

String Faculty Chamber Recital

with guests

Kirsten Smith, piano
Joan Shalit, violin



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MONDAY, 7:00 P.M.
OCTOBER 5, 2026
CAPISTRANO HALL 151

PROGRAM

String Quartet No. 19 in C Major, K. 465

W.A. Mozart
(1756-1791)

- I. Adagio – Allegro
- II. Andante cantabile
- III. Menuetto and Trio. Allegro
- IV. Allegro molto

Anna Presler, violin
Joan Shalit, violin
Anna Kruger, viola
Kyle Stachnik, cello

INTERMISSION

Piano Trio No. 1 in C Minor

Dimitri Shostakovich
(1906-1975)

Trio Sacramento
Anna Presler, violin
Kyle Stachnik, cello
Kirsten Smith, piano

Piano Quartet in A Minor, Op. 67

Joaquín Turina
(1882-1949)

- I. Lento – Andante mosso
- II. Vivo
- III. Andante – Allegretto

Anna Presler, violin
Anna Kruger, viola
Kyle Stachnik, cello
Kirsten Smith, piano

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, October 14 - Symphonic Wind Ensemble

"Fanfare and Allegro" by Clifton Williams
"An Original Suite" by Gordon Jacob
"Rest" by Frank Ticheli
"To a New Dawn" by Philip Sparke
"Haunted Objects" by John Mackey

7:00 p.m. – Capistrano Concert Hall
(15 general, \$10 senior, \$5 student)

Thursday, October 15 - Jazz Ensembles

Latin Jazz Band
3:00pm Jazz Ensemble
1:30pm Jazz Ensemble

7:00 p.m. – Capistrano Concert Hall
(15 general, \$10 senior, \$5 student)

Tuesday, October 20 - Symphony Orchestra

"Petit Suite de Concert" by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor
Intermezzo from Pagliacci by Ruggero Leoncavallo
Symphony No. 5 in F Major by Antonin Dvorak

7:00 p.m. – Capistrano Concert Hall
(15 general, \$10 senior, \$5 student)

www.csus.edu/music

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

new works from contemporary composers and has recorded several times for the Centaur label.

In addition to the solo repertoire, Ms. Smith is devoted to the performance of collaborative works and is a passionate teacher who believes deeply in the importance of discovering and sharing musical knowledge. Ms. Smith was on the faculty of Sacramento State from 1996-2026, where she taught piano, music theory, aural skills, collaborative piano, and piano pedagogy. In demand as a lecturer, adjudicator and columnist, Ms. Smith was awarded a prestigious Pedagogy Enhancement Award to develop a graduate-level pedagogy program at Sacramento State.

Raised in a musical family, she began formal lessons with her mother at age four and had already begun teaching piano by age thirteen. Ms. Smith resides in Sacramento, where she divides her time between university teaching, performing, and a burgeoning private studio.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Violinist **Anna Presler** specializes in performance of contemporary and classical chamber music. At the School of Music at Sacramento State, where she has taught since the mid 1990s, she is chair for the String Area and teaches undergraduate and graduate students in violin and chamber music, as well as general education courses. Her former students can be found teaching and making music across California and beyond.

A member of San Francisco's Left Coast Ensemble since 1994, she performs every season on the ensemble's annual five concert subscription series in the San Francisco Bay Area. She also served as the group's artistic director from 2007 to 2023. Under her leadership Left Coast commissioned and premiered operas, multimedia pieces, and chamber music works, was awarded grants from the NEA, SF Arts Council, California Arts Council, Wattis Foundation, Bernard Osher Foundation, Aaron Copland Fund, Amphion, and many other foundations, and tripled its annual budget. In addition, in recent years Presler has performed as resident artist at the Red Note and Wunsch New Music Festivals, and at Music Decanted, Virginia Tech, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Valley of the Moon Music Festival--where performers mentor apprentice musicians and play classical and romantic music on gut strings and period pianos.

