

THE KLEIN COMPETITION

2023 JUNE 3 & 4

The 38th Annual Irving M. Klein
International String Competition





CALIFORNIA
MUSIC CENTER



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On the cover:
cellist Gaeun Kim,
First Prize winner 2022

On this page:
violinist Jaewon Wee,
Second Prize winner 2022

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WELCOME



Welcome! The 38th Annual Irving M. Klein International String Competition will once again take place in person at the beautiful San Francisco Conservatory of Music AND online, via the Violin Channel and other platforms. Our international following has grown, and we are thrilled to share this exhilarating experience of discovering some of the most exciting young musicians in the world with listeners from far and wide.

This weekend you will see and hear nine string players, selected from over 110 applicants representing over a dozen nationalities. They will each play programs of their own choosing, which satisfy the required elements, as well as reflect their individual personalities and display the artistic strengths that each brings to performing great music. We will have the pleasure of uncovering each player's special qualities and personas as the music unfolds.

Our dedicated jury this year includes Glenn Dicterow, Zlatomir Fung, Karen Dreyfus, Harold Robinson, Daniel Stewart, Barbara Day Turner, and the composer of this year's World Premiere commissioned works, Gity Razaz. The jury is the soul of this competition, demonstrating their fervent commitment to promoting the next generation of string musicians and upholding the highest musical standards. You can read more about them elsewhere in this program book.

It is a pleasure to collaborate with the San Francisco Conservatory once again and to see an engaged and enthusiastic audience at the Caroline H. Hume Concert Hall. We hope you enjoy discovering the next generation of string players this weekend. Thanks for being with us!

Mitchell Sardou Klein

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mitchell Sardou Klein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Klein Competition
Artistic Director

Semifinals – Saturday, June 3, 10AM Pacific

Caroline H. Hume Hall

San Francisco Conservatory of Music

Livestreams:

www.theviolinchannel.com

www.californiamusiccenter.org

For the Semifinal Round, each contestant plays an uninterrupted 20–25 minute program, which must include a Bach unaccompanied work, the commissioned work by Gity Razaz, and a major portion of the semifinalist's chosen concerto.

Once all the semifinalists have performed their programs, the judges will determine who will compete in the Final Round on Sunday. Finalists' names will be announced before we adjourn Saturday, and special prize awards will be presented.

Finals – Sunday, June 4, 3PM Pacific

Caroline H. Hume Hall

San Francisco Conservatory of Music

Livestreams:

www.theviolinchannel.com

www.californiamusiccenter.org

The finalists (announced at the end of the day Saturday) will each play a 25–35 minute program containing the repertoire as described in the programs that follow. Final Round programs are required to present a portion of a major sonata and additional movements of the performer's concerto. If time allows, finalists may also include additional Bach movements or the Razaz commissioned work.

At the conclusion of all performances, the judges will convene and determine the prizewinners. The Awards will be announced immediately afterward.

Thanks to our Media Partner The Violin Channel

THE VIOLIN CHANNEL

Classical Music's Most Trusted Platform

Irving M. Klein (1917–1984)

Virtuoso chamber musician, master cello teacher and compassionate friend, Irving M. Klein served as the primary exemplar of his own convictions about musical education. He spent a lifetime in pursuit of excellence in musical performance, and he possessed a rare gift for discerning and supporting the highest motivations in others, so that wherever he lived he was continually at the growing center of a flourishing musical community.



For 18 years he performed in this country and abroad with the Claremont String Quartet, a group he co-founded in 1944. Acclaimed as one of the finest ensembles of that era, the Claremont represented the U.S. Department of State in cultural exchange programs in Europe, Africa and South America. Klein was chairman of the String Department of the North Carolina School of the Arts and taught at Pennsylvania State University, Peabody Conservatory, University of Delaware, Goucher College and College of Notre Dame. He performed with the CBS Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony, Leopold Stokowski's All American Youth Orchestra

and the Musica Aeterna Orchestra. He founded the California Music Center in 1971 and was its director for 13 years.

Irving Klein dedicated his life to music and to humanity. It was his talent to create that very special atmosphere of inquiry, respect and love that served to activate the creative efforts of his musical colleagues, students and friends. He touched many lives gently and yet so profoundly that his spirit and example will shine on through them for generations to come.

—ANNE HERSHEY

First prize - Total value of \$13,000 includes \$5,000 cash and performance contracts with the Peninsula and Santa Cruz Symphonies, the Gualala Arts Chamber Music Series, Music in the Vineyards, Noontime Concerts, among others. It is given this year by the Sam Mazza Foundation.

Second prize - Total value of \$6,300 includes \$3,500 cash and a performance contract with the San Jose Chamber Orchestra, among others. It is given by Ruth Short in memory of Elaine H. Klein, wife of Irving M. Klein, and for 35 years, an active board member and supporter of the Klein Competition and California Music Center.

Third prize (\$2,500) is given by David and Judy Anderson, in memory of Judy's father, Milton Preves, Principal violist with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra for nearly fifty years and instrumental in developing the judging procedures for the Klein Competition.

Two Fourth prizes (\$1,500) are awarded. One of the Fourth prizes is presented in memory of Jerry Lee Klein, Irving M. Klein's younger son, by Maria Klein. The second is given by Peter Gelfand and Sharon Childress.

The prize for the **Best Performance of the Commissioned Work** (\$500) is named in memory of Allen R. Weiss and Susan E. Weiss. It is given this year by Davidson Bidwell-Waite and Edwin Waite, and the Weiss family. The couple were often seen ushering together at the competition, typically wearing a dress and bowtie made from the same fabric. Tireless volunteers for musical and theatrical organizations, they spent their lives encouraging children (especially their own) to express themselves through the arts.

The Pablo Casals Prize (\$500) is for the best performance of the solo Bach work, in honor of the musical tradition of the great master. This year's prize is underwritten by Nancee Rubenstein.

