

# ARKANSAS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

7pm | October 1 & 2, 2024 | Morgan Hall

## RIVER RHAPSODIES CHAMBER SERIES

# Intimate Letters

---

**Janáček,  
Leoš**  
(1854 - 1928)

### **String Quartet No. 2, "Intimate Letters" 25'**

I. Andante - Con moto – Allegro  
II. Adagio – Vivace  
III. Moderato - Andante – Adagio  
IV. Allegro - Andante - Adagio

*Rockefeller Quartet*

**Koetsier,  
Jan**  
(1911 - 2006)

### **Variations on the Vysehrad Theme 22'**

Introduction - Thema Vysehrad  
Var.I: Allegramente - Var.II: Andante cantabile  
Var.III: L'istesso tempo - Var.IV: Allegro con brio  
Var.V: Andante mesto - Var.VI: L'istesso tempo

*Andrew Stadler & Carl Mason, trumpets*

*David Renfro, horn*

*Michael Underwood, trombone*

*Ed Owen, tuba*

*Alisa Coffey, harp*

## INTERMISSION

**Beethoven,  
Ludwig van**  
(1770 - 1827)

### **String Quartet No. 10, "Harp" 30'**

I. Poco adagio - Allegro  
II. Adagio ma non troppo  
III. Presto – Più presto quasi prestissimo  
IV. Allegretto con variazioni

*Quapaw Quartet*

# ARKANSAS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

7pm | November 5, 2024 | Morgan Hall

RIVER RHAPSODIES CHAMBER SERIES

## Artist of Distinction: Andrei Ioniță

---

**Clyne,  
Anna**  
(b. 1980)

### A Thousand Mornings

15'

*Geoffrey Robson, violin*  
*David Gerstein, cello*  
*Hee-Kyung Juhn, piano*

**Schoenfield,  
Paul**  
(1947 - 2024)

### Café Music

16'

I. Allegro  
II. Andante moderato. Rubato  
III. Presto

*Lauren Pokorzynski, violin*  
*Travis Scharer, cello*  
*Naoki Hakutani, piano*

## INTERMISSION

**Tchaikovsky,  
Pyotr Ilyich**  
(1840 - 1893)

### Souvenir de Florence

36'

I. Allegro con spirito  
II. Adagio cantabile e con moto  
III. Allegretto moderato  
IV. Allegro con brio e vivace

*Meredith Maddox Hicks & Katherine Williamson, violins*  
*Katherine Reynolds & Timothy MacDuff, violas*  
*Andrei Ioniță & David Gerstein, cellos*

# ARKANSAS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

7pm | January 28, 2024 | Morgan Hall

## RIVER RHAPSODIES CHAMBER SERIES

# Artist of Distinction: Zee Zee

---

**Bartók,  
Béla**  
(1881 - 1945)

### String Quartet No. 3

16'

- I. Prima parte. Moderato
- II. Seconda Parte. Allegro
- III. Ricapitolazione della prima parte. Moderato
- IV. Coda. Allegro molto

*Quapaw Quartet*

**Herzogenberg,  
Heinrich von**  
(1843 - 1900)

### Trio for Oboe, Horn, and Piano, Op. 61

22'

- I. Allegretto
- II. Presto
- III. Andante con moto
- IV. Allegro

*Leanna Renfro, oboe*

*David Renfro, horn*

*May Tsao-Lim, piano*

## INTERMISSION

**Beach,  
Amy**  
(1867 - 1944)

### Piano Quintet, Op. 67

29'

- I. Adagio - Allegro moderato
- II. Adagio espressivo
- III. Allegro agitato - Adagio come prima - Presto

*Rockefeller Quartet*

*Zee Zee, piano*

# Artist of Distinction: Andrei Ioniță



The Gold Medal-winner at the 2015 XV International Tchaikovsky Competition, Andrei Ioniță is one of the most admired cellists of his generation, called "one of the most exciting cellists to have emerged for a decade," by The Times of London. A versatile musician focused on giving gripping, deeply felt performances, Andrei has been recognized for his passionate musicianship and technical finesse. His debut album on Orchid Classics combined a Brett Dean world-premiere with Bach and Kodály, prompting Gramophone to declare him "a cellist of superb skill, musical imagination and a commitment to music of our time."