In addition to being a member of the Grammy-nominated New Century Chamber Orchestra for two decades, Presler was a fellow at the Banff Art Center, the International Music Seminar at Cornwall, and Tanglewood Music Center. A graduate of North Carolina School of the Arts, Yale University, and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, she studied violin with Jerrie Lucktenberg, Elaine Richey, Sidney Harth, Syoko Aki, and Ian Swensen. Chamber music mentors include Eugene Lehner, Gil Kalish, Julius Levine, members of the Tokyo Quartet, and Mark Sokol.

Anna Kruger is Associate Principal Viola of the San Francisco Ballet Orchestra and Principal Viola of the grammy-nominated New Century

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Chamber Orchestra. She is also a frequent substitute with the San Francisco Opera Orchestra. As founding violist of the Lark Quartet from 1985 through 1998, she toured extensively throughout the United States and Europe, to Asia, Australia and New Zealand, Mexico, Canada, and Russia. Among many competition prizes awarded the Lark were the Gold Medal in the 1991 Shostakovich International String Quartet Competition and the 1990 Naumburg Chamber Music Award. The quartet also received top prizes in the London, Melbourne (Australia), Paolo Borciani (Italy), Karl Klingler (Germany) and Banff (Canada) International String Quartet Competitions. In 1998, the Quartet's commission and premiere of String Quartet No. 2 by Aaron Jay Kernis won the Pulitzer Prize for Music. Teaching residencies with the Lark included Dartmouth College, FL State and FL Atlantic Universities, San Diego State University, OH University, and at the Juilliard School as assistants to the Juilliard Quartet. Ms. Kruger earned her Bachelor of Music with High Distinction from Indiana University, and completed her master's degree at the Manhattan School of Music.

Executive and Artistic Director of Viridian Strings, cellist **Kyle Stachnik** is the newly appointed Professor of Cello at Sacramento State. He is also the Fourth Chair Cellist of the Santa Rosa Symphony and the Assistant Principal Cellist of the Bay Philharmonic. He holds a master's degree in Chamber Music from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, where he studied with Jennifer Culp, and a Bachelor of Music from the Frost School of Music, where he studied under Ross Harbaugh. He is an alumnus of Interlochen Arts Academy, where he studied with Crispin Campbell.

An active performer in the Bay Area, Stachnik has played with ensembles such as the New Century Chamber Orchestra, Cabrillo Festival Orchestra, Sacramento Philharmonic and Opera, Opera San José, Vallejo Festival Orchestra, and SF Broadway. He has recorded at Skywalker Sound and recently appeared on a Deutsche Grammophon release with the New Century Chamber Orchestra.

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In addition to his position at Sacramento State, he is also Professor of Cello at Pacific Union College in Angwin, CA, and maintains a private teaching studio. Stachnik is the co-director of Viridian Strings, a summer chamber music series in Northern Michigan, now in its eighth season in 2025. He performs on a 2018 Raymond Schryer cello and a John Greenwood bow.

Joan Shalit is a Sac State masters student and free-lance violinist. She has performed with the Fox Valley Symphony (WI), Weidner Philharmonic (WI), and served as Associate Concertmaster of the Green Bay Civic Symphony and Concertmaster of the Lawrence Symphony Orchestra (WI). She holds a bachelor's degree with majors in Violin Performance and Music Education from the Lawrence University Conservatory of Music and participated in the Philadelphia International Music Festival where she studied with members of the Philadelphia and National Symphony Orchestras. Her love and passion for music and education blossomed as a student at the Golden Gate Philharmonic, and the Cazadero Music Camp where she is now the Violin Music Instructor. Ms. Shalit had the distinction of participating as a GGP student moving through all levels of the organization culminating with her position of concertmaster of the Camerata. Her predominant teachers include Wen-lei Gu, Wei He, Anna Presler, and GGP faculty member Jason Totzke.

Motivated by a keen interest in learning, American pianist **Kirsten Smith** began part-time studies at Arizona State University at the age of thirteen, studying sociobiology, history and foreign languages. She completed her undergraduate and graduate degrees in piano performance there, studying with pianist Steven De Groote, Gold Medalist of the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition.

A winner of multiple competitions herself, Ms. Smith has been the recipient of awards, scholarships and invitations to music festivals including the Aspen Music Festival, Interlochen Center for the Arts and the Van Cliburn Institute. She has been chosen to premiere numerous