Semifinalist Prizes Each semifinalist not awarded a named prize will receive \$1,000, and are, given by the Klein Donors Circle.

All performance contracts are subject to presenter cancellation or postponement due to forces beyond their control. The Klein cannot guarantee fulfillment of these performances, but makes every effort to.

If you are interested in underwriting a Klein Competition prize, please contact the Executive Director, Marcy Straw, at marcy@californiamusiccenter.org or 415.252.1122.

JUDGING PROCEDURES

Submission Review

The review process is conducted by members of the Klein Competition Jury. All identifying information is removed from the audio submissions so the anonymity of the applicants is guaranteed.

Once applications are closed, a remote team of 7-8 screeners begin independently listening to the submissions in three rounds. Screeners are selected for their expertise as players, conductors, or educators. We strive for a balance of instruments among them.

All screening is blind. Each submission is assigned a number, and at no time does a screener or listener know who they are listening to. This is to ensure complete anonymity of the applicants and eliminate any bias or favoritism.

2023 Klein Competition Judging Procedures

Judges are asked to refrain from discussion until the first secret ballot in each round is tallied, after which there may be discussion and re-votes only in the event of ties.

In the semifinal round the judges vote in no particular order for the three semifinalists who will typically be advanced to the final round, and then for the special prizes.

In the final round the judges vote for first place, which is determined, then proceed to vote for each remaining award, one at a time, starting with second up to the number of prizes being awarded.

Conflict of Interest Policy

Judges whose students are competing in the Competition may not vote for their own students. If a judge would otherwise have voted for his/her own student, that judge should abstain from voting for that particular prize level, to keep remaining votes properly weighted.

It is Competition policy that the judges make their decisions without regard to the age or career history of the performers: therefore, we give judges special programs without this information, and we ask panelists not to seek such information from any source either before or during the Competition.

Milton Preves (1909–2000) first attended the Klein Competition in 1987 as a judge and subsequently was instrumental in developing the basis for the current judging procedures, which have been further refined over the years. Preves was a violist, conductor, teacher, soloist and a member of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra for 52 years starting in 1934. He was its Principal Violist from 1939 to 1986. He played under the batons of all the symphony's conductors from Fritz Reiner through Sir Georg Solti, except for its founder, Theodore Thomas. Preves was a founding member of the Chicago Symphony String Quartet.

THE JUDGES



Glenn Dicterow, violinist, was concertmaster of the New York Philharmonic for 34 years, and since 2013 holds the Robert Mann Chair in Strings and Chamber Music at the USC Thornton School of Music, while pursuing an active career as an orchestral soloist, a recitalist and chamber musician.



Karen Dreyfus, violist, teaches at the Manhattan School of Music as well as on the Orchestra Performance Program and is on faculty of the USC Thornton School of Music while maintaining an active performing career solo, and with her husband, Glenn Dicterow.



Cellist **Zlatomir Fung**, 2014 Klein 1st Prize winner, and recipient of the Borletti-Buitoni Trust Fellowship 2022, and 2020 Avery Fisher Career Grant, is the first American in 40 years and youngest musician to win the International Tchaikovsky Competition Cello Division 1st Prize.



Gity Razaz, 2023 composer.
See bio on page 11.



From 1995-2022 **Harold Robinson** served as principal bass of the Philadelphia Orchestra and since 1995, as a member of the faculty of the Curtis Institute of Music. He has performed with the Philadelphia Orchestra, Houston Symphony and Houston Pops, New York Philharmonic, American Chamber Orchestra, and Greenville SC Orchestra.

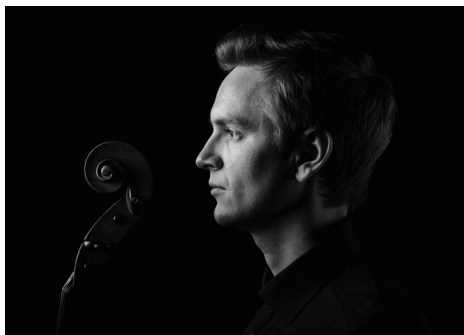


Daniel Stewart serves as Music Director of the Santa Cruz Symphony, and the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra. In 2021 he made his debut with the San Francisco Symphony in a program featuring Beethoven's 9th Symphony.



Barbara Day Turner is the founder and Music Director of the San Jose Chamber Orchestra. She conducted for Opera San José for 19 years, and has served as Music Administrator and Conductor for the Utah Festival Opera and Musical Theater.

The Mentor



Cellist and performer Coleman Itzkoff (2016 Klein prizewinner) stands at the intersection of baroque/classical/new music, contemporary dance, and experimental theater. Whether premiering works by living composers and performing baroque music on historical instruments in the same concert, delivering enigmatic monologues in a piece of avant-garde dance theater (as well as dancing in said piece), composing, arranging, and recording music for the Amazon film 'Le Baldes Folles', or simply

playing a piece of solo Bach for hospital patients in the time of COVID, Coleman continues to push the boundaries of what it means to be a musician of the 21st century, bringing his diverse range of interests and shape-shifting presence to every room and stage he occupies.

Hailed by Alex Ross in the *New Yorker* for his “flawless technique and keen musicality,” Coleman has performed in the great halls and festivals of America and abroad. As a soloist, he has had the privilege of being the featured soloist with many great orchestras, including recent appearances with the Houston, San Diego, and Cincinnati Symphonies. As a recitalist, he is allowed to express his eclectic taste and inventive programming, and is constantly experimenting with the form and format of a solo concert, playing with unique lighting, unconventional spaces, and often with an accompaniment of dance or text.