Andrei made his U.S. debut in 2017 with recitals in Chicago and Washington, D.C., and gave his New York debut recital in Carnegie Hall's Zankel Hall. Previous season highlights include performances with the Chicago Symphony, Gewandhaus Orchestra, Detroit Symphony, Münchner Philharmoniker, Orchestre symphonique de Montréal, BBC Philharmonic, Danish National Symphony,

Royal Scottish National Orchestra, San Diego Symphony, Yomiuri Nippon Symphony, and the BBC National Orchestra of Wales. He has worked with famous conductors including Herbert Blomstedt, Cristian Macelaru, Sylvain Cambreling, Kent Nagano, Omer Meir Wellber, John Storgårds, Joanna Mallwitz, and Ruth Reinhardt. He has given recitals at Konzerthaus Berlin, Elbphilharmonie, Zurich Tonhalle, LAC Lugano, and L'Auditori in Barcelona, as well as at the Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Schleswig-Holstein, Verbier, and Martha Argerich Festivals. Andrei Ioniță's exceptional talent makes him a versatile and sought-after performer of chamber music. In his concerts, he joins forces with Martha Argerich, Christian Tetzlaff, Sergei Babayan, and Steven Isserlis, among others.

Highlights of Andrei's 2024-25 season include performances with the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra conducted by Geoffrey Robson, the St. Louis Symphony under the direction of Ruth Reinhart, and a collaborative trio performance with William Hagen and Anton Nel with Chamber Music in Oklahoma.

Prior to winning the Tchaikovsky Competition, Andrei won First Prize at the Khachaturian International Competition in June 2013, and Second Prize and the Special Prize for his interpretation of a commissioned composition at the International ARD Music Competition. In 2014, he received Second Prize at the Grand Prix Emanuel Feuermann in Berlin. He was a BBC New Generation Artist from 2016-18 and was the Symphoniker Hamburg's artist-in-residence for the 2019-20 season.

Born in Bucharest, Romania in 1994, Andrei Ioniță first became a student of Ani-Marie Paladi and later of Prof. Jens Peter Maintz at the University of the Arts (UdK) in Berlin. Andrei performs on a cello made by Filippo Fasser from Brescia.

# Artist of Distinction: Zee Zee



An imaginative and electrifying performer, Zee Zee, is unique among the young generation of pianists. Described as “full of enthusiasm and glamour, radiating the vigor of youth” (Chinese Gramophone), her interpretations and communicative abilities have been praised as “taking us to another reality... bright, expressive and moving to the extreme” (Belgischer Rundfunk), while her creative maturity has been hailed as “a powerful, passionate and compelling representation of pure artistry” (Los Angeles Times).

In the 23-24 season, Zee Zee returns to the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Ulster Orchestra, Borusan Istanbul Philharmonic, Tucson Symphony Orchestra, Wigmore Hall, and Macao International Music Festival, among others. She will play with the Armenian State Symphony Orchestra, Oxford Philharmonic, Szczecin Philharmonic, and at Concertgebouw, Prague Spring Festival, Parnu Music Festival, Minnesota Beethoven Festival, InClassica Dubai International Music Festival among others. She will also play the season-opening concerts of both China Philharmonic and Shanghai Symphony Orchestra.

Highlights in the recent seasons include the season-opening concert with the Estonian National Symphony under Neeme Järvi, with the Philharmonia orchestra at the Royal Festival Hall, and a tour in the UK under Paavo Järvi, Three times with the Hong Kong Philharmonic under Christoph Koncz, Paavo Järvi, and Yu Long respectively, as well as the complete piano concertos of Beethoven and of Saint-Saëns with the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra. She gave recitals at the Aspen Music Festival, Brevard Summer Music Festival, Lucerne Festival, Casa da Musica in Porto, Esplanade in Singapore, and Premiere Performance Hong Kong, among others.

In the past seasons, Zee Zee performed with leading orchestras worldwide including the BBC Symphony, BBC Philharmonic, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, London Philharmonic, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, Philharmonia Orchestra, Belgian National Orchestra, Sinfonieorchester Basel, Tonhalle Orchestra Zurich, Borusan Istanbul Philharmonic, RTÉ Concert Orchestra, Macedonian Symphony, Warsaw Philharmonic, Janacek Philharmonic, Slovakia Philharmonic, Kristiansand Symphony, Turku Philharmonic, NHK Symphony, Hong Kong Philharmonic, Royal Bangkok Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, Minnesota Symphony, Cincinnati Symphony, Seattle Symphony, Pasadena Symphony, Jacksonville Symphony, Pacific Symphony, Hawaii Symphony, among others. Zee Zee was a BBC New Generation Artist from 2013-2015 and performed at the Royal Albert Hall as a part of the BBC Proms.

