



KANSAS CITY SYMPHONY

Cellobration Happy Hour

Monday, April 14, 2025 at 6 p.m.

Helzberg Hall, Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Mark Gibbs, cello
Susie Yang, cello
Alexander East, cello
Maria Crosby, cello
John Eadie, cello

Lawrence Figg, cello
Sally Kim, cello
Meredith McCook, cello
Allen Probus, cello

GIOVANNI PALESTRINA

“Adoramus Te” arranged for Cello Quartet

J. S. BACH (Eric Bartlett)

“Sarabande” from Cello Suite No. 6
in D Major, BWV 1012

ANTONÍN DVOŘÁK (Blaise Déjardin)

Humoresque

ASTOR PIAZZOLLA (Blaise Déjardin)

La muerte del ángel for Cello Quartet

GIOACHINO ROSSINI (Douglas Moore)

Overture to *The Barber of Seville*

GABRIEL FAURÉ (Stephen Watkins and Charles Jacot)

Pavane, op. 50

JOHANN STRAUSS II AND JOSEF STRAUSS (Carsten Jaspert)

Pizzicato Polka

FREDDIE MERCURY (Sébastien Walnier)

Bohemian Rhapsody

VARIOUS (Alison Gillies)

“Eleanor Rigby”

HENRY MANCINI (Manuel Santapau)

Theme from *The Pink Panther*

BLAISE DÉJARDIN

Aquarela do Violoncelo



MARK GIBBS,
PRINCIPAL CELLO, ROBERT A. KIPP CHAIR

Praised by the Kansas City Star for his “sweet, sensuous tone and sophisticated feel for long-breathed lines,” Principal Cellist Mark Tsuyoshi Gibbs holds the Robert A. Kipp chair in the Kansas City Symphony. Prior to this appointment, Gibbs earned both his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Northwestern University, where he was a

student of Hans Jørgen Jensen. While at Northwestern, Gibbs was named principal cellist of the Northwestern University Symphony Orchestra and the Civic Orchestra of Chicago.

Gibbs’ numerous awards include the Northwestern University Civic Scholar Fellowship, the Union League Civic and Arts Foundation Prize, winner of the Northwestern University Bienen School of Music Concerto Competition, first prize in the Music Teachers National Association Collegiate Artist National Competition, and grand prize in the American String Teachers Association National Solo Competition. He has appeared many times as a soloist with the Kansas City Symphony, including twice on Classical Series opening weekend as well as on the Symphony’s 2015 all Saint-Saëns disc from Reference Recordings, which earned a Gramophone editor’s choice and a GRAMMY nomination. Of his 2023 performances of Richard Strauss’ Don Quixote, celebrating Michael Stern’s final season with the KCS, the KC Independent declared that “Principal Cellist Mark Gibbs gave one of the richest, most heart-rending performances of this musical chronicle that I’ve ever heard.”

Gibbs plays on a beautiful modern cello, crafted by Eric Benning in 2008, and a gold-mounted Pierre Guillaume bow. He is proud to be known as a “fine Kansan cellist” (Audiophilia.com) and resides in Overland Park with his wife, Kansas City Symphony Principal Second Violinist Tamamo Someya Gibbs, and their two daughters.



SUSIE YANG, ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL CELLO, RICHARD HILL CHAIR

Susie Yang joined the Kansas City Symphony as Associate Principal Cello in 2010. She made her solo debut with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra at the age of 11. The performance was broadcast on PBS in Chicago and also the classical radio station, 98.7 FM. She has also appeared as a soloist with many orchestras in the greater Chicago area. As an avid

chamber musician, she won a top prize in the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition and has participated in the Juilliard Quartet Seminar and the Beethoven Intensive Quartet Seminar at the New England Conservatory of Music. From 2006-2008, Susie was a fellow of the New World Symphony in Miami Beach and was a rotating principal under music director, Michael Tilson Thomas. After winning the concerto competition, she performed the Dvořák Cello Concerto with the New World Symphony in 2007. In April of 2016, Susie performed Dvorak Cello Concerto again, as a subscription soloist, with the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra. Susie has performed as a soloist, orchestral, and chamber musician at many music festivals, including Sarasota, Schleswig-Holstein, Music Academy of the West, Spoleto Italy and USA, Taos, and Yellow Barn. Originally from the northwest suburbs of Chicago, Susie holds degrees and numerous scholarship awards from The Juilliard School and New England Conservatory of Music, and her teachers include Andre Emelianoff and Laurence Lesser. She has a small private studio of cello students that she loves to teach and enjoys performing chamber music around the community.

