

# VIOLAFEST LOS ANGELES



Sunday, January 15, 2017  
THE COLBURN SCHOOL

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Featuring Signature Guest Artist

**Geraldine Walther**

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ViolaFest is a program of the  
Southern California Viola Society and is  
hosted by the Colburn School



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Dear ViolaFest Los Angeles participants,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 11th annual ViolaFest Los Angeles!

ViolaFest was created to celebrate and build viola camaraderie and to inspire a new generation of violists. Today offers you the unique opportunity to be surrounded by students who are all driven and passionate about playing the viola. With classes taught by top LA teachers, a masterclass performed by your peers, and a performance by world-class violist Geraldine Walther, I hope that you return to your schools and orchestras not only with new musical insights and inspiration, but also with new friendships.

It takes the generous support of an entire community to put on an event like this, and we would first and foremost like to thank the Colburn School for again opening its state of the art facilities to us. We would also like to thank all volunteers, teachers, and the board members of the Southern California Viola Society along with our generous sponsors and partners: Metzler Violins, Benning Violins, Idyllwild Arts, and the Montecito International Music Festival.

In this, my first year as ViolaFest Director, I would like to especially thank ViolaFest Founder Gina Coletti for having the vision and direction to create and develop such an inspiring festival over the past decade. The future of ViolaFest looks bright thanks to Gina's tireless efforts!

Thank you for being a part of ViolaFest 2017!

Linnea Powell

ViolaFest Director



Dear Violists and Friends of the Viola,

On behalf of the Colburn School, welcome to the 11th annual ViolaFest! It is our pleasure to host so many young violists from all over Southern California on our campus in the heart of downtown Los Angeles.

Founded in 1950, the Colburn School equips students with the skills, support, and opportunities needed to achieve their highest artistic goals: the Community School of Performing Arts offers young musicians private lessons, chamber music, orchestra, jazz, music theory classes, dance, and musical theater; the Music Academy offers pre-college conservatory training; and the Conservatory of Music, with its world-renowned faculty, is one of the top conservatories in the country.

The Colburn School is pleased to host educational events like ViolaFest that bring together students from many different backgrounds to celebrate, learn about, and play music together. Congratulations to the Southern California Viola Society for their 11th year of ViolaFest. Enjoy your day here at the Colburn School and we hope to see you again soon!


Sel Kardan,

Colburn School President and CEO




TIME	EVENT
8:15-9:00	Check-in Second Floor Olive Building
9:00-9:50	Special Topics 1 Various Rooms
10:00-10:50	Special Topics 2 Various Rooms
11:00-12:00	Small Ensemble Rehearsals, by level Various rooms
12:00-12:30	Lunch on the Plaza 3rd floor, outdoor courtyard
12:30-1:30	Masterclass with Geraldine Walther Thayer Hall
1:30-2:15	Small Ensembles Dress Rehearsal Thayer Hall
2:15-2:30	Presentation of Awards and Scholarships Thayer Hall
2:30-3:00	Gala Concert featuring Small Ensembles Thayer Hall
3:00-3:45	ViolaFest Signature Recital featuring Geraldine Walther Thayer Hall





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*Karolina Naziemiec*  
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-violinist  
-jazz vocalist  
-teacher; viola, violin, piano

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Room	G 226	G 224	Grand 244	Olive 230	Olive 270	Thayer Hall	Olive 229
Session 1	Avanti	Serious Sumo (Beg)	Scales (Int)	Viva Vibratto (Int/Up Int)	Star Wars (Up Int/Adv)	Viola Talk (Up Int/Adv)	Peak Performance: Auditions (Adv)
Session 2	Avanti	Strength/Flex (Int)	Scales (Beg)	Viva Vibratto (Int/Up Int)	Star Wars (Up Int/Adv)	Viola Talk (Adv)	Practicing for Peak Performance (Up Int/Adv)
Small Ensemble Rehearsal	Avanti	x	x	Beginners	Intermediates	Upper Intermediate	Advanced

## CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

### **Avanti Viola Class**

**Instructor:** Mike Whitson

Session 1 and Session 2 for Beginners in the 4th through 6th Grades

This is a double session. The Avanti Viola class is for all beginning viola students (grades 4th through 6th) with 1-2 years of experience. During the class we will cover a variety of topics including correct postures and techniques, creating a fun and successful practice environment, and how to quickly improve overall intonation.