Zee Zee has given a number of notable recitals, including at the Wigmore Hall in London, De Doelen in Rotterdam, Kennedy Center in Washington DC, Lincoln Center in New York, Vancouver Recital Society, and Hong Kong’s Premiere Performances, and has appeared at festivals such as MiTo Festival, the Gilmore Festival, Aspen Music Festival, Ravinia Festival, Brevard Music Center Summer Festival, Klavier-Festival Ruhr, Lucerne Festival, Biarritz Piano Festival and the SJE Arts Series in Oxford.

She regularly works with some of today’s leading conductors, including Marin Alsop, Jonathan Bloxham, Lionel Bringuier, Charles Dutoit, Alondra de la Parra, Domingo Hindoyan, Paavo Järvi, Neeme Järvi, Christoph Koncz, Michał Nesterowicz, Jun Märkl, Julian Rachlin, Yan Pascal Tortelier, Roberto Trevino and Xian Zhang.

# Artist of Distinction: Zee Zee

A passionate chamber musician, Zee Zee is a founding member of the Z.E.N. Trio, alongside violinist Esther Yoo and cellist Narek Hakhnazaryan. The trio released their first album featuring works from Brahms and Dvorak in 2017, and the second album featuring Shostakovich, Babadjanian, and Rachmaninov in 2019, both under Deutsche Gramophone. They tour regularly throughout the world, including the first highly acclaimed tour in North America in October 2019 with presenters such as San Francisco Performances, The Phillips Collection, Vancouver Recital Society, a 10-concert-tour in Australia with Musica Viva in August 2022, and Europe tours in May & November 2024.

Zee Zee is the founder and the artistic director of the Z+ international music festival, which takes place annually in Spring in Shanghai. As one of the biggest and most acclaimed chamber music festivals in Asia, she is in charge of its strategy, vision, and programming, cooperating with the best musicians around the world while contributing to the local community. The Artists performing at the festival in April 2024 include Narek Hakhnazaryan, Clara-Jumi Kang, Sunwook Kim, Yura Lee, Ning Feng, Louis Schwizgebel, Julian Steckel, Esther Yoo, Haochen Zhang, and Diotima Quartet.

In October 2019, Universal released her first album under Deutsche Gramophone, featuring Ravel's Piano Concerto in G and Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 2 with Paavo Järvi and the Philharmonia Orchestra, the second one, a solo album <journey> under Decca Classics featuring works from Wagner, Schönberg, and Liszt is released in May 2022.

Zee Zee began her musical training in Berlin, Germany at the age of five and soon became one of the most sought-after young artists of her generation. Having completed her piano studies with Dan Zhaoyi at the Shenzhen Arts School, Zee Zee continued her artistic development under the mentorship of Nelita True at the Eastman School of Music and Yoheved Kaplinsky and Robert McDonald at The Juilliard School, where she won the coveted Petschek Piano Award. Zee Zee was awarded first prize at China's 1st International Piano Concerto Competition, the Gina Bachauer International Artists Piano Competition, and the Krainev International Piano Competition. She was also a prizewinner at the 2013 Queen Elizabeth Competition. She has studied at the Peabody Institute with Leon Fleisher and continues to receive guidance from Alfred Brendel. She is currently based in Berlin and New York.



## STEINWAY PIANO GALLERY



657 Hwy 365 | Mayflower, Arkansas 72106  
steinwaylr.com | 501-258-8637



# ARTISTS

**Quapaw String Quartet** - *As the ASO's original string quartet, The Quapaw Quartet was founded in 1980. All members of the quartet perform as part of the ASO's River Rhapsodies Chamber Music Series and the Intimate Neighborhood Concerts Series and are in demand for recitals at venues throughout the state. All members are heavily involved in teaching and have not only private studios, but teach at schools and universities around Arkansas.*

---

**Meredith Maddox Hicks (violin)** joined the Arkansas Symphony and the Quapaw Quartet in 2002 after receiving her Master's degree in Music Performance and completing Doctoral coursework at Florida State University. A native of Nashville, Tennessee, she graduated from Belmont University with a Bachelor's degree in Violin Performance before becoming an exchange student in Moscow, Russia at the Russian Academy of Music, Gnessin Institute. Her teachers include Elisabeth Small, Karen Clarke and Eliot Chapiro.

