

FORBES CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY®

School of Music

presents

Monticello Strings

Wanchi, *violin*
Aiveen Gallagher, *violin*
Diane Phoenix-Neal, *viola*
Carl Donakowski, *cello*
Foster Beyers, *conductor*

with

Patrick Shaughnessy, *violin*
Zike Qi, *violin*
Sierra Rickard, *violin*
Aidan Coleman, *violin*
Jonathan Colmenares, *violin*
Sunny Robertello, *viola*
Elliot Drew, *viola*
John Meshreky, *cello*
Marlie Dela Cruz, *cello*
Frankie Sellars, *bass*

Wednesday, February 21, 2024
7 pm
Recital Hall



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Program

Concerto for Three Violins in D Major BWV 1064R

J.S. Bach
(1685-1750)

- I. Allegro
- II. Andante
- III. Vivace

Wanchi, *violin I solo*
Zike Qi, *violin II solo*
Patrick Shaughnessy, *violin III solo*

Concerto for Two Violins, TWV 52:G3

G. P. Telemann
(1681-1767)

- I. Lente avec douceur
- II. Gay
- III. Largo
- IV. Vivement

Sunny Robertello, *viola I*
Diane Phoenix-Neal, *viola II*
Sierra Rickard, Jonathan Colmenares, *violins*
Elliot Drew, *viola*
Carl Donakoski, *cello*
Frankie Sellars, *bass*

Quintet in C Major D. 956

Franz Schubert
(1797-1828)

- I. Allegro ma non troppo

Wanchi, *violin I*
Patrick Shaughnessy, *violin II*
Aiveen Gallagher, *viola*
Carl Donakowski, *cello I*
John Meshreky, *cello II*

Strum for String Orchestra

Jessie Montgomery
(b. 1981)

Biographies

Foster Beyers is the Director of Orchestras and Assistant Professor of Orchestral Conducting at James Madison University where he conducts the Symphony and Chamber Orchestra. His duties also include courses in orchestral literature and mentoring of students in the Masters and Doctoral program in Orchestral Conducting. Beyers came to Virginia from Minnesota where he was Director of Orchestras at Concordia College in Moorhead, MN.

Beyers is a committed advocate for and partner to music educators at every level. He began his career in the public schools of Green Bay, Wisconsin where he served as Music Director of the Green Bay Symphony Youth Orchestras while also teaching orchestra and band in the Green Bay Public schools for five years.

Wanchi received glowing reviews on her three albums under Centaur: Six Eugène Ysaÿe Sonatas, complete Partitas, Sonatas of J.S. Bach for Solo Violin and collaboration with pianist Robert Koenig on music by William Walton and Benjamin Britten. Her most recent album *Imagining Worlds* has been released in 2024 by Parma Music. She made her solo debut at age 14 with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. An active solo and chamber music performer, a frequent presenter at ASTA and invited international adjudicator, she received her Bachelor of Music from the Curtis Institute of Music, master's from the Juilliard School and Doctorate of Music from Indiana University. She has been the violin professor at James Madison University since 1998, teaches in the Heifetz International Institute in the summers since 2023, and contributes to the community as concertmistress for the Waynesboro Symphony Orchestra.

Diane Phoenix-Neal is Associate Professor of Music at James Madison University and principal violist of Virginia's Shenandoah Valley Bach Festival. She is engaged nationally and internationally as a soloist and chamber musician, most recently at the International Viola Congresses in Poland and Brazil. Her performances have taken her to five continents and to distinguished venues such as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Salle Pleyel (Paris) and Banff Centre for the Arts (Canada). Festival engagements include Bowdoin International Music Festival, Spoleto Festival, and the Colour of Music Festival. She is a long-standing performing faculty member at Eastern Music Festival and a principal artist with the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra. A Juilliard alumna, champion of new music for viola and of music by underrepresented composers, her recitals and commissioning projects have been regularly presented at festivals and conferences worldwide.

Biographies - *continued*

Irish violist, violinist, and composer Aiveen Gallagher is a three-time international prize-winner and the recipient of awards from violinist Ivry Gitlis and violist Bruno Giuranna. She is also a prize-winner as both a soloist and chamber musician in the 2022 American Prize for Excellence in the Arts. She has been invited to perform her award-winning compositions, the *Trinity Caprices*, in Europe, Asia, and the USA. Gallagher's international career has seen her perform at prominent venues including the Berliner Philharmonie, Musikverein Vienna, Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris, Moscow State Conservatory, and Carnegie Hall. She has been a guest artist at NYU Steinhardt School of Music, University of Central Florida, and the University of Illinois, and served as a string adjudicator for the European String Teachers Association. Dr. Gallagher is Instructor of Violin at James Madison University.

Carl Donakowski pursues an international career in Europe, Asia, and the Americas. He was a finalist in the Mendelssohn Competition in Berlin. His recital performances have been enjoyed at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.; Merkin Hall in New York City and aired on WQRS Detroit, WQXR New York, and Südwestfunk Baden-Baden. As a member of the Arcos Trio, he was awarded an Artistic Excellence grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to perform and record piano trios by Latin American composers on the Centaur label.

