

2020 SILVER STATE COMPETITION

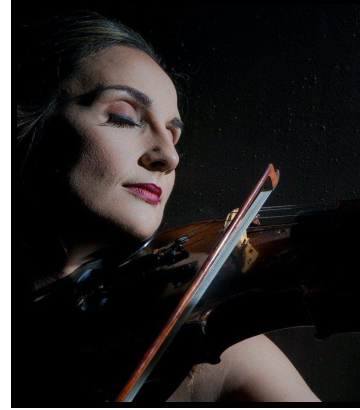
Judges' Bios



Dr. Kristen Yeon-Ji Yun, cello

An Associate Professor of cello at Colorado Mesa University, Dr. Kristen Yeon-Ji Yun, is active as a soloist, chamber musician, musical scholar and clinician. She is a prize winner in numerous competitions around the world, including the IBLA World Competition in Italy in 2008, etc.

She has soloed with many orchestras such as Grand Junction Symphony Orchestra, Korean Symphony Orchestra, Colorado Mesa University Orchestra, Indiana University Orchestra, among others. As a performer and clinician, Yeon-Ji Yun has toured many countries including Mexico, China, Hong-Kong, Spain, France, Italy, Malaysia, Thailand, Taiwan, and South Korea giving series of concerts and master classes. She received a Doctor of Music on cello performance from Indiana University at Bloomington; a Master and a Bachelor degree in Cello Performance from Seoul National University.



ANA ZIVKOVIC, violin

Ana Zivkovic holds a DMA and MM from *Mannheimer Musikhochschule*, Germany and a BM from the Musical Academy of Belgrade in violin performance. She has held the position of Violin Professor at the *Musikschule* in Heidelberg, Germany, and *Dr. Vojislav Vucković Music School* in Belgrade, Serbia. Currently Guest Professorin Chamber and Orchestral Music with the *Chamber Church Orchestra* in Santa Barbara, Minas Gerais, Brazil.

Ms. Zivkovic has been gold and silver medallist at the *Paris Conservatory International Competition* (France), and the *State of Serbia Music Competition* (Belgrade). Professional experience as Assistant Concertmaster in the *Orchestra Filarmonica MERCK* and *Kurpfälzisches Kammerorchester* in Mannheim, Germany; Scheherezade Violin Solo, *Deutsche Philharmonie MERCK*, and South Korean Orchestral

Tour - *Hochschule für Musik Mannheim* - (South Korea).



MARIO ZELAYA, violin

Zelaya received undergraduate studies in violin performance with a full Scholarship from Washburn University in Topeka Kansas. His musical training as a soloist began in Honduras with violinist and composer Fernando Raudales Navarra, a graduate student of Ivan Galamian at the Juilliard School of Music. Zelaya is currently pursuing his master degree at Lynn University Conservatory of Music with a full-Scholarship where he studies violin with the renowned violinist and conductor Guillermo Figueroa.

Zelaya is currently a Violin teacher at Music Caribe Project and Parkland International Music Academy . He actively participates in solo, chamber recitals and orchestral performances at Lynn Conservatory of Music in the US and Latinamerica. In 2017, Zelaya won First prize along with two special awards for the best performance of Bach and virtuoso piece at Cremona International Music Competition in Italy.



VERA BALABAN, piano

Vera Balaban is a member of Plano MTA (currently 1st VP of PMTA) and has taught piano both in the private sector (maintaining a studio of 45 students) as well as public (Brookhaven College in Dallas and Collin College in Plano). She was born in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada and trained in the Russian style of piano playing. She received her undergraduate degree in harpsichord and completed her graduate studies in piano.

She has also worked with various Steinway artists in the Metroplex. Vera's students have won competitions in both performance and composition and have gone on to become music majors in Universities across the United States and Canada. Vera has been active on many Texas MTA Boards over the past 20 years - theory, teacher of the year awards, student recognition awards, performance, and publication.



Dr. Kirill Gliadkovsky, piano

Kirill Gliadkovsky was born in Moscow and attended the Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Moscow where his teachers included renowned musicians Lev Vlasenko, Mikhail Pletniev (piano) and Leonid Royzman (organ). Mr. Gliadkovsky also earned both his Master's and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees at the University of Southern California with piano, organ and conducting. He also coached with Ann Schein, Herbert Stessin, Stephen Kovacevich and Lev Naumov. Kirill Gliadkovsky took numerous prizes at international piano competitions in Europe and the United States.

