



Kathryn Christie grew up in Milwaukee. As a teenager she attended the Interlochen National Music Camp in Interlochen, Michigan. Kathryn attended Lawrence University and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she studied violin with Vartan Manoogian and obtained a bachelor's degree in violin performance. Kathryn has been a freelance performer in the Twin Cities area for over twenty-five years, and is a member of the Twin Cities Musicians Union. She has played in a wide variety of ensembles, including the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra, Rochester Symphony, Minneapolis Chamber Symphony, and many church orchestras. She has also played in backup bands for Ray Charles, Amy Grant, Anne Murray, and Deep Purple. Currently, Kathryn is a member of the Ariel Trio (piano, violin and cello), formed in 1988, and the Northern Lights String Quartet, formed in 1997. Both groups are longtime members of Thursday Musical. Kathryn began playing viola at the Madeline Island Music Camp in 1998. She has been teaching privately since 1985, and she maintains a private violin and viola studio in her home. Kathryn also teaches violin for the Early Bird String Academy and at Century College. Additionally, Kathryn has been a sectional coach for the Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies (GTCYS) since 2009.

Julia Elkina Ehrlich A graduate of the St. Petersburg Conservatory with a Diploma of Distinction, Julia Elkina came to the U.S. in 1993 and continued her studies at the University of Minnesota where she earned her DMA in Piano Performance. Ms. Elkina is particularly known for her duo-piano work with her twin sister Irina. The Elkinas shared the top prize in the Murray Dranoff International Two Piano Competition (1993). Ms. Elkina has continued to perform as a duo-pianist and soloist in many venues including New York, San Francisco, Chicago, New Orleans, Oregon Bach Festival, and Gilmore Keyboard Festival. A frequent guest on National Public Radio, she has performed on Prairie Home Companion with Garrison Keillor as well as the nationally-syndicated St. Paul Sunday.

Eric Graham is an active jazz bassist and composer. He has performed in venues from New York to California and currently resides in the Twin Cities. An active studio musician, he played on the album *Beyond Blues* which won Minnesota Monthly's "Excellence in Music" award, and was for a time a top 10 album on various national jazz charts. Graham has been featured on the *Today Show*, *C-SPAN*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *National Public Radio*, and *CBS Radio*. His compositions have been programmed at various contemporary music festivals, including the Society of Composers National Convention and Ernest Bloch Composers' Symposium. Recently the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra presented his work *c'TRANE b'TOK* as part of their Chamber Music Series.

Graham has received two Jerome Foundation Travel & Study Grants, the Minnesota State Arts Board "Arts Leader" Award, an LRAC/McKnight Foundation Career Development Grant, a Mid-America Arts Alliance Grant, the Virginia Carty deLillo Prize for Composition, a National Assembly of State Arts Agencies Scholarship, a Peabody Institute Merit Scholarship, the ASCAP Raymond Hubble Music Award, and a National Honor Society Scholarship. Additionally, he has received both an Award for Excellence and Presidential Innovation Grant from Century College. Graham is a full-time music professor at Century College where he teaches courses in jazz, world music, and popular music. He holds a Master's degree from the Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University. He was raised in Barrow, Alaska -- an Inupiat Eskimo village 400 miles north of the Arctic Circle.

Alan Johnston is best known as the founder of the Minneapolis Guitar Quartet, with which he performed for 16 years. During his tenure with the Minneapolis Guitar Quartet, he toured throughout the U.S., performing in recital and in concerto appearances at numerous concert series and festivals as well as on the radio programs St. Paul Sunday and NPR's Performance Today. He recorded two CDs with the MGQ on the Albany Label, both receiving critical acclaim in the U.S. and abroad. The Quartet also commissioned and premiered dozens of new works from 1987 to 2002.

In recent years, his students have been frequent winners at important national and international competitions. In the fall of 2008, a quartet of his MacPhail Center high school students was chosen to perform on the NPR radio show, "From the Top." A number of his graduating students have gone on to study in some of the most prestigious guitar programs in the U.S. and abroad.

Alan received a Bachelor of Arts degree at Macalester College, and a Master of Music degree from the University of Minnesota. His principal teachers were José Tomás, with whom he studied for two years in Spain, as well as Eli Kassner and Jeffrey Van.

Jocelyn Kalajian holds degrees in vocal performance from the Eastman School of Music (B.A. Magna cum Laude) and the New England Conservatory (M.M. with Distinction in Performance). She is the alto soloist at St. Agnes Church in St. Paul performing a vast repertoire of masses by Mozart, Haydn, Schubert Beethoven and others every Sunday with full orchestra and the Twin Cities Catholic Chorale. She also sings in the alto section of "The Singers – Minnesota Choral Artists." Other performances in the Twin Cities include solo performances with the Bach Society of Minnesota, Anoka Opera and many other choral organizations and orchestras. Before moving to the Twin Cities, she sang professionally in Boston with the Cantata Singers, Boston Baroque, the Handel and Haydn Society and the Emmanuel Music Bach Cantata Series. She has received fellowships to the Aspen Music Festival, the Bach Aria Festival in Stony Brook, NY and to the Vermont Bach Festival. For two summers she was the mezzo soprano soloist in residence at the Bach, Beethoven and Breckenridge Music Festival in Colorado. She taught voice at Tufts University and presently is the Voice Instructor and the Director of the Choir and Chambers Singers at Century College in White Bear Lake, MN. She is a performing artist member of Thursday Musical and is a member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing.

