



Jeffrey Cohen

Piano Professor, Artist Faculty, Manhattan School of Music

American pianist Jeffrey Cohen continues to draw international attention for the brilliance and artistry of his interpretations. Mr. Cohen has been praised by *The New York Times* for the “lucidity and poetry” of his playing.

Both as soloist and chamber musician, Mr. Cohen’s performances have taken him to three different continents. Recitals include appearances for The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Merkin Concert Hall, Bargemusic, the Phillips Collection, Mostly Music Series of Chicago, the National Theater in Beijing and the National Arts Center of Ottawa. In the summers, Mr. Cohen has been a faculty member or guest artist at major music festivals including Bowdoin, Waterloo, Musicorda, Orford, Summit, Texas Music Festival and the Seoul Summer Music Camp. He currently serves on the summer faculties of the MusicAlp International Academy of Music in France, Duxbury Music Festival, and the Beijing International Music Festival and Academy. Mr. Cohen’s debut compact disc, a collection of French chamber music, received critical acclaim in *Fanfare* magazine. He has performed for broadcasts on National Public Radio’s “Performance Today,” the CBC Radio Network, Radio Canada, Radio France and WQXR.

In addition to his concert activities, Mr. Cohen’s teaching gifts have established him as a leading piano pedagogue of his generation. His students have won prizes in major competitions and enjoy successful careers as teacher/performers. For the past twenty years, Mr. Cohen has been a piano professor and member of the artist faculty at the Manhattan School of Music in New York City, where he currently serves as Coordinator of Piano Master Classes and Competitions. He has given master classes at the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University, the Central Conservatory in Beijing, the Shanghai Conservatory of Music, the American Conservatory at Fontainebleau, Yong Siew Toh Conservatory in Singapore, Barnard College, Wilfrid Laurier University and throughout Korea and Taiwan.

A native of Tucson, Mr. Cohen studied at Indiana University where he worked with noted pianist Menahem Pressler and received the coveted Battista Memorial Award. He is a past Laureate of the Beethoven Foundation and a prizewinner of the Sherman-Clay Steinway Piano Competition. He resides in Manhattan with his wife, violinist Lucie Robert.



Michael Davis

Concert Master, Louisville Symphony

While only 26 years old, violinist Michael W. Davis was named Concertmaster of the prestigious Louisville Orchestra, thrilling audiences for 30 years until his retirement from that position in 2015. All the while, critics have hailed him as “the essence of musicality” and continue to praise him for his “virtuosity” and “exquisite” playing.

Captivated at an early age by the beauty of the violin, Michael, a native of Albertville, Alabama, began studying music at age 7. As a 16 year old he was winner of the state’s MTNA Competition and named “Most Outstanding String Player”. He is a graduate of the world renowned Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University where he was awarded Bachelor and Master of Music degrees with distinction. Studying with James Buswell at Indiana University, he also served as an Associate Instructor of Violin there while doing his graduate work.

Featured in numerous chamber music and orchestral recordings, Michael also has two solo albums, *Emmanuel* and *Amazing Grace*. *Emmanuel* (a *fantasia* on hymnody for solo violin and orchestra) was composed for Michael by Kurt Kaiser and was recorded in Dvorak Hall with the City of Prague Philharmonic in the Czech Republic. The album *Amazing Grace* features Michael's own arrangement of that beloved hymn for solo violin as heard at the "Billy Graham Crusade" in Louisville, KY. A very active performer, he has given concerts in Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center and the Kennedy Center. In addition to these and other U.S. performances, he has concertized in both Europe and Asia. Participation in the Grand Teton Music Festival, Spoleto Festival, Credo and the Gerhart Chamber Music Festival (where he is Artistic Director) highlight just a few of his summer activities.

Along with his tenure as Concertmaster of the Louisville Orchestra, Michael has also been a member of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. In addition, he has served on the violin faculties at the University of Louisville, Campbellsville University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his family currently reside in the beautiful Rocky Mountains of Colorado where Michael enjoys his passion for fly fishing.