Collaboration is the heart of Coleman’s art making. To that end, he is a dedicated member of several ensembles, including the early music ensembles Ruckus and Twelfth Night, and is a founding member of AMOC, the American Modern Opera Company. Coleman holds a Bachelors in Music from Rice University, a Masters in Music from USC, and an Artist Diploma from The Juilliard School. For more information, please visit colemanitzkoff.com

Thanks to the 2023 Production Team

Mitchell Sardou Klein, co-host

Coleman Itzkoff, co-host and semifinalist mentor

Marcy Straw, producer

Zoe Lin, Assistant to the Executive Director

Yu-Ting Wang and Chien-Kai Wang, stage managers

Mel Metcalfe III, video editing; StormRyder Productions

Violin Channel, livestream; media partner

Marco Rozzano, page-turner

Jiaxun Yao, helper

Erica Rigney, program book designer

Our loyal volunteers



Elizabeth Dorman

Praised by Joshua Kosman of the San Francisco Chronicle for her “elegance and verve,” pianist Elizabeth Dorman enjoys performing music both new and old as a soloist and chamber musician. A finalist of the 2018 Leipzig International Bach Competition, Elizabeth has appeared as soloist with orchestras including the Louisville Orchestra, the Leipzig Mendelssohn Chamber Orchestra, the Santa Rosa Symphony, the California Symphony, the Vallejo Symphony, the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra, Symphony Parnassus, and as a keyboardist at the San Francisco Symphony. She can be heard on Delos Records as a concerto soloist with Santa Rosa Symphony’s new album celebrating the music of Ellen Taaffe Zwilich. Elizabeth holds a Doctor of Musical Arts from Stony Brook University where she studied with Gilbert Kalish and is the Assistant Artistic Director at the Archipelago Collective, a chamber music festival in the San Juan Islands.



Miles Graber

Miles Graber received his musical training at the Juilliard School, where he studied with Anne Hull, Phyllis Kreuter, Hugh Aitken, and Louise Behrend, and has developed a wide reputation as a superb accompanist and collaborative pianist for instrumentalists and singers. He has performed with numerous artists, including Sarah Chang, Cho-Liang Lin, Camilla Wicks, Axel Strauss, Mimi Stillman, Paula Robison, Zuill Bailey, Judith LeClair, Frederica von Stade, and Christina Mok. Miles has been associated with such organizations as the New Century Chamber Orchestra, Midsummer Mozart, Oakland Symphony, Berkeley Symphony, Santa Rosa Symphony, Oakland Lyric Opera, Berkeley Opera, Opera San Jose, and the California Symphony.

Currently, Miles holds accompanying posts at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, San Domenico Conservatory, Irving M. Klein International String Competition, Mondavi Young Artist Competition, and the Northern California Flute Camp. Miles is a member of the Alcyone Ensemble, MusicAEterna, the Rose-Kreston-Graber Trio, the Sor Ensemble, and Trio Foss.

COLLABORATIVE PIANISTS



Michael Tan

Michael Tan has performed extensively throughout the United States and Asia both as a soloist and a collaborative pianist, and has received enthusiastic critical acclaims from the *Washington Post*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and the *San Francisco Chronicle*, among others. Tan received his BA from The Juilliard School in composition and piano performance. He has worked as a staff pianist at the Eastman School of Music and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, as well as chamber music coach for the Young Chamber Musicians, based in the San Francisco Bay Area, and the Midwest Young Artist Conservatory in Chicago. He has also given masterclasses in many music institutions and festivals, such as the China Conservatory of Music and the Aspen Music Festival. Tan had also devoted himself to creating several series of lecture concerts, exploring the cultural, social, and spiritual contexts of western classical music.

Why include Commissioned Works?

We have always believed that musicians (and especially young ones) need to know the language of the music of their own time. Music continues to evolve and progress by absorbing the history, culture, and sensibilities of the world around the composers and performers. Music exists, in part, to express the experiences of the present moment.

For these reasons, the Klein Competition requires applicants to perform 20th/21st century works, to demonstrate facility in performing music of the present. In addition, we commission excellent composers to create new works to challenge the imagination and technique of our performers at the Competition. The Commissioned Works ask that each performer create an individual concept of a previously unperformed composition and make this new piece his or her own expressive vehicle. Hearing how each individual interprets this new music enables the listeners to learn a great deal about the contestant's abilities and expressive inclinations.



Gity Razaz

Hailed by the New York Times as “ravishing and engulfing” and “Uncompromising beauty... Impressive” by the BBC Music Magazine, Gity Razaz’s music ranges from concert solo pieces to large symphonic works. Ms. Razaz’s music has been commissioned and performed by the BBC Symphony Orchestra, the League of American Orchestras, Washington National Opera, Seattle Symphony, cellist Alisa Weilerstein, former cellist of the Kronos Quartet Jeffrey Zeigler, violinist Jennifer Koh, violinist Francesca dePasquale, among many others. Programming highlights include a 2021 commission for the prestigious Last Night of the BBC

Proms at London’s Royal Albert Hall and an upcoming concerto for world-renowned flautist Sharon Bezaly. Gity’s debut album, “The Strange Highway,” which was recently released on Sweden’s historic BIS Records, has garnered national and International praise.

Her compositions have earned many awards, such as the 2019 Andrew Imbrie Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters that “...is given to a composer of demonstrated artistic merit in mid-career”.



Program Notes

When I received the commission to write four solo string pieces for the Klein International String competition, I decided to compose a short piece for each instrument inspired by a painting of the surrealist painter of Mexican/ Spanish origin, Remedios Varo. I find the strange and mysterious nature of her paintings quite unique as they conjure a wide spectrum of emotion and interpretation. Therefore, each piece is intended to offer an opportunity for the players not just to address technical challenges, but also to showcase their musical personalities. The players are encouraged to familiarize themselves with their respective instruments’ painting as a way to understand the nuances of the ideas presented in the music.