The French Masters

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, MAY 9-10 AT 8 PM
SUNDAY, MAY 11 AT 2 PM

Matthias Pintscher, music director and conductor
Sophia Burgos, soprano
Kansas City Symphony Chorus,
Charles Bruffy, chorus director

GABRIEL FAURÉ *Masques et bergamasques*
FRANCIS POULENC Gloria
CLAUDE DEBUSSY Nocturnes



Matthias Pintscher

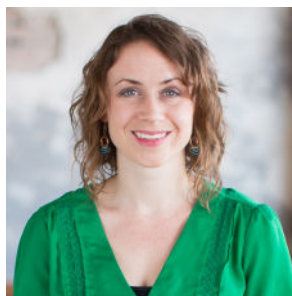
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ALEXANDER EAST, **ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL CELLO**

Alexander East serves as the Assistant Principal Cello of the Kansas City Symphony. In addition to duties with the Symphony, which often include leading the section as principal for opera, ballet and chamber orchestra performances, East is also heard frequently in recitals and chamber music concerts throughout the Kansas City region and beyond. He

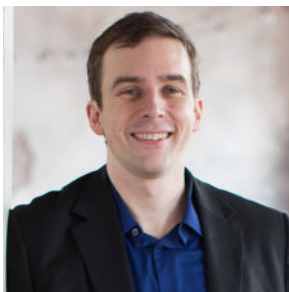
has also performed with the Sun Valley (Idaho) Summer Symphony every summer since 1992. In the Kansas City area, he has performed regularly in groups including Summerfest Chamber Music Concerts (also serving as an Artistic Advisor), the Boulevard String Quartet and newEar Contemporary Chamber Ensemble. Before settling in Kansas City, East spent two seasons as a member of the New World Symphony under the direction of conductor Michael Tilson Thomas, and he was also re-invited to coach the NWS cello section as a guest alumnus. East has been featured as soloist with the Kansas City Symphony, the Kansas City Chamber Orchestra, the Sedalia Symphony, the Erie (PA) Chamber Orchestra and the Fredonia Chamber Players. East received his training at Indiana University where he received a bachelor's degree and performer diploma, and he earned his master's degree at the New England Conservatory of Music. His teachers have included Tsuyushi Tsutsumi, Janos Starker, Laurence Lesser and Colin Carr. He performs on either an English cello made in London ca. 1800-10 by John Betts or a contemporary cello made in 2016 by Kenneth Beckmann.



MARIA CROSBY

Maria Crosby has performed on stages across the United States, Canada, Germany, France, Lithuania, Armenia, Greece, Russia, Japan and Brazil, and has participated in many orchestral and chamber music festivals, including the Aegean Verdi Festival, the Schleswig Holstein Musik Festival, the Pacific Music Festival, the Banff Chamber Music Residency, the Recontres Franco-américaines de

Musique de Chambre, the Pine Mountain Music Festival, and Summerfest in Kansas City. She received her bachelor's degree from DePaul University in Chicago, and her master's degree from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. She joined the KCSymphony in 2012, and lives in Brookside with her husband, KC Symphony clarinetist John Klinghammer, their dog Leo, and their magnificently fluffy cat Wuss Puss.



JOHN EADIE

Originally hailing from Victoria, British Columbia, John Eadie joined the Kansas City Symphony in 2010. Eadie completed his bachelor's degree with William Grubb at Butler University in Indianapolis, Indiana, and Eadie went on to complete his master's degree with Yehuda Hanani at the College-Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Following, he became a fellow with the New

World Symphony under the direction of Michael Tilson Thomas for three years. Eadie has performed as principal cello of the Minnesota Opera Orchestra and he has performed with the Des Moines Metro Opera Orchestra, the Minnesota Orchestra, the Aspen Chamber Symphony, the Spoleto USA Festival in Charleston, South Carolina, and the Colorado Music Festival. He enjoys the outdoors, running, hiking and a good book.