### **Serious Sumo**

**Instructor:** Mary Kelly

Session 1 for Beginner

What does a sumo wrestler and a violist have in common? (No, this is not a viola joke!) In this workshop, we will discover how posture effects your tone and confidence when playing. And how a sumo wrestler and a violist have more in common than one may think.

### **Strength and Flexibility**

**Instructor:** Mary Kelly

Session 2 for Beginner and Intermediate

When playing, we need both strength and flexibility to be a well-rounded violist. This class will give you some concrete exercises for your bow and left hand in order to make playing your instrument easier. Plus, you don't even have to set foot in a gym!

### **Scales and Etudes Technique Class**

**Instructor:** Karolina Naziemiec

Session 1 for Intermediate

Session 2 for Beginner

Do you know the best exercises for your left hand, and how to improve your sound while practicing them? Let's find out! Scales, arpeggios and etudes have always provided the best studying materials for developing a great technique. Learn to use them to develop a greater freedom of movement over the whole range of the viola, and develop a better sense of intervals!

### **Viva vibrato!**

**Instructor:** Laura Pearson

Session 1 for Intermediate and Upper Intermediate

Session 2 for Intermediate and Upper Intermediate

Improve your vibrato (or learn a beautiful vibrato quickly!!) in this class! Learn how to unlock the beautiful vibrato secrets that everyone only can hope for with exercises will make your vibrato better almost instantly! Students at all stages of vibrato playing welcomed. Get that spin to your viola sound that you have always wanted with vibrato being the icing on the cake. No sad, thin violin vibrato. VIOLA vibrato! VIVA VIBRATO!!!

**String Articulations: Viola Talk****Instructor:** Mick Wetzel

Session 1 for Upper intermediate and Advanced

Session 2 for Advanced

Can you make your viola speak? On the viola (or any string instrument for that matter) there are consonances and vowels. Say the word "look" out loud. You just spoke a word that begins with a soft consonant - with a long vowel in the middle - which ends with a hard consonant. This class will deal with the beginnings, middle and endings of notes, otherwise known as articulations to us violists. This class will deal with how to accurately and articulately make your viola speak the notes of your solo, orchestral and chamber music repertoire.

**Peak Performance in Your Audition Excerpts****Instructor:** Jason Bonham

Session 1 for Advanced

Orchestra excerpts tend to bring out the hidden gremlins in our playing, thus amplifying our anxiety. Learn how to approach your practicing to not only have a technical mastery of assigned excerpts but also a strong mind to conquer your audition. Students should come prepared with a basic concept of Brahms Symphony No. 4 Movement 3 and the theme and variations from Beethoven Symphony # 5, 2nd movement. Excerpts provided at the class.

**Practicing Methods for Peak Performance and Musicality****Instructor:** Jason Bonham

Session 2 for Upper Intermediate and Advanced

Have you ever practiced endless hours for an audition or performance, only to feel stumped by anxiety and critical thoughts during the moment of truth? Learn how use practice time to find calmness, strengthen focus and build self-confidence allowing you to play with more freedom and musicality.

**Sight Reading Star Wars****Instructors:** Andrew Duckles and Alma Lisa Fernandez

Session 1 for Upper Intermediate and Advanced

Session 2 for Upper Intermediate Advanced

Two studio musicians that have participated in the scoring sessions for the Star Wars movies will teach this workshop on sight-reading, using film cues from recent and upcoming Star Wars films. This is a rare opportunity to meet and discuss the film industry with two of its most active violists.

