



# Happy Hour

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2025 AT 6 PM**

Helzberg Hall, Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts



KANSAS CITY  
SYMPHONY

## **CAMILLE SAINT-SAËNS**

*Fantasie in A Major for Violin and Harp, op. 124*

Jun Iwasaki, violin

Chai Lee, harp

## **CLAUDE DEBUSSY**

*Dances sacrée et profane for Harp and Strings*

I. Danse sacrée: Très modéré

II. Danse profane: Modéré

Chai Lee, harp

Chiafei Lin, violin

Carter Coleman, violin

Duncan Steele, viola

Susie Yang, cello

Nils Aardahl, double bass

## **LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN** *String Quartet No. 10 in E-flat Major, op. 74, "Harp"*

I. Poco adagio — Allegro

II. Adagio ma non troppo

III. Presto — Più presto quasi prestissimo

IV. Allegretto con variazioni

Jun Iwasaki, violin

Carter Coleman, violin

Duncan Steele, viola

Susie Yang, cello

# Musician Bios



**CHAI LEE,**  
PRINCIPAL HARP

Harpist Chai Lee joins the Kansas City Symphony as principal harp in the 2025/26 season, appointed by Matthias Pintscher. He has performed with the Pittsburgh Symphony, Buffalo Philharmonic and Sarasota Orchestra and as guest principal with the Thailand Philharmonic Orchestra. He is

an internationally prize-winning soloist, winning top prize at the Soka Nippon International Harp Competition and the Juilliard Concerto Competition, performing at Lincoln Center. He has appeared with the Aspen Music Festival, Music Academy of the West, International Harp Festival in Ancenis, France, Bowdoin International Music Festival, Académie Internationale d'été de Nice, World Harp Congress and United Nations Chamber Music Society. Chai has served as teaching assistant at the Juilliard School and secondary lessons instructor at the Yale School of Music, in addition to fulfilling assistant roles in the admissions and communications offices. He is a graduate of the Juilliard School, where he studied with Nancy Allen, and Yale University, where he studied with June Han.



**JUN IWASAKI**  
CONCERTMASTER, MILLER NICHOLS CHAIR

Jun Iwasaki was appointed concertmaster of the Kansas City Symphony by Music Director Michael Stern and joined the Symphony at the beginning of the 2022/23 season. A graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Music's prestigious Concertmaster Academy, he has been hailed for his

combination of dazzling technique and lyrical musicianship. In a review of his performance at the Mimir Chamber Music Festival, the Fort Worth Star Telegram called him "the magician of the evening. He could reach into his violin and pull out bouquets of sound, then reach behind your ear and touch your soul."

Prior to joining the Kansas City Symphony, Jun served as concertmaster of the Nashville Symphony from 2011 to 2022 and the Oregon Symphony from 2007 to 2011. Throughout his career, he has appeared with numerous other orchestras, including the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra, Oregon Symphony, Columbia Symphony Orchestra, Blossom Festival Orchestra, Rome (Georgia) Philharmonic, New Bedford Symphony, Canton Symphony, Richardson Symphony, Cleveland Pops Orchestra, Plano Symphony Orchestra and Huntsville Symphony. In addition, he has served as guest concertmaster of the Pittsburgh Symphony, Gulbenkian Orchestra (Portugal), São Paulo Symphony Orchestra (Brazil), Santa Barbara Symphony, National Arts Center Orchestra (Ottawa) and Canton (Ohio) Symphony Orchestra.

As a chamber musician, Jun has been a part of the Seattle Chamber Music Festival, La Jolla Summerfest, Chamber Music Northwest, Mainly Mozart, Chamber Music International and Mimir Chamber Music Festival, among others.



**CHIAFEI LIN**  
FIRST VIOLIN

Violinist Chiafei Lin joined the Kansas City Symphony in 2014 and served as the acting assistant concertmaster between 2018 and 2023. Chiafei grew up in a musical family; she began studying piano at age 4 with her mother, a dedicated high school music teacher. She found the instrument of her life at age 6 and won the prestigious Taiwan National Youth Violin Competition at age 15. Her debut as a soloist was playing Sarasate's *Zigeunerweisen* with her school orchestra at age 14. Chiafei has performed in festivals and summer programs around the world, including the Salzburg Mozarteum Academy, Aspen Music Festival and Sunflower Music Festival. After graduating from the National University in Taipei and the Cleveland Institute of Music, Chiafei finished her study at the University of Missouri-Kansas City where she received a graduate teaching assistantship and her Doctor of Musical Arts degree.