Meredith's orchestral experience includes the concertmaster position at both of the universities she attended, as well as holding positions with the Memphis, Jacksonville, Naples and New World Symphony Orchestras. She teaches privately and is a member of the Suzuki Association of the Americas. She is the Visiting Lecturer of Violin and Viola at the University of Arkansas Little Rock; a position made possible through partnership between the University and the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra.

Meredith is thrilled to be the 2016/17 winner of the Belmont Encore Award for outstanding alumni in classical music. She became the Principal Second Violinist of the Arkansas Symphony in 2019.

**Charlotte Crosmer (violin)** grew up in Conway, Arkansas and began playing the violin at the age of four. A few years later she was performing in a string quartet with her siblings as well as taking fiddle lessons. After earning masters degrees in violin performance and chamber music from the University of Michigan, she went on to tour as a member of the crossover ensemble Barrage 8. Charlotte joined the Quapaw String Quartet in 2016 and can also be heard playing bluegrass with The Gravel Yard.

**Timothy MacDuff (viola)** picked up the viola guided by the teachers in his public school music program where he grew up in upstate New York. After being exposed to the string quartets of Johannes Brahms and Antonin Dvořák at New England Music Camp in Maine, he decided he wanted to become a professional musician.

Timothy joined the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra viola section and Quapaw Quartet in 2019. He was a violin/viola instructor with the Arkansas Symphony's Strings Academy and now serves as adjunct viola professor at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville.

Timothy received his Bachelor of Music degree from the State University of New York at Potsdam and his Master's degree from Rice University. He completed his Doctoral studies at the University of Maryland. His mentors and major teachers are Shelly Tramposh, James Dunham, and Katherine Murdock

**Travis Scharer (cello)** grew up in Salem, Oregon where his primary teachers were Noah Seitz and Oregon Symphony cellist Marilyn De Oliveira. He then studied at Indiana University for five years under the tutelage of Eric Kim. During his time in Indiana, he served as principal cellist of the the Philharmonic Orchestra, the school's top ensemble, collaborated with faculty members Katherine Jolly, Stephen Wyczynski, and Jorja Fleezanis, and was a member of the Kuttner Quartet, the university's resident honors ensemble. Travis continued his schooling at the New England Conservatory where he studied with Boston Symphony Principal cellist Blaise Dejardin. In the summers, Travis has taken part in many music festivals and has received fully paid fellowships to attend the Texas Music Festival, Port Townsend Chamber Music Workshop, and the Aspen Music Festival. Travis joined the Quapaw Quartet and the ASO as Assistant Principal Cello in the fall of 2023.

**Rockefeller String Quartet** - Responding to what was clearly a statewide need, the ASO and the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation began a partnership in 2000 to form the Rockefeller String Quartet. The quartet has developed a reputation for providing quality educational programs locally and throughout the state. The quartet and its members perform chamber music extensively in the ASO's River Rhapsodies series and other venues. The members are also involved in teaching students of all ages, both privately and through universities in the state.

---

**Trisha McGovern Freene (violin)** has been an Arts Partner with the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra and Rockefeller String Quartet since September 2013. A Kansas City native, Trisha holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Violin Performance from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music (UMKC), where she studied violin performance with Benny Kim. Her earlier education includes Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, where she studied violin performance with Ian Swensen and chamber music with the late Mark Sokol.

Her career is marked by a rich blend of orchestral, solo, and chamber music performances, as well as a commitment to teaching. She has performed and taught extensively across the Kansas City metropolitan area, Des Moines, Iowa, Wichita, Kansas, Saint Joseph, Missouri, and the San Francisco Bay Area. Trisha has been appointed to several prominent positions: Assistant Concertmaster with the Saint Joseph Symphony, and tenure-track violin positions with both the Des Moines Symphony and the Wichita Symphony Orchestra.

**Linnaea Brophy (violin)**, a native of Memphis, has a versatile background as an orchestral player, chamber musician, soloist and teacher. In 2019, she joined the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra and the Rockefeller String Quartet. Linnaea holds a Doctorate in Musical Arts from Stony Brook University where she was the 2018 winner of the Stony Brook Concerto Competition. While at SBU, and under the direction of the Emerson String Quartet, she formed the Anello Quartet, hailed by Woodstock Times "beautifully tonal, coordinated, and balanced."