Dr. Gliadkovsky is teaching at Saddleback College as a Professor of Piano and Director of Keyboard Studies. Prior to coming to Saddleback, he has been on the piano faculty at USC and Santa Monica College and served as the Head of the Piano Area at SUU (Southern Utah University) in Cedar City, UT.

Mr. Gliadkovsky has performed in many prestigious venues in Russia, Italy, U.K., Poland, Mongolia, Canada, Japan and throughout the United States.



**Dr. Jennifer Bellor,
composition**

Born and raised in Northern NY, Bellor earned a PhD in music composition at Eastman School of Music, a Master of Music degree in composition at Syracuse University, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in music at Cornell University. She is on the music composition faculty at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and artistic director of the new music series Nextet.

Her debut album *Stay* (2016), which is a melting pot of different music styles largely based on poetry. The music of Las Vegas based composer Jennifer Bellor has been presented by Washington National Opera at the Kennedy Center, American Composers Orchestra, Seattle Women's Jazz Orchestra, Wuhan Philharmonic Chamber Series, Las Vegas Philharmonic, Lviv Philharmonic, Transient Canvas, ShoutHouse, UNLV Wind Orchestra, Clocks in Motion, Sonic Cluster Duo, Eastman New Jazz Ensemble, Eastman Saxophone Project, Elevate Ensemble, and many others in the US and abroad.



DANIEL MATTOS, piano

Daniel Mattos holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance Magna Cum Laude from the Puerto Rico Conservatory of Music, a Master of Music in Choral Conducting from Florida State University, and graduate studies in Master's Degree in music theory, orchestra conducting, piano pedagogy and music education (strings and band pedagogy). Mattos has been Gold and Silver medallist in the Jose A. Ferre Piano Competition.

Mattos is an active pianist, composer, arranger, and conductor, in the West Palm Beach, Florida area. He is Artistic Director of MusiCaribe Project International, Music Director at Ascension Lutheran Church in Boynton Beach, Florida and piano instructor and collaborative pianist at the Youth Orchestra of Palm Beach County.



**Marta Plominska,
flute**

Polish flutist Marta Plominska has performed in Europe and the United States. Marta is the winner of many awards. Among her recent successes, Marta has won 1st Prize at the South Carolina Flute Society Young Artist Competition, at the Grand Prize Virtuoso International Competition Belgium, at the Oklahoma Flute Society Collegiate Competition, at Great Composers Competition, at IMKA International Music Competition, and at the International Music Competition Barletta in Italy.

Ms. Plominska has collaborated with many orchestras including Krakow Opera, Springer Opera House, Pan-European Philharmonia, PassionArt Orchestra and the Polish Youth Symphony Orchestra. She appeared as an actress in Martha Coolidge's film, "I'll Find You". During her Artist Diploma at Columbus State University she served as a Graduate Assistant for Dr. Andree Martin flute studio.



Dr. Kimberly James,
mezzo soprano

Dr. Kimberly Gratland James, Mezzo-Soprano, joined the UNLV School of Music faculty in 2017 as an Assistant Professor with more than 20 years of professional performance and teaching experience in vocal music. Previously, she was an Associate Professor of Music at the University of Montana, where she primarily taught applied voice, voice pedagogy, and diction for singers.

Previously, she was an Associate Professor of Music at the University of Montana, where she primarily taught applied voice, voice pedagogy, and diction for singers. James earned degrees from Texas Christian University (B.S.), Rice University (M.M.), and Indiana University (Performer Diploma, D.M.A). Dr. James is a member of the Pan American Vocology Association (PAVA) and has been an active leader in the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) at the local, regional, and national levels, as well as the College Music Society (CMS). She has performed in concert with the London Sinfonietta, the New World Symphony, the Los Angeles Symphony, and on stage with New Orleans Opera, Chautauqua Opera, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, among other organizations.



Dr. Timothy Hoft, piano

Dr. Timothy Hoft is an Associate Professor of piano at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where he teaches solo and collaborative piano.

A graduate of the University of Michigan and the Peabody Conservatory, Hoft holds Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctoral Degrees in piano performance.

Hoft has given performances as soloist and chamber musician in the concert halls of Ukraine, Russia, Poland, France, Italy, the Czech Republic, England, Scotland, and the U.S., including Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall, the John F. Kennedy Center, the Phillips Collection, the Yamaha Piano Salon, the Ukrainian Institute of America, the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, and the Smith Center. He has performed with ensembles such as Phillips Camerata, Peabody Camerata, Peabody Wind Ensemble, UNLV Symphony Orchestra, UNLV Wind Ensemble, Henderson Symphony Orchestra and the Detroit Civic Symphony Orchestra.