Image: “Solar Music” by Remedios Varo

ABOUT

For over 49 years, we've been dedicated to our mission to seek and nurture exceptional young string musicians from around the world by fostering and furthering the development of their performance and professional skills, providing them with performance opportunities and monetary support, and encouraging their community involvement.

California Music Center (CMC), the sponsoring organization of the Klein, was founded in 1974 by Irving M. Klein, a virtuoso chamber musician and master cello teacher, as the sponsoring organization for a summer music institute and chamber music series for young artists. Following Mr. Klein's passing in 1985, CMC inaugurated the Irving M. Klein International String Competition (The Klein) in the summer of 1986 in his memory, now its primary focus, along with regional concerts featuring its laureates.

The Klein has enjoyed international acclaim as one of the most prestigious classical music competitions in the world. It is recognized for the high caliber of the contestants, its unique, nurturing environment, and its commitment to the commissioning of new works. We take pride in fostering an intimate, supportive environment for Competition participants and beyond, while consistently showcasing the highest level of playing from our competitors and laureates.

Now in its 38th year, the Klein has been instrumental in helping to enhance the developing careers of hundreds of players who have gone on to become renowned soloists, chamber musicians, teachers, and prominent members of the world's finest orchestras. They include notable soloists Alyssa Park (1989), Jennifer Koh (1993), Vadim Gluzman (1993), Alban Gerhardt (1989); Tessa Lark (2008), Francesca dePasquale (2010), Nikki Chooi (2009); principal chairs and members of U.S. orchestras (Cleveland, Philadelphia, Boston, Buffalo, Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, Seattle); and members of the San Francisco Symphony: Wyatt Underhill (2013), David Kim (2004), Melissa Kleinbart (1999), and Charles Chandler (1986).

Competition prizewinners perform with our presenting partners Santa Cruz Symphony, Gualala Arts, Noontime Concerts, Peninsula Symphony, Young People's Symphony Orchestra, San Jose Chamber Orchestra, Master Sinfonia Chamber Orchestra, Vallejo Symphony, and Napa's Music in the Vineyards. Laureates also perform at intimate concerts around the Bay Area and Northern California.

We are proud to support these exceptional players early in their careers, through the gateway of the Klein: it is the entry point for a sustained and warm relationship with the artists. Laureates return as mentors, clinicians, jury panelists and even board directors, coming full circle in service of the next generation of classical string players.

Emad Zolfaghari, viola

Semifinal Round

Béla Bartók (1881–1945)	Viola Concerto Sz. 120, BB 128 <i>Moderato</i>
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)	Suite No. 6 in D major, BWV 1012 <i>Prelude</i> <i>Gigue</i>
Gity Razaz (b. 1986)	Suite for Solo Strings <i>II. Embroidering the Earth's Mantle</i>

Final Round

Johannes Brahms (1833–1897)	Viola Sonata No. 1 in F minor, Op.120 <i>Andante appassionato</i> <i>Andante un poco adagio</i>
Gity Razaz (b. 1986)	Suite for Solo Strings <i>II. Embroidering the Earth's Mantle</i>
Béla Bartók (1881–1945)	Viola Concerto Sz. 120, BB 128 <i>Adagio Religioso</i> <i>Allegro Vivace</i>

Sophia Werner, violin

Semifinal Round

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)	Violin Sonata No.1 in G minor, BWV 1001 <i>Adagio</i> <i>Fuga</i>
Gity Razaz (b. 1986)	Suite for Solo Strings <i>I. Creation of the Birds</i>
Johannes Brahms (1833–1897)	Violin Concerto in D major, Op. 77 <i>Allegro giocoso, ma non troppo vivace</i>

Final Round

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–1791)	Sonata for Piano and Violin No. 21 in E minor, K304 <i>Tempo di Menuetto</i>
Johannes Brahms (1833–1897)	Violin Concerto in D major, Op. 77 <i>Adagio</i> <i>Allegro non troppo</i>

ARTIST PROGRAMS

Ray Ushikubo, violin

Semifinal Round

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)	Violin Sonata No.1 in G minor, BWV 1001 <i>Adagio</i>
Gity Razaz (b. 1986)	Suite for Solo Strings <i>I. Creation of the Birds</i>
Pyotr Tchaikovsky (1840–1893)	Violin Concerto in D Major, Op. 35 <i>Allegro Moderato</i>

Final Round

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)	Violin Sonata No.1 in G minor, BWV 1001 <i>Fuga</i>
Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827)	Violin Sonata No. 5 in F Major, Op. 24 <i>Allegro</i>
Pyotr Tchaikovsky (1840–1893)	Violin Concerto in D Major, Op. 35 <i>Canzonetta</i> <i>Finale: Allegro vivacissimo</i>

Mei Hotta, cello

Semifinal Round

Samuel Barber (1910–1981)	Cello Concerto Op. 22 <i>Allegro moderato</i>
Gity Razaz (b. 1986)	Suite for Solo Strings <i>III. Solar Music</i>
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)	Suite No. 6 in D Major, BWV 1012 <i>Prelude</i>

Final Round

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)	Suite No. 6 in D Major, BWV 1012 <i>Courante</i> <i>Sarabande</i>
César Franck (1822–1890)	Cello Sonata in A Major (arr. Jules Delsart) <i>Allegro molto</i>
Samuel Barber (1910–1981)	Cello Concerto Op. 22 <i>Andante sostenuto</i> <i>Molto allegro e appassionato</i>

Blaire Kim, violin

Semifinal Round

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)	Partita No. 2 in D minor BWV 1004 <i>Sarabande</i> <i>Gigue</i>
Sergei Prokofiev (1891–1953)	Violin Concerto No. 1 in D Major, Op. 19 <i>Andantino</i>
Gity Razaz (b. 1986)	Suite for Solo Strings <i>I. Creation of the Birds</i>