Donakowski is Professor of Music at the JMU School of Music where he received the distinguished teaching award. He is a frequent presenter at the American String Teachers Association national conference, contributor to American String Teacher, and currently edits the Cello Forum for the Virginia String Teachers Association. Donakowski was a student of Janos Starker at Indiana University. He also studied with Timothy Eddy,, Gary Hoffman, and William Pleeth.

Hailed by Strad magazine as having "*created soaring melodies and long lines*", violinist **Patrick Shaughnessy** was a founding member and 1st violinist of the Heimat quartet, with whom he gave his Carnegie Hall debut in 2019. He was a quarter finalist in the Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition and the Joachim Chamber Music Competition. Mr. Shaughnessy spends his summers coaching, performing and teaching as Dean of students at The Lyricafest Chamber music festival in Lincoln, MA.

Biographies - *continued*

Ziki Qi is currently a first-year DMA student majoring in music performance at James Madison University, studying under Dr. Wanchi Huang. She graduated from China Conservatory of Music with a bachelor degree and served as the first violinist for the Chinese Youth Philharmonic Orchestra during her time at school. Zike graduated from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire as a graduate student.

Sierra Rickard is a junior music performance major at James Madison University under the instruction of Dr. Wanchi Huang. She is a graduate of Strasburg High School, where she was concertmaster of the advanced string ensemble, directed by Joel Ross. At Strasburg, she performed as solo violinist in three of Joel's original murder mystery musicals and was concertmaster of the all-county orchestra. She has been a member of the Symphony Orchestra at James Madison University since 2021.

Aidan Coleman is an active orchestral violinist who participated in numerous well established honors youth orchestras in the state of California. He has also been invited numerous times to participate in ASTA workshops. The co-founder of the Coleman-Gordy Violin Duo, Aidan enjoys arranging videogame music. He is a senior at James Madison School of Music pursuing a Bachelor of Music Degree in music Industry.

Jonathan Colemanares is a senior music composition major at James Madison University, studying in the studios of Dr. Eric Guinivan and Dr. Jason Haney. He also studies the violin under Dr. Wanchi Huang and in her studio. During his time here, he has been a member of several ensembles including the Chamber, Symphony, Opera, and Musical Theatre Orchestras, as well as Steel Band and, most recently, Monticello Strings.

Marlie Dela Cruz is a freshman music education major studying in the cello studio under Dr. Carl Donakowski. She graduated from Woodbridge Senior High School where she participated in the advanced and intermediate string ensembles as section principal, as well as other theatrical pits and marching band. During her time at JMU she has participated in the collegiate chapter of ASTA, Chamber Orchestra, a Musical Theatre Ensemble, and Monticello Strings.

Biographies - *continued*

Sunny Robertello is a violist from Leesburg and has been studying the viola for over 10 years. She is a third-year student focusing on performance and loves to learn everything she can about her favorite works - from the Baroque era in the Telemann and Bach concertos, to Jessie Montgomery's *Strum*, a work from as recent as 2006! Sunny's dedication to her repertoire always shines through in her performance, and she is delighted to share music with you!

Elliot Drew is a freshman majoring in music performance at James Madison University. He graduated from the Salem High School Visual and Performing Arts Academy and has played in many ensembles including Bay Youth Symphony Orchestra, All-Virginia Orchestra, and now the JMU Symphony Orchestra and Monticello Strings.

Frankie Sellars is a sophomore Double Bass Performance major at JMU. Frankie began teaching lessons at age 17 and found that their passion for teaching led them to pursue a musical career. Frankie also has a love for nonprofit work and is hoping to make music lessons more accessible to lower-income students. When Frankie isn't in class or in the practice room, they spend their time finding hiking trails throughout the Shenandoah Valley.

JMU School of Music Diversity Statement

Difference in identity enriches our community, fosters artistic and intellectual growth, and is vital to creating thriving venues for expression in a global world. In addition to welcoming all individuals and perspectives regardless of their race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, disability, socio-economic status, or citizenship status, we wish to make the following acknowledgements and affirmations, adapted from Americans for the Arts:

- In the United States, there are systems of power that grant privilege and access unequally such that inequity and injustice result. We resolve to educate ourselves, keep vigilant watch, and act to bring an end to systemic oppression.
- Cultural equity—which embodies values, practices, and policies that ensure all people have access to, and are represented in, the arts—is critical to the sustained engagement of music in society.
- Acknowledging and challenging our inequities and working in partnership is how we will make change happen.
- Everyone deserves equal access to a full, vibrant creative life, which is essential to a healthy and democratic society.
- The prominent presence of musicians in society can challenge inequities and encourage alternatives.



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Thank you for attending today's performance. The JMU School of Music educates the most talented students from around the world to shape the fabric of society. We are ecstatic to return to our stages to showcase the talent and hard work of our students and faculty.

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