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## SMALL ENSEMBLE REHEARSALS

11:00-12:00

Avanti Violas, G226

Beginners, Olive 230

Upper Intermediates, Olive 270

Intermediates, Thayer Hall

Advanced, Olive 229

# MASTERCLASS

## Geraldine Walther

THAYER HALL

12:30 - 1:30

SUITE FOR UNACCOMPANIED I. Prelude

JS BACH

Emma Antonides

VIOLA CONCERTO I. Andante Comodo

WILLIAM WALTON

D'aci Knight

Vivian Fan, piano

VIOLA SONATA OP. 25, NO. 1 , Mvmts I & IV

PAUL HINDEMITH

Johanna Linna

**Emma Antonides** is currently a senior attending the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts (LACHSA) and is co-principal in the LACHSA Symphony Orchestra and String Ensemble. She has been studying the viola for seven years and currently studies with Gina Coletti. Throughout her music studies, she has been a member of the Pasadena Youth Symphony Orchestra, Junior Chamber Music Program, Ed & Mari Edelman Chamber Music Institute and the Glendale Youth Orchestra. Emma has also participated at the Beverly Hills International Music Festival and the Idyllwild Arts Summer Program. In addition, Emma volunteers as a mentor at Youth Orchestra LA (YOLA) @ LACHSA as well as recently earning her Girl Scout Gold Award.

**D'aci Knight**, viola (16, La Crescenta, CA), is currently principal violist of the Colburn Youth Symphony and violist in two quartets through the Ed and Mari Edelman Chamber Institute and a flute trio through Junior Chamber Music. She has performed with ensembles across Europe, at Carnegie Hall in New York, the Ambassador Auditorium in Pasadena, Zipper Hall, and Bing Theater at LACMA. D'aci most recently attended Bowdoin International Music Festival where she studied with Jeffrey Irvine and performed in a masterclass with the Jupiter Quartet. She studies with Helen Callus.

Violist **Johanna Linna** is the recipient of the Wesley Bing Memorial Scholarship. Earlier this year, Johanna won first place at the 2016 American String Teacher Association Solo Competition in Santa Monica, CA, before advancing to the finals to win third prize. She also won first place in the Rotary Club of Glendale's 2016 Music Contest. As a co-principal of Idyllwild Art's 2016 Chamberfest Orchestra, Johanna performed works of Beethoven and Berlioz in Walt Disney Concert Hall. She has participated in All Southern (SCSBOA) and All State (CODA) Honors Orchestras, Lake Avenue Church Chamber Symphony Orchestra, Colburn Chamber Orchestra, and the Colburn Youth Orchestra. In addition to being a violist, Johanna is an award-winning composer: her piece, "A Day in the National Park," earned an honorable mention at "Pageant of the Arts" competition sponsored by the Rotary Club International. She has taken master classes with Paul Coletti and Che-Yen Chen, and her former teachers include Margaret Shimizu and Chi-yau Lee. She is currently in eleventh grade at Herbert Hoover High School and studies viola with Gina Coletti at the Colburn Music Academy. She enjoys science, and reading murder mysteries.

# Welcome to Colburn, ViolaFest.

The Colburn School offers viola instruction for all skill levels with renowned faculty across the Community School of Performing Arts, Music Academy, and Conservatory of Music.

Learn more  
[colburnschool.edu](http://colburnschool.edu)