Final Round

Sergei Prokofiev (1891–1953)	Violin Concerto No. 1 in D Major, Op. 19 <i>Scherzo: Vivacissimo</i> <i>Finale: Moderato – Allegro moderato</i>
Richard Strauss (1864–1949)	Violin Sonata in E-flat Major, Op.18 <i>Allegro, ma non troppo</i> <i>Andante cantabile</i>

Zechariah Mo, viola

Semifinal Round

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)	Suite No. 6 in D Major, BWV 1012 <i>Prelude</i> <i>Allemande</i>
Gity Razaz (b. 1986)	Suite for Solo Strings <i>II. Embroidering the Earth's Mantle</i>
William Walton (1902–1983)	Concerto for Viola and Orchestra <i>Andante comodo</i>

Final Round

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)	Suite No. 6 in D Major, BWV 1012 <i>Sarabande</i>
William Walton (1902–1983)	Concerto for Viola and Orchestra <i>Vivo, con molto preciso</i> <i>Allegro moderato</i>
Johannes Brahms (1833–1897)	Viola Sonata No. 1 in F minor, Op.120 <i>Allegro appassionato</i> <i>Vivace</i>

ARTIST PROGRAMS

Haddon Kay, cello

Semifinal Round

Gity Razaz (b. 1986)	Suite for Solo Strings <i>III. Solar Music</i>
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)	Suite No. 6 in D Major, BWV 1012 <i>Prelude</i>
Antonín Dvořák (1841–1904)	Cello Concerto in B minor, Op. 104, B.191 <i>Allegro</i>

Final Round

Antonín Dvořák (1841–1904)	Cello Concerto in B minor, Op. 104, B.191 <i>Adagio, ma non troppo</i> <i>Finale: Allegro moderato – Andante – Allegro vivo</i>
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)	Suite No. 6 in D Major, BWV 1012 <i>Sarabande</i>
Francis Poulenc (1899–1963)	Cello Sonata, FP143 <i>Finale</i>

Audrey Goodner, violin

Semifinal Round

Erich Wolfgang Korngold (1897–1957)	Violin Concerto in D Major, Op. 35 <i>Moderato nobile</i>
Gity Razaz (b. 1986)	<i>Suite for Solo Strings</i> <i>I. Creation of the Birds</i>
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)	Violin Sonata No. 2 in A minor, BWV 1003 <i>Grave</i> <i>Allegro</i>

Final Round

Edvard Grieg (1843–1907)	Violin Sonata No. 3 in C minor, Op. 45 <i>Allegro molto ed appassionato</i>
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)	Violin Sonata No. 2 in A minor, BWV 1003 <i>Fuga</i>
Erich Wolfgang Korngold (1897–1957)	Violin Concerto in D Major, Op. 35 <i>Romanze. Andante</i> <i>Allegro assai vivace</i>

Vincent Garcia-Hettinger, cello

Semifinal Round

Ernest Bloch (1880–1959)	Schelomo: Rhapsodie Hébraïque <i>Lento Moderato</i>
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)	Cello Suite No. 3 in C Major, BWV 1009 <i>Allemande</i> <i>Sarabande</i>
Gity Razaz (b. 1986)	Suite for Solo Strings <i>III. Solar Music</i>

Final Round

Ernest Bloch (1880–1959)	Schelomo: Rhapsodie Hébraïque <i>Allegro moderato</i> <i>Andante moderato</i>
Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827)	Sonata No. 5 in D Major, Op. 102, No.2 <i>Allegro con brio</i>
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)	Cello Suite No. 3 in C Major, BWV 1009 <i>Prelude</i> <i>Gigue</i>
Gity Razaz (b. 1986)	Suite for Solo Strings <i>III. Solar Music</i>

Vincent Garcia-Hettinger

Vincent Garcia-Hettinger, age 17, is a student of Ken Freudigman. Vincent began his cello studies at the age of five, and he made his solo debut at thirteen with the San Antonio Symphony. Vincent was a prize winner in the 2023 Sphinx Competition and a semi-finalist for the 2022 Stulberg Competition. He was also a recipient of the Jack Kent Cooke Young Artist Award through From The Top. In 2020 Vincent was named the winner of the Ann Arbor Symphony Young Artist Competition, and he will perform as soloist with the symphony this year. Also in 2020, Vincent worked with international soloist Johannes Moser in a series of private lessons through the Virtumasterclass program. Vincent has participated in the Heifetz International Music Institute and the Bowdoin International Music Festival. He was a 2020 recipient of the Texas Commission on the Arts Young Master's Award, and in 2019 he was awarded a Sphinx MPower Grant. Vincent was selected as the winner of the 2018 Interlochen Concerto Competition. This fall, Vincent will study with Gary Hoffman and Peter Wiley at the Curtis Institute of Music.

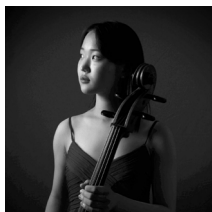


ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES



Audrey Goodner

Audrey Goodner, a seventeen year-old violinist from Reston, Virginia, is the 2023 winner of the Hilton Head Symphony's Youth Concerto Competition and will perform with the orchestra in the fall of 2023. Audrey completed 2022 as a laureate of the Thomas & Evon Cooper International Violin Competition and also performed with the U.S. Army Orchestra as the winner of their Young Artist Competition. Currently in her junior year at Langley High School, Audrey was the featured soloist at Langley High School's recent concert at Carnegie Hall. She is actively involved in her school orchestra; the American Youth Philharmonic, for which she serves as concertmaster; and the National Symphony Orchestra's Youth Fellowship Program. Audrey studies with Ryan Meehan of the Calidore String Quartet and Jing Qiao of the National Symphony Orchestra. Summer studies have included six summers at the University of Michigan's Center Stage Strings and this summer will be her second as a participant in the Young Performers Program at Music@Menlo. Audrey has performed in masterclasses at the American String Teachers Association National Conference and with violinists Francesca DeGo, James Ehnes, Stefan Jackiw, Arabella Steinbacher, and Almita Vamos.