Prior to her appointment with the ASO, Linnaea gained orchestral experience performing with A Far Cry, a Grammy-nominated chamber orchestra based in Boston. A veteran of the violin concerto repertoire, Linnaea has appeared as soloist with the Nashville Symphony, the Memphis Symphony Orchestra, the Alabama Symphony, and the Vidin Sinfonietta in Bulgaria. Competitions she has won include the Alabama Symphony Concerto Competition, and the Curb Concerto Competition in Nashville. A frequent presence at summer festivals, she is an alumnus of the Juilliard String Quartet Seminar, the Keshet Eilon Summer Mastercourse, and the Perlman Music Program. Linnaea holds a B.A. and an M.M. from the New England Conservatory, where she was a student of Donald Weilerstein and Lucy Chapman

**Katherine Reynolds (viola)** joined the ASO as principal violist and Arts Partner in 2000. She received a Master of Music degree from SUNY at Stony Brook (NY) and a Bachelor of Music degree from the St. Louis Conservatory. Katherine also holds a principal position in the Conway Symphony. In addition to teaching private lessons in Little Rock, "Kater" also teaches viola at the University of Central Arkansas. Most recently she was a member of the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra, Santa Fe Symphony and extra with the Santa Fe Opera Orchestra

**Jacob Wunsch (cello)** joined the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra and the Rockefeller Quartet in the fall of 2019. Actively involved in orchestral performance, chamber music, and music education, he has made concert appearances across the United States, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Italy, Austria, France, and South Korea. His accomplishments include winning 1st prize at both the inaugural Briggs Chamber Music Competition and the ASTA (American String Teachers Association) Competition. He has previously served as a section cellist with the Ann Arbor Symphony, the Evansville Philharmonic, and the Owensboro Symphony.

A native of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Wunsch began his cello studies at age four at the String Academy of Wisconsin, graduating under pedagogue Scott Cook. His university teachers included Eric Kim, Richard Aaron, Michel Strauss, Jan Ype Nota, and Roger Regter. He received his Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees from Indiana University and the University of Michigan, respectively. During his time there, he served as the principal cellist of the leading orchestras at both schools. Through fellowship grants, he attended the Aspen Music Festival and School, the Colorado College Summer Music Festival, and the Garth Newel Music Center.

Wunsch also received a full scholarship to attend the Royal Conservatory in The Hague, the Netherlands, for graduate studies, where he earned his second Master of Music degree as well as an Artist Certificate. In addition to performing and studying, he conducted research and transcription to expand the repertoire for cello ensemble. Wunsch is a dedicated cello educator, both Suzuki Method certified and versed in traditional pedagogy.



**Alisa Coffey (harp)** Currently located in Little Rock, Alisa Coffey is the Principal Harpist for the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra. She was appointed in 2011 and performed the Mozart's Concerto for Flute and Harp Concerto in 2015 with principal flutist, Dr. Carolyn Brown. Alisa performs widely throughout the Mid-South region both as soloist and orchestral performer. She has performed regularly with Iris Orchestra and Symphony of Northwest Arkansas, as well as Shreveport Symphony and Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra.

She is a regular contributor to the Arkansas Symphony chamber series, River Rhapsodies, having performed works such as the Debussy Trio, Ravel Introduction and Allegro, Cras Quintette, and the Roussel Serenade. Formerly in Philadelphia, Alisa held the position of second harp with Symphony in C and also performed with the National Philharmonic, Philly Pops and the Philadelphia Orchestra. Alisa's summers have been spent attending festivals such as Artosphere Festival, Saratoga Harp Colony, Spoleto Festival U.S.A. and Aspen Music Festival. An enthusiastic educator, Alisa maintains a private studio in Little Rock, and also teaches at Hendrix College. Alisa teaches all ages and has recently completed training in the Suzuki method. As a soloist, Alisa competed internationally at the 2018 Israel International Harp Competition and the 2008 Lily Laskine Competition in Paris, France.

She received recognition in the 2011 Lyon and Healy Awards as well as the 2011 American Harp Society National Competition. Alisa completed her M.M. at Temple University with Elizabeth Hainen and her Performance Diploma at the Glenn Gould School of the Royal Conservatory of Music with Judy Loman. She is currently pursuing a Doctorate of Musical Arts degree at the University of North Texas with Dr. Jaymee Haefner. In her spare time, Alisa enjoys cooking anything from Smitten Kitchen, and hiking throughout the great Natural State of Arkansas.

