citation of The American Prize, 2023), is currently a DMA Candidate at the University of Florida, studying Viola Performance with Dr. Lauren Burns Hodges and Music Entrepreneurship with Dr. Jose Valentino Ruiz. Peijun received her Master’s Degree in Music Education and Graduate Artist Certificates in Violin and Viola Performance from Azusa Pacific University in 2018. In 2021, she won the First Prize for the Viola Section (age 25 and up) at the Charleston International Music Competition and was also the sole first prize winner for the Viola Section (age 23 and up) at the King’s Peak International Music Competition. As the winner of the Graduate Division of the University Concerto Competition in her first-semester study at UF, Peijun performed the Hoffmeister Viola Concerto with the UF Symphony Orchestra conducted by Dr. Tiffany Lu in Spring 2023.

In Summer 2020, Peijun was awarded the apprenticeship position in viola for the MasterWorks Festival 2020 Program, where she studied with Lisa Boyko of the Cleveland Orchestra. She performed the Dvorak Piano Quintet in a masterclass for Ken-David Masur (Music Director, Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra). Peijun returned to the MasterWorks Festival in 2021 and 2022, serving as principal viola under the baton of Delta David Gier, Ken-David Masur, and Miriam Burns. In 2022, She was awarded the Tavani Family Orchestra String Fellowship, a merit-based fellowship awarded annually to one exceptional festival string musician.

Peijun is co-founder and executive director of MAP-ICEC, a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization named MARKER AND PIONEER International Culture Exchange Center, hosting the MAP International Music Competition from 2021 to 2024. It has rapidly become a leading global online music competition.



MWF FACULTY

## DR. LAUREN BURNS HODGES

Lauren Burns Hodges, “a distinguished violist with a refined, mellow tone” (American Record Guide), is currently Associate Professor of Viola at the University of Florida where she also coordinates and teaches Music Appreciation classes. For six years prior, she was Lecturer in Viola at Valdosta State University, Principal Viola of the Valdosta Symphony, violist of the Azalea String Quartet, and Director of the South Georgia String Project. She has performed and given masterclasses and body awareness workshops at universities, music festivals, and Viola Day events throughout the country and abroad in Italy, Austria, France, and China. Dr. Hodges has regularly presented, taught masterclasses, or performed at national American Viola Society Festivals, Primrose International Viola Competition and Festivals, the College Music Society Southern Conference, and the 47th International Viola Congress. Passionate about promoting the viola and engaging with the community, she hosts an annual viola day at UF.

[www.laurenburnshodges.com](http://www.laurenburnshodges.com)

# ABOUT PERFORMERS



MWF ALUMNI

## ABIGAIL CARPENTER

Abigail Carpenter is a Georgia-based violinist who has been playing for 17 years. She currently is a Music Performance student at the Schwob School of Music at Columbus State University and is also a student in the Public Musicology Certificate Program at Schwob. She has been a part of the Schwob Philharmonic Orchestra throughout her collegiate studies, as well as a member of the Schwob Opera Orchestra, a section violinist for the Albany Symphony Orchestra, a member of the Virtuosi String Ensemble, and the Schwob Contemporary Ensemble. In December of 2023, she was a member of the Columbus Ballet Orchestra for their annual production of "The Nutcracker." Abigail was also a featured soloist at the Christmas Eve service for First Presbyterian Church in Columbus, where she also sings every week.

Before college, she was in the Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra for three years, sitting as Principal Second in their 2020-2021 season. Abigail has also toured with the Emory Youth Symphony Orchestra. She has participated in chamber music, as a member of the Carpenter String Trio and in various small ensembles throughout her time at Schwob. Abigail freelances in Alabama and South Georgia and has worked with groups such as the Sons of Lafayette Mens Choir. She has also performed as a substitute player in the Columbus Symphony Orchestra. Abigail has premiered works as part of the Schwob Composition Studio's Fall recital, specifically "Pestilence" by Villain. As she looks toward her graduation in May 2025, Abigail hopes to pursue a Master's degree, and doctoral studies in the future.