Mei Hotta

Twenty-year-old cellist Mei Hotta, from Torrance, California, began cello studies at the age of four. Mei has been featured twice as a soloist on NPR's From the Top and was invited back to play with Peter Dugan and Vijay Gupta. A favorite experience was performing alongside Pink Martini at the Hollywood Bowl. She was also featured in the Piatigorsky Festival's Young Artist Workshop as the youngest member and soloist. Mei competed in the 2017 and 2018 Stulberg International Competition and has been a prize winner in the Junior Bach Festival Complete Works Competition, Los Angeles Violoncello Society's Scholarship Audition, Classics Alive Artist Competition, Bellflower Concerto Competition, CAPMT Concerto Competition, Enkor Competition, and the Edith Knox Young Artists Performance Competition. Mei has attended Center Stage Strings, National Cello Institute, the Heifetz International Music Institute, Accademia Musicale Chigiana, and was invited to Aspen Music Festival as the New Horizons Fellowship recipient. Master-classes have been with Ron Leonard, Ralph Kirshbaum, Hans Jensen, Richard Aaron, Alan Stepansky, Peter Wiley, David Finckel, Darrett Adkins, Steven Doane, Ben Hong, Marc Coppey, and Brinton Averil Smith. Prior solo studies were with Sarah Koo and Diana Parmeter. She currently studies with Clive Greensmith, pursuing a B.M. degree at the Colburn Conservatory of Music.

Haddon Kay

Born in 1999, Chinese-American cellist Haddon Kay began studying cello at the age of four. He first gained recognition as a finalist for the Chicago Symphony Young Artist Competition. The following summer, he became the principal cellist of the National Youth Orchestra of the United States under the baton of Michael Tilson Thomas for an international tour of Asia. Haddon studies cello performance at Northwestern University under the tutelage of Hans Jensen. He received his Bachelor's degree in 2022 and will continue his Master's studies at Northwestern as a recipient of the Eckstein Scholarship. This past year he was awarded the 2023 American Opera Society of Chicago Scholarship Award. Haddon competed in the 2nd Queen Elisabeth Competition in Belgium and was a winner of Northwestern's Concerto/Aria competition, after which he performed the Dvorak Cello Concerto with the Northwestern University Symphony Orchestra. Haddon is a founding member of the Galvin Cello Quartet, formed in 2021, which recently won Concert Artists Guild's 2022 Victor Elmaleh Competition and the silver medal at the 2021 Fischhoff Competition. A four-time semi-finalist at the Fischhoff Competition, he has won 1st prizes at the Rembrandt and Discover Chamber Music Competitions with various groups. Haddon has appeared with those ensembles on NPR's From the Top and WFMT-FM.

**Blaire Kim**

Violinist Blaire Kim was born in South Korea and started playing violin at the age of 5. The winner of the 2019 Juilliard Pre-College Tzigane Competition, a finalist for From the Top, and Grand Prize winner of the Camerata Artists International Competition, Blaire has toured internationally with An Die Musik Philharmonia and the Lviv Philharmonic Orchestra in Korea and the Ukraine. She was a featured performer in the Young Tchaikovsky International Violin Competition selection ceremony. In Korea Blaire won top prizes including the Daejeon Catholic Competition and the Daejeon Music Competition where she also received a special prize from the mayor of Daejeon. She is a top prizewinner of many international competitions, including the 5th Hong Kong International Violin Competition. Blaire has participated in summer festivals including the Forum Musikae International Summer Festival (Spain), where she was the youngest performer; the Academie Internationale D'ete de Nice Festival (France); and the Crans Montana Summer Camp. She also attended the summer Perlman Music Program in 2021 and 2022. Blaire studied with Sunny Lee and Jaesung Jeong before acceptance to Juilliard Pre-College, where she studied with Li Lin since 2017. Currently in her first year at The Juilliard School Blaire studies with Itzhak Perlman and Li Lin.



ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES



Zechariah Mo

Violist Zechariah Mo is a Junior at Colburn Conservatory pursuing a Bachelor's Degree studying under Tatjana Masurenko. Zechariah won top prizes from the IL ASTA Competition, Society of American Musicians Competition, DePaul Concerto Competition, West Suburban Concerto Competition, Fox Valley Youth Concerto Competition, Chinese Fine Arts Society Competition, Sejong Competition, the Rising Star Concerto Competition, and the Silver Medal in the 2020 Fischoff Competition. He has performed with the Music Institute of Chicago Academy Chamber Orchestra, La Crosse Symphony Orchestra, West Suburban Symphony Orchestra, Fox Valley Orchestra, and has also performed twice with the Oistrakh Symphony of Chicago. Zechariah participated at the Bowdoin Music Festival, Aspen Music Festival, and the Santa Barbara Music Academy of the West. His previous teachers include Roland and Almita Vamos, and Paul Coletti.



Ray Ushikubo

Ray Ushikubo is a twenty-one-year-old Japanese-American pianist and violinist who has performed on the stages of Carnegie Hall and Walt Disney Concert Hall, and appeared on NBC's The Tonight Show with Jay Leno. Ushikubo made his orchestral debut at age ten with the Young Musicians Foundation Orchestra in Los Angeles's Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. A 2014 recipient of the prestigious Davidson Fellow Laureate Award, Ushikubo was named a Young Steinway Artist and won the 2017 Hilton Head International Piano Competition, and the 2016 Piano Concerto Competition at the Aspen Music Festival and School. Ushikubo has soloed with the Fort Collins, Hilton Head, New West, Modesto, Pasadena, and San Diego Symphony Orchestras; and the Buffalo, Los Angeles, Reno, and Westchester Philharmonic Orchestras on both piano and violin - sometimes in the same concert. Ushikubo received his Bachelor's degrees at the Curtis Institute of Music, where he studied piano with Gary Graffman and Robert McDonald and violin with Shmuel Ashkenasi and Pamela Frank. Currently, he is pursuing Master of Music degrees at the Colburn Conservatory of Music studying piano with Fabio Bidini and violin with Robert Lipsett.