COLBURN  
  
SCHOOL

# GALA CONCERT

**Thayer Hall**

**2:30-3:00**

New World Symphony Largo

Antonin Dvorak arr. Janice Tucker Rhoda

Avanti Violas

Mike Whitson, coach

The Clock

Traditional

At Pierrot's Door

Traditional

ViolaFest Beginners

Karolina Naziemiec, coach

Royal Fireworks Suite - La Rejouissance

Handel, arr. RK Deveritch

ViolaFest Intermediates

Mary Kelly, coach

To a Wild Rose  
Allegro

Edward MacDowell arr. David M Levensen  
W. A. Mozart, op 487 arr Mark Feezell

ViolaFest Upper Intermediates

Gina Coletti, coach

Hungarian Dance  
Invention no. 8

Johannes Brahms arr. J.L. Christopherson  
J.S. Bach arr. Fabrizio Ferrari

ViolaFest Upper Intermediates

Alma Lisa Fernandez, coach

# ViolaFest Signature Recital

Geraldine Walther, viola

Vivian Fan, piano

3:00pm, Thayer Hall

Unaccompanied Cello Suite no. 3 in C Major, BWV 1009

J.S. Bach

I. Prelude

II. Allemande

III. Courante

IV. Sarabande

V. Bourée I and II

VI. Gigue

Concerto for Viola and Orchestra, op. Posth

Béla Bartók

I. Moderato

II. Adagio religioso

III. Allegro vivace

(ed. Serly)



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**Grace Park**  
Director of EMMI  
Director of K-12 Strings



**Mary Ann Cummins**  
EMMI Founder  
Music Theory Teacher



**Alexander Treger**  
EMMI Conductor  
• Former LA Phil  
Concertmaster



**Henry Shin**  
Assistant Conductor

## Notable Alumni

**Jocelin Pan '08**

The Juilliard School, music advancement program  
viola faculty

**Ken Hamao '07**

Enso String Quartet, violinist

**Jennifer Cho '02**

San Francisco Opera, violinist

**Eric Huebner '95**

New York Philharmonic, piano

**Nokuthula Ngwenyama '94**

American Viola Society, president

**Haldan Martinson '89**

Boston Symphony, principal violin

**Robert Chen '87**

Chicago Symphony, concertmaster



**Warren Spaeth**  
Music Theory Teacher



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Applications are currently being accepted.  
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# VIOLAFEST PARTICIPANTS

## AVANTI

Fiona Herzog  
Sachielle Ilarraza  
Allison Gee  
Katie Lee  
Arten Louie  
Colette Lorge  
Sheyla Portillo  
Daniel Valenzuela

## BEGINNERS

Sebastian Heredia  
Ryan Lee  
Daniela Losoya  
Teekya Malones  
Loamy Tapia

## INTERMEDIATES

Davianna Arrue  
Declan Carney  
Oisin Xavier Cleary  
Oliver Deutsch  
Gavin Eddy  
Catherine Gomez  
Mellory Gutierrez  
Winston Hsu  
Aleah Hurwitz  
Heather Jensen  
Claire Mclean  
Scarlett Meisse  
Christopher Manuel Orozco  
Eduardo Pech  
Jaden Peña  
Lola Quinn  
Maricio Rivas  
Gael Saldaña  
Naomi Sills  
Seth Sills  
Mia Tovar  
Hayleigh Yeoh

## UPPER INTERMEDIATES

Fariyan Alam  
Vikram Arora  
Christopher Chacon  
Sorcha Cleary  
Emmeline Clougherty

Therese Enriquez  
Jasmine Frey  
Andrea Galindo  
Cristina Garcia  
Kaitlyn Hahn  
Sarah Henderson  
Raela Jayasekara  
Jack Kwon  
Grace Levine  
Faye Liu  
Maeve Morgan Phoa  
Sofia Motto  
Gio Noti  
Bryan Ramillano  
Uriel Rendon  
Joana Ruiz  
Sarah Salloway  
Matthew Shen  
Abigail Soriano  
Ciarán Tanner  
Mia von Haam  
Natalie Webb

## ADVANCED

Emma Antonides  
Sharani Bhattacharya  
Bradford Ellzey  
Marina Francis  
Zephania Hartojo  
Elliott Herbst  
Kira Johns  
Lynne Kim  
D'aci Knight  
Melissa Lai  
Johanna Linna  
Jeshurun Liou  
Noelle Martinez  
Roxy Ong  
Skye Oyama  
Andy Park  
Lydia Plaut  
Issac Siebelink  
Steven Tse  
Charlotte Van Houten  
Nicole Walters  
Brenda Wong  
Joanna Yang