As a native Taiwanese, Chiafei feels a strong connection to her mother country. She was invited to perform in the Taiwan Connection Festival from 2007 to 2009 where she served as the principal second violinist and collaborated with world-renowned musicians such as Nai Yuan Hu, Robert Levin, Dong-Suk Kang and Jian Wang. Chiafei has also given numerous recitals and chamber music concerts in Taiwan.

As a chamber music enthusiast, Chiafei is a founding member of the FIAMA Quartet and Quartet Le Monde; the groups have been performing actively in Kansas City in concert series hosted by Johnson County Community College (the Ruel Joyce Concert Series, now the Maronde Professional Recital Series), Rolling Hills Presbyterian Church, the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art and Heartland Chamber Music. Quartet Le Monde was one of the featured artists of the Ruel Joyce Concert Series' recording project in 2020.

As an educator, Chiafei is a founding faculty member of Heartland Chamber Music, for which her husband, Jackie Lee, serves as the artistic director. Since the summer of 2001, Heartland has been her favorite summer activity where she coaches chamber music and witnesses the passion of chamber music making from young musicians. Chiafei lives with her husband and two boys in Kansas City; besides music, they enjoy exploring good restaurants. Chiafei credits her violin playing to all her teachers and especially to Wen-Liang Yiu, Cheng-Tu Su and Benny Kim.

## Musician Bios (cont.)



### **CARTER COLEMAN**

ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL SECOND VIOLIN

Carter Coleman began violin lessons at age 4 and went on to receive performance degrees from the Cleveland Institute of Music, the Juilliard School and East Carolina University. He has toured Europe and Asia with the orchestral academies of the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival and Pacific Music Festival, as well as the Juilliard Orchestra. He has worked with conductors such as Christoph Eschenbach, Alan Gilbert, Osmo Vänskä, Manfred Honeck and Esa-Pekka Salonen. As a chamber musician, Carter has performed with Peter Frankl, Colin Carr, Ida Kavafian, Atar Arad and members of the Metropolitan Opera and New York Philharmonic. Carter also attended the Juilliard Quartet Seminar, IMS Prussia Cove, Four Seasons Chamber Music Festival and Kneisel Hall Chamber Music Festival. Before joining the Kansas City Symphony, Carter was a member of The Florida Orchestra. He has also performed as a substitute violinist with the Atlanta Symphony, Sarasota Orchestra and North Carolina Symphony.



### **DUNCAN STEELE**

ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL VIOLA

Duncan Steele grew up in downtown Chicago and started learning violin when he was 4 years old. When he was 15, he started pursuing viola and quickly switched over to it as his main instrument. As a student of Atar Arad, Duncan pursued his bachelor's and master's degrees at Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music. Duncan has won various awards from the American String Teachers Association, the Society of American Musicians, the Music Festival in Honor of Confucius and the DePaul Concerto Festival. At Indiana University, he was principal violist of the Philharmonic Orchestra from 2021 to 2022. He has had several masterclasses with artists such as Mimi Zweig, Victor Danchenko, Juliet White-Smith, Almita Vamos, Hal Grossman and Gerardo Ribeiro. He has performed across Europe and Asia, as well as alongside renowned artists such as Brandon Vamos, Simin Ganatra, Eric Kim, Sarah Kapustin and Jim Przygocki.



## **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 to 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 the 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 André 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.



## **NILS AARDAHL**

DOUBLE BASS

Double bassist Nils Aardahl grew up in Bismarck, North Dakota and began playing the bass at age 10 in elementary school orchestra class. Nils joined the Kansas City Symphony in September 2022. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Rice University, where he studied with Paul

Ellison. An avid performer of jazz music, Nils was a member of Da Camera Houston's first Young Artist Jazz Trio in 2021. Nils has also attended summer music festivals including Wabass Institute for the 21st Century Bass Player and Domaine Forget.

KANSAS CITY SYMPHONY PRESENTS

# Matthias Conducts Mahler: Symphony No. 7

Step into a dream.  
Or a nightmare.  
Or maybe both.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21 | 8 PM  
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22 | 8 PM  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23 | 2 PM

MATTHIAS PINTSCHER,  
MUSIC DIRECTOR AND CONDUCTOR

SCAN FOR  
TICKETS!



KANSAS CITY  
SYMPHONY