Sophia Werner

American violinist Sophia Werner, 20, is pursuing her B.M. at The Juilliard School, where she studies with Laurie Smukler. Recently, Sophia was selected as a semifinalist of the Stulberg International String Competition, finalist of the 2023 Juilliard Concerto Competition, and 2022 winner of the Adelphi Young Artist Competition. Prior to Juilliard, cherished teacher Linda Case prepared Sophia for appearances with the Cayuga Chamber Orchestra, Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes, and Ithaca Community Orchestra. An avid chamber musician, Sophia spent four years at Greenwood Chamber Music Camp, and will return for a second summer at Kneisel Hall with her piano trio. Her greatest influences include Laurie Smukler, Joel Krosnick, Rebecca Fischer and Ronald Copes. Orchestrally, she performs with the Juilliard Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra, where she has held leadership positions. In 2021, she received a fellowship to study at the Aspen Music Festival and School. More recently, she performed as a Fellow with the Apex Ensemble in 2022. On the weekends, Sophia performs with a piano trio in a variety of community settings as a recipient of Juilliard's Gluck Fellowship. Sophia plays on a 1864 J. B. Vuillaume violin, generously on loan to her through Juilliard's Stringed Instrument Collection.



Emad Zolfaghari

18 year old Toronto-based violist Emad Zolfaghari was accepted into the Curtis Institute of Music at 16, where he currently studies with Hsin-Yun Huang and Misha Amory, and serves as co-principal viola of the Curtis Symphony Orchestra. Emad has been the recipient of many prestigious awards, including second prize at the Johansen International String Competition, Grand Prize at the OMNI Music Competition, second prize at the Ronald Sachs International Music Competition, fourth prize and the Paul J. Bourret Memorial Award for Best Performance of the Test Piece at the Shean Strings Competition and first prize at the Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra Competition. Emad has appeared as a soloist with several major symphony orchestras, including the Toronto Symphony Orchestra; l'Orchestre Métropolitain, Montréal; National Philharmonic, Oakville Chamber Orchestra, and the National Metropolitan Philharmonic. In 2018, Emad was accepted into the Phil and Eli Taylor Performance Academy for Young Artists on full scholarship where he studied with Theresa Rudolph for four years. Also a member of the Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra, he often performed as principal viola. Emad has attended the Morningside Music Bridge international summer festival and the Center Stage Strings festival on full scholarship, and the Perlman Music Program summer 2022.



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The Klein Competition gratefully acknowledges the generosity of all our donors. These gifts and pledges were received from May 5, 2022 through May 5, 2023. We apologize for any errors or omissions. Please contact us for corrections.

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Special Thanks to those hosting Laureates and Semifinalists in 2022-23

Dan & Meredith Beam, Graduate Hotels, Peter Gelfand & Sharon Childress, Dexter & Kathie Lowry, and Ruth Short.

UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

by Klein Competition Winners with our presenting partners

June 23, 2023
Nikki Chooi, violin - 1st Prize 2009
Noe Valley Ministry, San Francisco
californiamusiccenter.org

August 7-13, 2023
Gaeun Kim, cello - 1st Prize 2022
Music in the Vineyards
musicinthevineyards.org

March 15-16, 2024
Gaeun Kim
Peninsula Symphony
peninsulasymphony.org

March 23, 2024
Gaeun Kim
Santa Cruz Symphony
santacruzsymphony.org

January 14, 2024
Prize Winner TBA
Gualala Arts Chamber Music Series
gualalarts.org

May 2024
2nd Prize Winner TBA
San José Chamber Orchestra
sjco.org

SAVE THE DATES

Winter 2023 - **Strings a la carte**
 A fundraiser to benefit the Klein Competition
 Cocktails, small bites, silent auction, and performances by Klein laureates
 San Francisco

June 1-2, 2024
39th Annual Irving M. Klein International String Competition
 San Francisco Conservatory of Music

PAST WINNERS

2022

- 1 Gaeun Kim, cello
- 2 Jaewon Wee, violin
- 3 Andromeda Kepecs, violin
- 4 Hayoung Choi, violin
- 4 Jacques Forestier, violin

2021

- 1 Yuchen Lu, viola
- 2 Grace Huh, violin
- 3 William Tan, cello
- 4 Ria Honda, violin
- 4 Serin Park, violin

2020

- 1 Gabrielle Després, violin
- 2 Jiaxun Yao, cello
- 3 Masha Lakisova, violin
- 4 Dongyoung Shim, violin
- 4 Caroline Durham, violin

2019

- 1 James Baik, cello
- 2 Dakota Cotugno, cello
- 3 Julia Mirzoev, violin
- 4 Gabriel Polinsky, bass
- 5 James Hettinga, cello

2018

- 1 Alex Zhou, violin
- 2 Julian Rhee, violin
- 3 Isabelle Ai Durrenberger, violin
- 4 Sophia Su, violin
- 4 Jean Kim, cello

2017

- 1 Jeremy Tai, cello
- 2 Zhanbo Zheng, viola
- 3 Kyumin Park, violin
- 4 Peter Eom, cello
- 4 Karisa Chiu, violin

2016

- 1 William Langlie-Miletich, bass
- 2 Coleman Itzkoff, cello
- 3 Alina Kobialka, violin
- 4 Evin Blomberg, violin
- 5 Sarah Hall, violin

2015

- 1 Oliver Herbert, cello
- 2 Isabella Perron, violin
- 3 Emily Shehi, violin
- 4 Erika Gray, viola
- 4 Ariel Horowitz, violin