**David Gerstein (cello)** is the Principal Cellist of the Arkansas Symphony. He has appeared as a featured soloist with the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra and Pine Bluff Symphonies, most recently in 2019 as soloist in the Beethoven Triple Concerto with the ASO. His orchestral solos with the ASO have been described as "absolutely gorgeous" by the Arkansas Democrat Gazette.

Mr. Gerstein is Assistant Principal cellist at the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music in Santa Cruz, CA. Mr. Gerstein is currently on the Faculty of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, and has previously taught at the University of Arkansas, the University of Central Arkansas, and Hendrix College. He received a BM with distinction from the Eastman School of Music and an MM from Rice University.

**Naoki Hakutani (piano)** has performed solo and chamber recitals across Korea, Japan, China, Mexico, and the U.S., including venues such as the Seoul Arts Center, Osaka University, Qingdao People's Auditorium, and Bowling Green State University. His recent highlights include lecture recitals on Romantic music at Sungkyul and Chosun Universities and a Rachmaninoff recital at Yongsan Art Hall, supported by the Seoul Foundation for Arts and Culture.

Originally from Kent, Ohio, Dr. Hakutani holds degrees from Northwestern University, Indiana University, and the University of Texas at Austin. He is currently an Associate Professor of Piano at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Dr. Hakutani is an active educator, having taught classes and given lectures across the U.S., Mexico, and Asia, including a visiting professorship at Suncheon National University.

He recently presented master classes at institutions such as Sejong University, Jiangsu Normal University and the University of Idaho. Dr. Hakutani is a past recipient of the Arkansas State Music Teachers Association Teacher of the Year Award and in 2021, he was inducted into the Steinway & Sons Teacher Hall of Fame. He is Artistic Director of Close Up! Steinway Salon Chamber Music Series which he co-founded in 2021.

**Hee-Kyung Juhn (piano)** was described as "subtle, technically brilliant, a top-notch, superb pianist" by New York Concert Review, "sensitive and imaginative" by the American Record Guide. Gramophone noted "her acumen for voice-leading lends impressive clarity," on her recording of Bach's Goldberg Variations, which is available at Amazon and digital download sites.

Hee-Kyung was born in South Korea, lived her teenage years in Paraguay, South America, and was later trained at Rutgers University, Juilliard School, and Indiana University, as well as summer programs such as Aspen Music Festival, Tanglewood Music Center, Yale Summer Piano Institute, etc. She performed extensively, and the most memorable concerts are the pandemic-time tour of the east coast with acclaimed violinist Tai Murray that culminated in 92nd Street Y in NYC.

As a church musician, Hee-Kyung has served as a music director and organist at the Trinity United Methodist Church in Little Rock. As an academic, she has taught at the University of California in Santa Barbara, Henderson State University, and currently at Virginia Tech as a visiting piano faculty.

In the summers, she has been on collaborative piano faculty at the Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara, Martina Arroyo Foundation in New York City, Great Mountains International Music Festival in South Korea; and she is currently artist faculty at the Bay View Summer Music Festival in Michigan.

**Carl Mason (trumpet)** is currently 3rd trumpet in the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra and has performed with the ASO since the 1993-94 season. He has performed many times as the 2nd trumpet in the ASO Brass Quintet. Mr. Mason was principal trumpet of the Delta Symphony (formerly the Northeast Arkansas Symphony) in Jonesboro from 1983 to 2003, and he retired in 2013 from 41 years of teaching in Arkansas public schools. His Bachelor and Master of Music Education degrees were earned at Arkansas State University. He and his wife Beth, now reside in Jonesboro. They have 3 children and 8 grandchildren.

**Ed Owen (tuba)** is currently Professor of Music at Arkansas State University and Principal Tuba of the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra and Brass Quintet, the Texarkana Symphony Orchestra, and the A-State Brass Quintet. He holds degrees from Arkansas Tech University (Bachelor of Arts in Music Education) and the University of Illinois (Master of Music in Tuba Performance and Doctor of Musical Arts in Performance and Literature). His mentors/teachers include Andy Anders and Mark Moore. Known as a dynamic, dedicated, and enthusiastic teacher, his students have won solo and quartet competitions at the local, state, national, and international levels. Over the past 40 years Dr. Owen has served numerous churches as organist, pianist, and choir director and is currently Music Director and Pianist at Bono Missionary Baptist Church. Ed and his wife, Delania, are the proud parents of Ashton and Isabella. They also are the devoted caretakers of dachshunds Minnie and Darcy Jane, and shepherd mix, Zeus.

