

Faculty Strings

with guests
Kirsten Smith, piano
William Masters, cello

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MONDAY, 7:00 P.M.
APRIL 13, 2026
CAPISTRANO HALL 151

PROGRAM

Scherzo from the F-A-E Sonata Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)
III. Scherzo: Allegro

Chase Spruill, violin
Kirsten Smith, piano

Piano Quartet No. 1 in G Minor, K. 478 W.A. Mozart (1756-1791)

1. Allegro
2. Andante
3. Rondo

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

INTERMISSION

Toy Bricks Paul Wiancko (b. 1983)

Chase Spruill, violin
Kyle Stachnik, cello 1
William Masters*, cello 2
Molly Redfield, bass

Duo for Violin and Cello, Op. 7 Zoltán Kodály (1882-1967)

1. Allegro serio, non troppo
2. Adagio
3. Maestoso e largamente, ma non troppo lento – Presto

Anna Presler, violin
Kyle Stachnik, cello

* student of Kyle Stachnik

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Dr. Redfield serves the jazz community as the former President-elect for the Louisiana Association of Jazz Educators. Additionally, she has been invited to present at the LMEA In-Service, JEN Conference, the Capitol Section CMEA In-Service, and the NafME Northwest Division Conference. Dr. Redfield was the invited conductor of the Montana Allstate Jazz Ensemble and Louisiana District VII Honor Jazz Band, in addition to working as a clinician and adjudicator at various jazz festivals nationwide.

American pianist **Kirsten Smith** completed her undergraduate and graduate degrees in piano performance at the Arizona State University School of Music under the tutelage of Steven De Groote, Gold Medalist of the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition. A winner of many 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 new works by 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 has been on the faculty of Sacramento State University since 1996, where she has 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 at Sac State.

Raised in a musical family, she began formal lessons with her mother at age four and began teaching piano and entered college by age thirteen. Ms. Smith resides in Sacramento, where she divides her time between teaching and performing. When she's not at the piano, she enjoys training for dog agility competitions as well as traveling, camping and exploring nature.

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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.

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.

Dr. Molly Redfield is an Assistant Professor of Music at Folsom Lake College. She has also served as an Assistant Professor of Jazz studies at LSU. She holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in string bass performance from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, a Master of Music in jazz studies from UNLV, and a bachelor's in music education, classical bass, and bachelor's in jazz studies from California State University, Sacramento.

Some of Dr. Redfield's professional appearances include being an assisting artist with Gerald Clayton, Ingrid Jensen, Allison Miller, and Kenny Rampton. A few of the awards she has received for her playing and arranging include being a selected member 2022 JEN Sisters in Jazz Collegiate Combo and receiving a 2021 *DownBeat Magazine* Student Music Award.

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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.

In the 2025/2026 season she performs Brahms Double Concerto with cellist Leighton Fong and the Ukiah Symphony, Clarice Assad's *Amazonia Sem Lai* with the Sacramento State Wind Ensemble, and Lei

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Liang's *Gobi Gloria* at the American Philosophical Association in La Jolla, California. Fall and spring concerts with Left Coast will include Stravinsky's *A Soldier's Tale* paired with a world premiere from David Dominique, and music of Mahler, Roberto Sierra, Bahar Royae, Richard Strauss and others.

Violinist **Chase Spruill** has gained an international reputation as a performer of contemporary music with a particular focus on minimalist masters. In 2020, *BBC Music Magazine* hailed his debut solo album of the music of British composer Michael Nyman, citing that, "Spruill plays with great spirit...and a great sense of presence..." as well as calling him "...an engaging and convincing advocate." He has a long-standing relationship to the music of Philip Glass and was listed in *Strings Magazine* as being one of the noteworthy interpreters of his music. He appears multiple times on Glass's own record label Orange Mountain Music and tours, records and performs as a duo alongside longtime music director of the Philip Glass Ensemble Michael Riesman. Spruill's follow-up solo album "A Common Time" released in 2022 and was critically lauded by *NPR*, *Apple Music*, the French classical magazine *DIAPASON*, and *Composer Magazine*. The most recent Glass-Spruill collaboration led to the formation of a new, actively touring string quartet called CS4 which premiered and released the recording of Glass's newest String Quartet No. 9 ("King Lear").

He's collaborated with notable artists such as Kronos Quartet, pianist Emmanuel Ax, composers Nico Muhly, Jessie Montgomery, and BAFTA-nominated Brian Reitzell, releasing music from the acclaimed NBC television series "Hannibal" and more. He was a core faculty member with the Nationally celebrated not-for-profit organization Community MusicWorks in Providence, Rhode Island from 2012-2017, as well as a Visiting Professor of Violin and Orchestral Studies at Wheaton College in Massachusetts from 2015-2017. Dedicated to exploring potential intersections between music, education and social justice with young people, Spruill returned to his hometown in Vacaville, California in 2017 to develop and run the music program at

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Sierra Vista K-8 where he remains on faculty. He is a State Credentialed educator, an alumnus of Sacramento State having graduated with his bachelor's degree in Violin Performance under the guidance of Anna Presler, and graduated with his Master's Degree of Arts in Education (Teaching) from Alliant International University. He was Concertmaster of Camellia Symphony Orchestra from 2019-2024 and in 2022, was appointed permanent Concertmaster for Auburn Symphony under new music director Maestro Ryan Murray. He joined the faculty of Sacramento State School of Music in Fall 2024.

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