LAWRENCE FIGG

Born in Dallas in 1963, Lawrence Figg began the cello in fourth grade strings class and later was accepted into the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia at age 18. After graduating in 1985, he moved to France where he lived for five years in Paris. He was a member of the Orchestre de Chambre d'Alexandre Stajic, performed a season with Pierre Boulez's Ensemble Intercontemporain,

and he was a regular recording artist for French radio and television.

In 1986, he was a semi-finalist at the International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow and performed as soloist with several French orchestras during his stay in Paris. In 1991, he won a position as section cellist in the Orchestre National Bordeaux Aquitaine under the direction of Alain Lombard and was later appointed to the position of assistant principal and then principal cello until 1994. Figg has been a member of the Kansas City Symphony since 1999, and he has been described as a distinguished cellist with beautiful tone and passionate, singing musicianship by the Kansas City Star.



SALLY KIM

Sally Kim was born in South Korea and moved to New Zealand at the age of 6. She earned a doctorate from the University of Miami, where she studied under Ross Harbaugh. During her time there, she served as a teaching assistant and was honored as a Henry Mancini Fellow. She also holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Auckland and a master's degree from the New

England Conservatory of Music. Her cello teachers include James Tennant, Edith Salzmann, and Paul Katz. She previously performed with the Auckland Philharmonic Orchestra and made her solo debut with the St. Matthews Orchestra at the age of 14.

Kim also has enriched her musical education through masterclasses at prestigious festivals such as the Pablo Casals Music Festival in Prades, France; the Accademia Chigiana in Siena, Italy; and the Lake Garda Festival, studying under David Geringas, Antonio Meneses and the Fine Arts Quartet.

Kim and her ensemble, Trio Osceola, were awarded the Horszowski Trio Prize at the 50th Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition in 2023. She is also a member of the award-winning Trinity Trio, finalists of the 24th International Brahms Competition in Portschach, Austria.

As a dedicated music ambassador, Kim has toured Asia performing in China, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines and Timor-Leste. Concert engagements and festivals have also taken her to the United Kingdom and several countries in Europe.



MEREDITH MCCOOK

Meredith McCook was born in Tyler, Texas, and joined the cello section of the Kansas City Symphony in 2015. Before playing in Kansas City, she played with the New World Symphony in Miami under the direction of Michael Tilson Thomas for four years. She completed her Master's degree at Manhattan School of Music in New York, where she studied with Alan Stepansky, and she received her

Bachelor of Music from the University of North Texas studying with Eugene Osadchy. Meredith has performed at numerous festivals including Spoleto, Artosphere, Thy (Denmark), Tanglewood Music Center, Music Academy of the West, Canada's Young Artists' Programme, Kennedy Center, Domaine Forget and Summit. She has been playing as Assistant Principal Cello with the Britt Summer Festival in Oregon since 2014. She has also studied with David Geber and Hans Jensen, and was a winner of the University of North Texas concerto competition, the Young Texas Artists competition and Manhattan School of Music's Fuchs chamber music competition. When not playing with the Kansas City Symphony, Meredith also enjoys teaching, playing chamber music, playing in her cello duo ("2CellosKC") with Kansas City Symphony Associate Principal Cellist Susie Yang, and playing with her two dogs — a Chesapeake Bay Retriever and a Sheepadoodle.



ALLEN PROBUS

Allen Probus has been a cellist in the Kansas City Symphony since 2002. He received a bachelor's degree from Bob Jones University and holds a master's degree with the Cleveland Institute of Music, having studied with Stephen Geber, former principal cellist of the Cleveland Orchestra. While in Cleveland, Probus was also principal cellist of the Canton Symphony Orchestra and acting

assistant principal of the Akron Symphony Orchestra. He has substituted with the Cleveland Orchestra and has toured Europe and the Far East with the Detroit and Pittsburgh symphonies. Past summer festival engagements have included the Eastern Music Festival, Grand Teton Music Festival, Spoleto USA, Blossom Music Festival and National Repertory Orchestra. Probus maintains a full private teaching studio and is the music director at Tri-City Baptist Church in Blue Springs, MO. During the summer, he conducts and teaches at the Sforzando String Camp in Chicago. He is also a member of the Kansas City Chamber Orchestra and a founding member of the Kansas City Cello Quartet.



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To conclude his first season as Music Director, Matthias Pintscher leads Mahler's colossal Symphony No. 3 — which transforms all of nature into music.

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and conductor
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