MWF ALUMNI

## ALDO CASTRO

Aldo Castro is a young bassoon player who started his musical studies in 2010. He attended the National Conservatory of Music F.R.D.Z and graduated later on from the National School of Music. He participated in projects such as YOA Honduras, Central American Music Festival (EFCA), MasterWorks Festival (USA), and others. Aldo Castro also served as a bassoonist for the Philharmonic Orchestra of Honduras before starting his musical studies in Columbus, GA. In 2017, Aldo won the prestigious Woodruff scholarship at Columbus State University, granting him the opportunity to earn his degree in music performance under the mentorship of Dr. Stephanie Patterson and Dr. Myles Yang. Aldo is currently pursuing his artist diploma at the Schwob School of Music under the mentorship of Dr. Sara Fruehe.

# ABOUT PERFORMERS



MWF ALUMNI

## WEIYUE (WALLE) GE

Weiyue (Walle) Ge, an orchestral conductor and music educator, began studying the violin and viola under Professor Ding Zhinuo at an early age. Ge earned his Master's and Bachelor's Degrees in Orchestral Conducting from the Shanghai Conservatory of Music. After the 2007 performance tours with the Shanghai Conservatory Symphony Orchestra to Hamburg, Berlin, and Kassel in Germany, Ge was invited to Poland as an exchange visitor to study at the Warsaw State Opera and Krakow Symphony Orchestra in 2009. In 2010, Ge was appointed as the assistant conductor of renowned Maestro Lorin Maazel, the conductor of Turandot at Guangzhou Opera House's opening performance.

Ge founded the Huangpu Student Philharmonic Orchestra (HPSPO) at the establishment affiliated with Shanghai Huangpu Youth Arts Activity Center, which was invited to give a performance tour in Australia in 2014. Conducted by Ge, the HPSPO won the Second Prize and Best Stage Presence at the Philadelphia International Music Festival 2019 Orchestra Competition held at Bryn Mawr College in PA. Currently, Ge is living in Budapest, Hungary, working with Crescendo Summer Institute, where young people prepare for a career in the arts by studying alongside seasoned professional artists in a Christian environment.



GUEST MUSICIAN

## MICHAEL KNOWLES

Michael Knowles, a native of Richmond, Virginia, is the Cello Graduate Assistant at University of Florida where he studies with Dr. Steven Thomas. Prior to attending UF, Michael was a teacher and freelance cellist who frequently performed with many of the orchestras, churches, and theater companies in Virginia. He also completed his undergraduate degree in Cello Performance studying with Wendy Warner at Columbus State University.

In addition to performing on cello, Michael is a conductor and an avid arranger for cello ensembles. In 2015 Michael founded The Richmond Cello Orchestra (RCO) a community cello ensemble dedicated to connecting the cello community of Richmond and expanding the repertoire available for cello ensemble. Currently RCO has over 100 cello arrangements in its library with many of them arranged by Michael himself. During his time in Gainesville, Michael has continued to perform and arrange music. He performs regularly with ensembles at UF, runs the UF Cello ensemble Cellorando, and holds positions with the Albany, Gainesville, and Columbus Symphony Orchestras.



# ABOUT PASCAL'S

---

In 2004, we established Pascal's as an expression of Christian hospitality and an embodiment of the Christian understanding we seek to explore as a Study Center. Our coffeehouse is stewarded by our Barista Fellows, who are part of a program of spiritual and moral formation with integral elements of work and craft.





# ABOUT MASTERWORKS

---

The MasterWorks Festival is an intensive, four-week festival for advanced and passionate students of the classical performing arts, ages 14-26. Together, world-class faculty and gifted students present brilliant performances in an atmosphere of dynamic Christian faith. To learn more visit:

[MASTERWORKSFESTIVAL.ORG](http://MASTERWORKSFESTIVAL.ORG)





# ABOUT MAP-ICEC

---

MAP (MARKER AND PIONEER) International Culture Exchange Center, established in 2016, is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization dedicated to fostering international cultural exchange and educational initiatives. Headquartered in Los Angeles, California, MAP-ICEC is committed to bridging cultures and enhancing global understanding through diverse programs and projects.

Founders at MAP-ICEC hold advanced degrees in various fields related to international cultural exchange and education, including English Education, Music Education, Music Performance, International Preschool Teacher Qualification Education, Art Management, and Global Media.

MAP-ICEC is devoted to supporting artists, educators, and students by providing learning opportunities, training, and participation in conferences across the United States. Additionally, we host and sponsor performance tours and art education programs, enriching the cultural landscape and promoting artistic growth.