**Lauren Pokorzynski (violin)** is a chamber musician, orchestral musician and educator. In 2023, Lauren was appointed as violinist of the Quapaw Quartet in Little Rock, AR for the 2023-2024 season. She also earned a Section Violin position with the Arkansas Symphony and the Conway Symphony. While living in Texas, Lauren was the Principal Second Violinist at the Lubbock Symphony Orchestra from 2019-2023. During that time, she held the positions of Concertmaster of the Texas Tech University, Associate Concertmaster of the Lubbock Chamber Orchestra and was involved in both Chamber Music Amarillo in Amarillo, TX and the West Texas Symphony in Midland, TX. Currently, Lauren mentors students at the ASO String Academy and also maintains a budding private studio. She has served as faculty at the Hot Springs Music Festival in Hot Springs, Arkansas, Mozart in the Knobs in Floyds Knobs, Indiana, and has recently performed as a guest artist and Practitioner at the Faulkner Music Festival in Little Rock, Arkansas. Lauren graduated with high honors from the University of Colorado at Boulder with a degree in Violin Performance, studying with Lina Bahn. She obtained her Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degree at Texas Tech University studying with Annie Chalex Boyle. Lauren is forever continuing to expand her knowledge of music and musicianship as a dedicated teacher and performer.

**David Renfro (horn)** A native of Kingsport, Tennessee, David Renfro is the Principal Horn of the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra, a position he has held since 2005. He also serves as the ASO's Chief Development Officer. Previously, David taught horn and chamber music at Ouachita Baptist University and Henderson State University. He received his Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees in Horn Performance from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music where his primary teachers included Myron Bloom (The Cleveland Orchestra), Michael Hatfield (Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra), and Richard Seraphinoff (Baroque and Classical Horn specialist).

David has served as the Principal Horn of the Texarkana Symphony Orchestra, Principal Horn of the Missouri Symphony Orchestra, and he currently appears regularly with other orchestras including the Memphis Symphony Orchestra, Symphony of Northwest Arkansas, Tulsa Symphony, and Quad City Symphony Orchestra. In addition to his work as an orchestra musician, David maintains an active teaching studio and performs often as a chamber musician and soloist. The Arkansas Democrat-Gazette lauded David's performances as soloist in Richard Strauss's Horn Concerto No. 2 with the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra as "sparkling" and a "musical glory".

In the summer of 2023, David joined the horn section of the Peninsula Music Festival.

**Leanna Renfro (oboe)** joined the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra as Principal Oboe in September 2013. She was Principal Oboe with the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra from 2007 to 2015. In previous positions she has served as Adjunct Instructor of Oboe at Belmont University in Nashville, Principal Oboe of the Kentucky Symphony and Lecturer in Oboe at the University of Louisville's School of Music.

A native of Kingsport, Tennessee, Leanna holds degrees from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (D.M.A.), the San Francisco Conservatory (M.M.), and Vanderbilt University (B.M.). Primary teachers have included Bobby Taylor, John de Lancie, and Mark Ostoich. During the summer, she performs with the Peninsula Music Festival in Door County, Wisconsin.

**Geoffrey Robson (violin)** is the Music Director of the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra and also serves as the Artistic Director of the Faulkner Chamber Music Festival. In that role, he curates a summer concert series and directs an intensive chamber music experience for students of all ages.

As conductor of the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra, Robson has led critically acclaimed and sold-out masterworks, pops, chamber, educational, and live-to-film concerts throughout the state. His innovative programming has brought new audiences into the hall and made all feel welcome, and has inspired and energized the orchestra. Robson regularly conducts opera and ballet, as well as symphonic and chamber music. His conducting teachers have included David Hayes, John Farrer, and Larry Rachleff.

He loves to collaborate with creative individuals, and to make music outside of the 'classical' genre, especially improvised music. With his background in violin performance, Robson is in frequent demand as a chamber musician, studio musician, and instrumental arranger. His violin teachers have included Erick Friedman and Alexander Kerr.