2014

- 1 Zlatomir Fung, cello
- 2 Charles Seo, cello
- 3 Angela Wee, violin
- 4 Luke Hsu, violin
- 4 Kyumin Park, violin

2013

- 1 Youjin Lee, violin
- 2 Wyatt Underhill, violin
- 3 Dana Kelley, viola
- 4 Brannon Cho, cello
- 4 Kevin Lin, violin

2012

- 1 Austin Huntington, cello
- 2 Emma Steele, violin
- 3 Alexandra Switala, violin
- 4 Jean Kim, cello
- 4 Natalie Lin, violin

2011

- 1 Mayumi Kanagawa, violin
- 2 Matthew Allen, cello
- 3 Ji-Won Song, violin
- 4 Daniel Cho, violin
- 4 Mindy Park, cello

2010

- 1 Francesca dePasquale, violin
- 2 Angelo Xiang Yu, violin
- 3 Taeguk Mun, cello
- 4 Fabiola Kim, violin
- 4 Philip Kramp, viola

2009

- 1 Nikki Chooi, violin
- 2 So Jin Kim, violin
- 3 Meta Weiss, cello
- 4 Jacquelin Choi, cello
- 4 Sujin Lee, cello

2008

- 1 Tessa Lark, violin
- 2 Robin Scott, violin
- 3 Ying Xue, violin
- 4 Emily Deans, viola
- 4 Char Prescott, cello

2007

- 1 Jing Wang, violin
- 2 David McCarroll, violin
- 3 Madeleine Kabat, cello
- 4 Lydia Hong, violin
- 4 Alice Yoo, cello

2006

- 1 David Requiro, cello
- 2 Yu Jin, violin
- 3 Celeste Golden, violin
- 4 Song-le Do, cello
- 5 Natalia Szadkowski, violin

2005

- 1 Mihai Marica, cello
- 2 Tee-Khoon Tang, violin
- 3 Ilana Setapen, violin
- 4 Kathryn Eberle, violin
- 5 Rachel Harding, violin

2004

- 1 Jung-Min Amy Lee, violin
- 2 David Kim, viola
- 3 D. Joshua Roman, cello
- 3 Yves Dharamraj, cello
- 5 Clara Lyon, violin

2003

- 1 Eric Nowlin, viola
- 2 Tao Ni, cello
- 3 D. Joshua Roman, cello
- 4 Katie Hyun, violin
- 5 Ayane Kozasa, violin

2002

- 1 Min-Ji Kim, cello
- 2 Teng Li, viola
- 3 Caroline Campbell, violin
- 4 Kathryn Eberle, violin
- 5 Adam Barnett-Hart, violin

2001

- 1 Howard Zhang, violin
- 2 Teng Li, viola
- 3 Eunice Keem, violin
- 4 Yvonne Lam, violin
- 5 Adam Barnett-Hart, violin

2000

- 1 Angela Fuller, violin
- 2 Yoon-Jung Cho, violin
- 3 Jun Jensen, cello
- 4 Yang Xu, violin
- 5 Hannah Jin, violin

1999

- 1 Frank Huang, violin
- 2 Madeline Adkins, violin
- 3 Lucia Micarelli, violin
- 4 Cecelia Sang-Kyung Lee, cello
- 5 Jon Keigwin, bass

1998

- 1 Denise Djokic, cello
- 2 Patrick Jee, cello
- 3 Christina Castelli, violin
- 4 Yon Joo Lee, violin
- 5 Hee-Guen Song, violin

1997

- 1 Kirsten Johnson, viola
- 2 Amy Schwartz, violin
- 3 Vivek Kamath, viola
- 4 Amir Eldan, cello
- 5 Boris Tonkov, viola

1996

- 1 Lisa Kim, violin
- 2 LuKasz Szyrner, cello
- 3 Alberto Parrini, cello
- 4 Jenny Oaks, violin
- 5 Margo Tatgenhorst, cello

1995

- 1 Cathy Basrak, viola
- 2 Pavel Spordl, violin
- 3 Ani Aznavoorian, cello
- 4 Kirsten Johnson, viola
- 5 Esther Noh, violin

1994

- 1 François Salque, cello
- 2 Nurit Pacht, violin
- 3 Serge Oskotsky, cello
- 3 Ayako Yoshida, violin

1993

- 1 Jennifer Koh, violin
- 2 Vadim Gluzman, violin
- 3 Julia Tom, cello
- 4 Lara St. John, violin
- 5 Joanna Kurkovic, violin

1992

- 1 Mark Kosower, cello
- 2 Qi-Xin Pu, violin
- 3 Lisa Lee, violin
- 4 Owen Lee, bass
- 5 Annie Chang, viola

1991

- 1 Jennifer Frautschi, violin
- 2 Alexis Gerlach, cello
- 3 Brent Samuel, cello
- 4 Carol Ou, cello
- 5 David Park, violin

1990

- 1 Robert deMaine, cello
- 2 Jian-Wen Tong, cello
- 3 Joan Kwoun, violin
- 4 Misha Keylin, violin

1989

- 1 Alyssa Park, violin
- 2 Wendy Warner, cello
- 3 Alban Gerhardt, cello
- 4 Cornelius Chiu, violin

1988

- 1 Sang Mee Lee, violin
- 2 Gianna Abondolo, cello
- 3 Richard Hirschl, cello
- 4 Eileen Moon, cello
- 4 Annie Chalex, violin

1987

- 1 Molly Mo-Lin Fung, cello
- 1 Gloria Justen, violin
- 3 Hai-Ye Ni, cello
- 4 Robin Sharp, violin

1986

- 1 Stephanie Arado, violin
- 2 Sandra Park, violin
- 3 Sara Parkins, violin
- 4 Charles Chandler, bass
- 4 Timothy Landauer, cello

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