# SUMMER

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## About the Artists

**Geraldine Walther**, violist of the Takacs String Quartet, served as Principal Violist of the San Francisco Symphony for twenty-nine years, having previously served as assistant principal of the Pittsburgh Symphony, the Miami Philharmonic and the Baltimore Symphony. In 1979 she won first prize at the William Primrose International Competition

During her San Francisco Symphony tenure she performed as soloist 41 times and gave the US premieres of several important works with the Orchestra, including: Toru Takemitsu's *A String Around Autumn*, Peter Lieberman's *Viola Concerto*, George Benjamin's *Viola, Viola* (together with SFS Associate Principal Violist, Yun Jie Liu) and Robin Holloway's *Viola Concerto*.

In 1995, Ms. Walther was selected by Sir Georg Solti as a member of his Musicians of the World, an orchestra composed of leading musicians from around the Globe, for concerts in Geneva to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations. In 2011 she was awarded the Order of Merit Officer's Cross of the Republic of Hungary and also, as member of the Takacs Quartet, was awarded the Royal Philharmonic Society Award in the Chamber Music and Song category. Geri has performed as soloist with various orchestras in the US and abroad. An avid chamber musician, Ms Walther has participated in music festivals including Marlboro, Santa Fe, Tanglewood, Bridgehampton, Aspen, Music Academy of the West, Music at Menlo, Cape Cod, Ruby Mountain, Telluride, Seattle, and the Green Music Festival.

Ms. Walther has recorded with the Takacs Quartet on Hyperion and as soloist with the San Francisco Symphony on London/Decca.

**Jason Bonham** is known as a recitalist, chamber musician, orchestral musician and educator. Currently, Jason is the Principal Violist with Las Vegas Philharmonic and Viola Faculty at UNLV. He has performed with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra, Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Elgin Symphony Orchestra, the Fort Wayne Philharmonic and Ars Viva Symphony Orchestra. In 2016 he performed as guest principal violist of the Pacific Northwest Ballet for the 2016 live radio broadcast of "Coppelia." He also has performed as guest principal viola of the Berkeley Symphony Orchestra and the Santa Barbara Symphony. As a chamber musician he has performed with members of the Emerson Quartet, Boston Chamber Society, Chicago Pro Musica, Cavatina Trio, Eastman Trio and the Fry Street Quartet. In education, Jason was the Director of Orchestras at Tuacahn High School for the Performing Arts and was the founder and Artistic Director of the Tuacahn Summer Arts Institute. Additionally, he served on various boards including the American Viola Society, Kayenta Arts Foundation and the Chamber Music Society of Southern Utah. Currently he teaches viola at University of Nevada Las Vegas and in the past has been a faculty member at Brigham Young University and Dixie State University. In Fall of 2017 he will join the faculty at California State University, Long Beach. His articles (both music and non-music related) have been published and discussed in the Journal of the American Viola Society, Time Magazine, the Wall Street Journal, NPR, and many others.

Canadian-born violist **Andrew Duckles** leads a diverse musical life as a recording artist, chamber musician, soloist and teacher. From a very tall family of musicians, Andrew is the "runt" of the Duckles family, standing at mere 6'4". Formerly principal viola of the Houston Grand Opera and Houston Ballet orchestras, Duckles now makes his home in Southern California. Duckles began his orchestral career with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and has made appearances as principal viola of the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, the Long Beach Symphony, and the New West Symphony. An enthusiastic chamber musician, Duckles appears regularly as a guest artist on a number of chamber music series throughout the United States and Europe and shares the stage frequently with the Alexander String Quartet and the Capitol Ensemble. Andrew teaches viola and chamber music at California State University, Long Beach (CSULB). For over ten years, Mr. Duckles has been featured regularly as a recording artist on television and motion picture soundtracks. Duckles has been featured as a performer on programs such as Saturday Night Live, The Grammys and the Tonight Show. Andrew has degrees from both the Eastman School of Music and the New England Conservatory and recently finished paying back the small fortune he borrowed to pay for his musical education. His hobbies include cartooning, following international soccer and collecting great music. Andrew Duckles is married to culinary genius, master educator and French horn player extraordinaire Laura Strand. Together they live in Belmont Shore, California with their two young sons.