To learn more about Michael, please visit his website at <http://www.MichaelDavisViolin.com>.



Wayne Roden

Viola, San Francisco Symphony

Viola Instructor, Sonoma State University

Wayne Roden began studying the violin in his hometown of Auburn, Alabama, at age eight. He attended the North Carolina School of the Arts, where he studied violin, viola, and chamber music with members of the Claremont Quartet. He then transferred to Northern Illinois University to study with the newly formed Vermeer Quartet. After receiving his Bachelors of Music degree in 1970, Wayne joined the Strolling Strings of the United States Army Band, playing frequently at the White House.

He was a soloist with the U.S. Army Chamber Orchestra at the National Academy of Science in Washington, D.C. During this time, he studied viola with Karen Tuttle in Philadelphia, becoming a member of the San Francisco Symphony in 1974. With the San Francisco Chamber Soloists he played chamber music with Janos Starker, Jaime Laredo, and Jerome Lowenthal.

He has played in chamber music festivals in Telluride, Colorado, the Laurel Festival in Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania, and is a regular in the San Francisco Symphony Chamber Music Series at Davies Symphony Hall. Wayne was one of the string soloists featured in a San Francisco Symphony recording of Strauss's *Metamorphosen* under Herbert Blomstedt. In 2012 and 2013, he was a member of the Orchestre Ephemere at the Musique et Vin festival in Burgundy, France.

In January 2016, he became the new viola instructor at Sonoma State University. He makes his home in the Wine Country of Northern California, where he lives with his wife, author Barbara Quick.



Bion Tsang

Associate Professor of Violoncello, Sarah and Ernest Butler School of Music, The University of Texas at Austin

Cellist Bion Tsang has been internationally recognized as one of the outstanding instrumentalists of his generation. Among his many honors are an Avery Fisher Career Grant, an MEF Career Grant and the Bronze Medal in the IX International Tchaikovsky Competition. He has performed as soloist with such orchestras as the New York, Moscow and Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestras, the Atlanta, Pacific, Civic, American and National Symphony Orchestras, the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, the Saint Paul and Stuttgart Chamber Orchestras and the Taiwan National Orchestra.

Mr. Tsang's chamber music career has also been a distinguished one, marked by collaborations with such artists as violinists Pamela Frank, Jaime Laredo, Cho-Liang Lin, Anne Akiko Meyers, Kyoko Takezawa and Chee Yun, violist Michael Tree, cellist Yo-Yo Ma, bassist Gary Karr and pianist Leon Fleisher. He has been a frequent guest artist of the Boston Chamber Music Society, Brooklyn Chamber Music Society, Chamber Music International of Dallas, Da Camera of Houston, Camerata Pacifica of Los Angeles and Bargemusic in New York and performed at such festivals as Marlboro Music Festival, the Cape Cod, Tucson, Portland and Seattle Chamber Music Festivals, the Bard Festival, Bravo! Colorado, Music in the Vineyards and the Laurel Festival of the Arts, where he served as Artistic Director for ten years.

Mr. Tsang has toured the complete Beethoven works for cello and piano with pianist Anton Nel in, among other venues, Zankel Hall at Carnegie Hall and Jordan Hall in Boston, with the latter performance recorded by WGBH and commercially released on the Artek label. Artek subsequently released Tsang's performance of the Brahms Cello Sonatas and Hungarian Dances (transcribed by Tsang), also in Jordan Hall with Nel, in early 2010.

Mr. Tsang received his BA from Harvard University and his MMA from Yale University, where he studied with Aldo Parisot. His other cello teachers included Ardyth Alton, Luis Garcia-Renart, William Pleeth, Channing Robbins and Leonard Rose.

Mr. Tsang resides in Austin, Texas, where he is on the faculty at the UT Butler School of Music and enjoys chasing after his three young children, Bailey, Henry and Maia.