

About the Artists



Nicole Oswald recently received an Artist Diploma from the Frost School of Music at the University of Miami, studying under renowned concert violinist and pedagogue Charles Castleman as a graduate teaching assistant and Henry Mancini Institute fellow. Prior to attending Frost, Nicole studied violin at the Utrechts Conservatory, Netherlands and the Eastman School of Music. Nicole began her studies of music in her hometown of Boise, Idaho. She has accumulated many honors in the Northwest including: 1st prize at the Coeur d'Alene National Young Artists Competition 2012 and 3rd prize at the national level of the Music Teacher's National Association: Senior String Division competition held in NYC, 2012. Her string quartet also received 1st prize in the Boise Chamber Music Series: String Quartet Competition in 2012 and 2013. Alongside performing within numerous symphony orchestras, Nicole has performed contemporary music in many ensembles including, Ossia New Music, the Empire Film Music Ensemble, and the Slee Sinfonietta (University of Buffalo, NY). Nicole has been a guest artist at the Castleman Quartet Program and has studied chamber music with members of the; Pacifica, Fine Arts, Ying, Dover, Cavani, Concord, Juilliard, Bergonzi and Chilingirian String Quartets. She has appeared in solo master classes with; Rachel Barton Pine, Christian Tetzlaff, Mimi Zweig, Giora Schmidt, Csaba Erdélyi, Irvine Arditti, and Vadim Repin. While in Miami, Nicole was a chamber music coach for Miami Youth for Chamber Music, appeared as a guest performer with the Bergonzi String Quartet and played in the Palm Beach Opera Orchestra. In fall of 2018, Nicole will continue her studies as the teaching assistant of Andres Cardenes at Carnegie Mellon University.



A native of Fremont, California, **Alison Lee** is a pianist based in the San Francisco Bay Area. She is the first prize winner of several competitions such as Thursday Musical's Scholarship Competition, the Dorothy Van Waynen Piano Competition and the Pacific Musical Society Competition. She was awarded second prize in the 2016 Midwest International Piano Competition, where she performed Beethoven's Emperor Concerto with conductor Jason Weinberger and the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony. Most recently, Alison was featured as a soloist with the Coeur d'Alene Symphony Orchestra after winning their 2019 National Young Artists Competition.

In addition to her enthusiasm for the solo piano repertoire, Alison is passionate about playing chamber music. Her creative output includes frequent collaborations with her sister, pianist Katherine Lee, as well as with cellist Isaac Pastor-Chermak, with whom she has presented recitals featuring the complete Beethoven Sonatas for Cello and Piano. Other collaborative performances include appearances with the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and violinist Charles Castleman.

Over the years, Alison has participated in numerous summer festivals: the Aspen Music Festival, The Banff Centre's Piano Master Class, Mänttä International Piano Masterclasses, Pianofest in the Hamptons, Seattle Piano Institute, and the Castleman Quartet Program. Through these festivals and master classes, she has worked with renowned pianists including Menahem Pressler, Angela Hewitt, Jerome Lowenthal, Matti Raekallio, Julian Martin, Anton Nel, Jeremy Denk, and Jonathan Biss.

Alison holds a doctoral degree in piano performance from the University of Minnesota, where she was a student of Lydia Artymiw. Prior to studying in Minneapolis, Alison studied with Jon Kimura Parker at Rice University and Angela Cheng at Oberlin Conservatory.



Isaac Pastor-Chermak is Principal Cellist of Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony; Associate Principal Cellist of Stockton Symphony; Assistant Principal Cellist of Opera San Jose; and a member of Santa Barbara Symphony, Monterey Symphony, Santa Cruz Symphony, and Dayton Philharmonic. He spends his summers performing as Principal Cellist of the Lake Tahoe Music Festival and the Eisenstadt Classical Music Festival in Austria, where he is Assistant Principal Cellist.

Mr. Pastor-Chermak is the cellist of Black Cedar Trio, the only professional flute-cello-guitar ensemble in the country, and enjoys frequent sonata collaborations with pianists Miles Graber and Alison Lee.

Mr. Pastor-Chermak is in constant demand as a soloist and recital artist, performing more than 100 concerts every season on an 1889 Riccardo Antoniazzi cello. In the first half of 2018 alone, he will perform a major duo recital with pianist Alison Lee, featuring works of Gershwin, Chopin, Beethoven and Prokofiev; C.P.E. Bach's *Cello Concerto in A minor* with Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony; Eugen d'Albert's *Cello Concerto in C major* with Oakland Civic Orchestra; Leonard Bernstein's *Meditation No.3*, also with Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony; two performances of the complete Bach Suites for Solo Cello; and a live-recorded concert with Black Cedar Trio. Mr. Pastor-Chermak fits these creative projects around weekly symphonic programs throughout the country, as well as his local teaching and conducting obligations.

As an educator, Mr. Pastor-Chermak is Beelard Foundation Artist-in-Residence at Young Artists Conservatory of Music in Vacaville, CA; and a faculty member at Dominican Sisters School of Music in Fremont, CA. His cello students and chamber ensembles receive consistent high marks in regional competitions. He is founder and principal conductor of Solano Youth Chamber Orchestra, the first youth orchestra in the city of Vacaville. Pastor-Chermak serves on the Board of Directors of the East Bay Music Foundation, where he supports outreach and performance opportunities for young musicians in Alameda, Contra Costa and Solano counties. Pastor-Chermak holds degrees from the University of California, Berkeley (B.A. with honors) and San Francisco Conservatory of Music (M.M. with honors). He makes his home in the North Berkeley hills, but is at home wherever the music takes him.

www.isaacpastorchermak.com.