**Mary Kelly**, Viola/Violin joined the Pasadena Conservatory of Music community as chair of strings in 2009 after serving as Director of the Bethel College Academy of Performing Arts (BCAPA) Suzuki Strings program in Newton, KS. In Kansas she was assistant principal viola of the Wichita Symphony and principal viola of the Wichita Grand Opera. Ms. Kelly received her Bachelor of Music in viola performance from University of Texas at Austin and her Masters in viola from Wichita State University. She has worked with teachers across the country including Roland Vamos, Roger Myers, Donald McInnes, Catherine Consiglio, and Christine Rutledge. While studying in Austin, she received Suzuki pedagogy instruction from Phyllis Young and Lori Scott as part of the Strings Project Program. That experience led her to start Suzuki pedagogy training at Ottawa Suzuki Institute in 2004. Since then, she has completed training through book 7 in Suzuki violin with teachers Elayne Ras, Ed Kreitman, Susan Kemper, Julia Hardie, Joanne Melvin, Alice Joy-Lewis, Carol Dallinger, and Ed Sprunger. In the summers, she teaches and performs at several Suzuki Institutes and festivals around the country. She is currently President of the SMAC-LA board.

**Alma Fernandez**, violist, attended the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and UCLA, where she received a Master's Degree in Viola Performance. She performs regularly with ensembles such as the Los Angeles Opera and Los Angeles Master Chorale. She is also a member of the Eclipse Quartet, an ensemble devoted to contemporary music, which has released recordings under Bridge Records, New World, and Microfest. Alma is also active in the Los Angeles recording industry, having played for numerous motion picture soundtracks, television shows, and record albums. She is currently professor of Viola at Pepperdine University in Malibu, CA.

**Karolina Naziemiec** is a Polish violist who has been training, teaching and performing in the United States since 2001. She was granted an artistic visa on the recommendation of the American Federation of Musicians, who cited her as being "a violist of extraordinary ability." Ms. Naziemiec appeared with many orchestras in Poland, Germany, France, Belgium, Japan, and USA and participated in numerous music festivals throughout the world. As a teacher Ms. Naziemiec was on the faculty at California State University, Northridge 2007-09 while also teaching at the Idyllwild Summer Festival as a viola coach. Now she has her private studio as well as she has been a coach to students in Santa Monica and Malibu district for over nine years. She's also performed as a jazz vocalist in Los Angeles and Poland, and has recorded in scoring sessions at studios such as Warner Brothers, Fox, Sony and Paramount.

**Laura Pearson** has been highly praised for her virtuosity, musicality, and sound. She graduated with her Master's Degree from the University of Southern California as a full scholarship recipient after getting her undergraduate degree in viola performance at the Oberlin Conservatory, also on scholarship. She has continued performing as a soloist, chamber musician, recording artist, and orchestral player in the Los Angeles area. Laura performs with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, LA Opera, has played acting Associate Principal of the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra and has been principal violist of the Chamber Orchestra of the South Bay, Hollywood Chamber Orchestra, the Glendale Philharmonic, West Los Angeles Symphony and other orchestras in the LA area. She has performed with the Capitol Ensemble on "Sundays Live" on KUSC and has performed with the Salastina Society as well. Laura can be heard on many movie soundtracks, television shows, video games, and albums, as she performs regularly as part of the Hollywood Studio Symphony. As a studio artist, she works and has worked with composers such as John Williams, Hans Zimmer, and James Newton Howard, recording their music for motion pictures. She tours with Andrea Bocelli and has been on tour with the LA Phil.