**Andrew Stadler (trumpet)** is a versatile trumpet teaching artist active throughout the state of Arkansas. Equally comfortable as soloist, chamber musician, or in an orchestra, he has performed throughout the United States and internationally, including concerts at Carnegie Hall and Kansas City's Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. He currently plays second trumpet with both the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra and the Symphony of Northwest Arkansas. Notable performance highlights include the Tulsa Symphony Orchestra, Des Moines Symphony, Fountain City Brass Band, Tuscaloosa Symphony Orchestra, Sioux City Symphony Orchestra, and a performance with Aretha Franklin during her final tour. As a chamber musician, he was a member of the Fischhoff Semifinalist Volker Brass during his doctoral studies.

Andrew currently serves as Adjunct Professor of High Brass at the University of Arkansas—Fort Smith as well as the Adjunct Instructor of Trumpet at the University of Arkansas—Little Rock, and maintains a private teaching studio. He holds a DMA degree from the University of Missouri—Kansas City Conservatory, a Master's degree from the Yale School of Music, and a Bachelor's degree from the University of Alabama. Andrew's primary teachers include Keith Benjamin, Allan Dean, and Eric Yates. He lives in Barling, AR with his cat Bellatrix.

**May Tsao-Lim (piano)** Professor of Piano at Henderson State University in Arkansas, coordinates the group piano curriculum as well as teaches applied piano and piano pedagogy. Prior to joining Henderson State University, Dr. Lim taught at Iowa State University and University College Sedaya International (Malaysia.) Besides college-level instruction, she has taught students of all ages for over 30 years. Her primary pedagogical foci include integrated teaching, adaptive teaching, effective learning, and efficient practicing.

As an active chamber pianist, Dr. Lim often collaborates with faculty, guest artists, and principal members of the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra. She has performed at the ASO River Rhapsodies and Texarkana Symphony Orchestra's chamber series.

Dr. Lim earned her B.M. in Piano Performance with highest honor 'Bronze Tablet' and two Master's degrees (Piano Performance, Piano Pedagogy) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She completed her Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Piano Performance and Piano Pedagogy at the University of Oklahoma.

**Michael Underwood (trombone)** joined the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra in 2003, and teaches low brass, music theory, and the UALR Jazz Ensemble at UA Little Rock. He has led the UA Little Rock Jazz Ensemble since its inception in 2012. The band has been featured at the Dardanelle Jazz Festival and the Arkansas State Jazz Festival. He has hosted guest artists Steve Owen, Professor of Jazz Studies at the University of Oregon, and Nick Finzer, University of North Texas instructor of jazz trombone. Dr. Underwood also is lead trombonist in the ASO Big Band, and has been featured at the Afterthought Night Club in Little Rock.

An active arranger, he has composed six jazz etudes for the Arkansas High School All-State competition. His arrangements have been performed by the ASO, at UALR, University of Central Arkansas, Stephen F. Austin State University, the Joseph Alessi Seminar, and the Big XII Regional Trombone Conference. He has published three trombone quartets of Debussy's piano music. In addition, Dr. Underwood is a scholar of the composer, Ann Giffels. He has done extensive research on her life and compositions, and gave a presentation about her at the 2019 Music by Women Conference in Columbus, Mississippi.

Dr. Underwood graduated cum laude from Lawrence University (Wisconsin), earned master's degrees in music theory and performance from Bowling Green State University (Ohio), and a DMA from the University of North Texas. His teachers include Nick Keelan, Vern Kagarice, Paul Hunt, Joseph Alessi, and John Kitzman.

**Katherine Williamson (violin)** joined the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra in 2013 and assumed the Assistant Concertmaster post in the fall of 2019. Williamson started her tenure with the Orchestra as an Arts Partner with the Rockefeller String Quartet. She has been the Director of the ASO String Academy since 2019 and also serves on the faculty for the Faulkner Chamber Music Festival.

Music has taken Ms. Williamson from the rolling hills of the Meadowmount School of Music in New York, to the mountains of Breckenridge, and to the Konzerthaus stage in Berlin, Germany. She has played as a semifinalist with the New World Symphony, been an associate member of the Chicago Civic Orchestra, and an extra with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. A native of Saint Paul, Minnesota, she still maintains musical connections to her home state as a freelance violinist with the Minnesota Orchestra and, until 2019, as a section violinist for the Mill City Summer Opera.

Williamson earned a Bachelor of Music with Distinction from the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University in 2012. She currently resides in downtown Little Rock with her rescue dog, Bernie the beagle.