Pianist **Vivian Fan** currently coordinates staff pianists at Colburn Conservatory and teaches Collaborative Piano Class at Colburn Academy. She has taught Sonata Class and coached chamber music at Colburn Conservatory, and taught Piano Master class at the Adult Studies Program. Prior to her Colburn position, she was on the piano faculty at the Idyllwild Arts Academy. Vivian has performed with conductors Jorge Mester, Jung Ho Pak, Mario Miragliotta, Sharon Lavery, Peter Askim, and Marc Riley. Recent performances include Los Angeles Philharmonic's "Brahms Unbound" concert in 2011 at Walt Disney Hall and Weill Hall in NY with violist Matthew Cohen. She has appeared in recitals with artists such as Andrew Bain, Arnold Steinhardt, Wen-Sinn Yang, Sang Yoon Kim, Paul Coletti, etc. Her collaboration with Paul Coletti on Paul Chihara's *Sonata* was released by Bridge Records in 2013. A collaboration album "Bloch, Glinka, Bowen: Viola Works" was released by Soundset Recordings in 2015. Her solo and chamber performances have been broadcasted on KTLA and KNBC television as well as KUSC, WFMT, and "Performance Today" on APM radio.

**Minor Wetzel**, DMA, studied at Indiana University and received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Michigan. He also holds the degree of Doctor of Musical Arts from The University of California Los Angeles. His teachers have included Yizhak Schotten, Roland Vamos, Emmanuel Vardi, Donald McInnes, Camilla Wicks, and Paul Coletti. He joined the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the start of the 1994/95 season. Wetzel's orchestral experience includes the Spokane Symphony, principal viola of the Ann Arbor Chamber and Sacramento Symphony Orchestras, the San Francisco Ballet Orchestra, and for the six years prior to joining the Philharmonic - the San Francisco Symphony. He has performed as soloist with various local orchestras. His awards include the W. E. Hill & Sons Award at the Lionel Tertis International Viola Competition. He was employed as a chamber music coach at the USC Thornton School of Music and currently teaches violin and viola performance at Occidental College. Wetzel is a regular performer on the Los Angeles Philharmonic's Chamber Music Society series and has also performed with various ensembles at the Philharmonic's Green Umbrella concerts. He and his wife Stacy, a member of the first violin section of the Philharmonic, have three children.

**Michael Whitson** is an active violist and teacher in the Los Angeles area. As a performer, he has shared the stage with the likes of Katy Perry, Stevie Wonder, Barbra Streisand, Mariah Carey, Randy Jackson, Blake Shelton, Itzhak Perlman, Yo-Yo Ma, Joshua Bell, as well as many other artists and groups. Michael teaches privately throughout Los Angeles, and is currently a Los Angeles Philharmonic Teaching Artist where he teaches viola and chamber music at the highly acclaimed and award-winning Harmony Project. Growing up in the Bay Area, his first studies were with his parents who were also active performers and teachers. He was awarded a full scholarship to attend the San Francisco Conservatory of Music where he studied with Paul Hersh. He then completed his graduate studies at the University of Oklahoma in which he was a member of the university's graduate string quartet. In 2013 Michael founded the Pacific Crest Music Festival.

ViolaFest would like to thank:

### **The Colburn School**

Sel Kardan, President

Robert McAllister, Dean, Colburn School of Performing Arts

Lisa Palley, Director of Production

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Alma Fernandez & Karolina Naziemiec Co-Vice Presidents

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Cecille Asuncion, Website

Andrew Duckles, for the original artwork

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A black and white illustration of a woman with short, dark, wavy hair, smiling and playing a violin. She is wearing a patterned qipao with a high collar and a decorative belt. She is sitting on a balcony with a dark wooden railing. In the background, there is a stone wall with a mosaic pattern, some foliage, and a view of a body of water and distant mountains.

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