Greg Keel is on the faculty at MacPhail Center for Music in Minneapolis, Carlton College, Hamline University and Century College. During the spring semester of 2014, he was also a visiting instructor at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. He is a conductor with the MacPhail Jazz Combo Program, Summer Jazz Workshops and Community Partnerships. Greg co-hosts Twin Cities Saxophone Day, produced with MacPhail and McNally Smith College of Music. Greg has performed with the Minnesota Orchestra, Aretha Franklin, Natalie Cole, and many others. His students have received recognition from DownBeat magazine, with outstanding college soloist winners in their annual Student Music Awards and as members of the Outstanding College Big Bands. Greg's private students are frequently selected as members of the Minnesota and Wisconsin All-State Honors Concert Bands and Jazz Ensembles.

Shannon Loehrke, versatile pianist, teacher and pedagogue, has been teaching applied piano, group piano and coaching piano ensemble at Century College since 2008. A recipient of numerous awards and nominations for excellence in teaching, Dr. Loehrke has successfully prepared many students for further piano study in noted undergraduate and graduate programs across the country and for top prizes in local and regional piano competitions. She received a full scholarship to attend the University of Iowa where she earned Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees in Piano Performance and Pedagogy. She earned the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Piano Performance from the University of Minnesota, studying with renowned pianist Lydia Artymiw.

Dr. Loehrke is a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music through the Music Teacher's National Association (MTNA) and active in the Minnesota Music Teachers Association. As a recitalist and collaborative pianist, she has performed throughout the United States and Canada. She is cofounder and half of the Loehrke-Bochonko Duo, with violist Coca Bochonko. The duo seeks to promote the enjoyment and understanding of the repertoire for viola and piano. Prior teaching appointments include St. Cloud State University, the College of St. Benedict/St. John's University and Angelo State University (TX).

John Madura is a graduate of the University of Minnesota with a Bachelor's of Science in Music Education (1969). He taught and conducted orchestra and coached spring board diving for 44 years with the Mounds View Public Schools. John has taught studio cello for 45 years. Currently, he is retired, and teaching cello. John is the founder of Eight Cello Orchestra (ECO).

Randy Martens received a Bachelor of Arts in Percussion Performance from Northwestern College, Saint Paul, MN. He studied with Robert Adney, Earl Yowell, Gordy Knudtson, and Phil Hey. He currently teaches at Century College and K&S Conservatory of Music. As an active freelance percussionist, Randy has performed with Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, Ballet Minnesota, Mississippi Valley Orchestra, Rochester Symphony, and Minnesota Sinfonia. He is also a member of Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra.

Laurie Hatcher Merz is in her thirteenth year as bassoonist in the Minnesota Opera Orchestra. She is a busy free-lance player in the Twin Cities, performing with many groups, including the Minnesota Orchestra, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, VocalEssence and Music St. Croix. In 2014, she was a teaching artist and performer at the Sulzbach-Rosenberg International Music Festival in Germany. Merz is Professor of Bassoon at Augsburg College and Century College in Minnesota. A strong advocate for introducing children to classical music, Merz performs educational outreach programs for Thursday Musical with her wind trio, The Second Winds. Laurie holds a Bachelors Degree in Bassoon Performance with Distinction from the Eastman School of Music and a Master's Degree in performance with honors from the University of Minnesota. In 2003, she was awarded the Classic Lake Conference Fine Arts Award for excellence in teaching, performing and community service.

Shirley Mier has taught at Century College since 2007 and has lived in the Twin Cities for over 20 years. During that time she has music-directed more shows than she can remember and composed over a dozen musical theatre works, including children's musicals commissioned from Stages Theatre, scores for Shakespeare plays, and music for Greek tragedies. Her concert band works have won multiple honors, and her musicals and concert band works have been published and performed across the U.S. and Canada (including Carnegie Hall in New York City). Dr. Mier holds a B.A. in Music from Grinnell College and earned her M.A. and Ph.D. in Composition from the University of Minnesota. Courses taught at Century include Ear Training, Fundamentals of Music, Enjoyment of Classical Music, Popular Music in American Society, and Theatre Orchestra. Theatre productions at Century include *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Cabaret* and *Twelfth Night*. For more info: www.shirleymier.com

This is the sixteenth year that **Charles Preis** has directed the Century Concert Band. He is a graduate of Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, and the University of Michigan (Master of Music). He has been teaching in the greater Twin Cities area since 1984, and is presently teaching band and choir at Northeast Middle School in Minneapolis. Charles is a member of the Lake Wobegon™ Brass Band. He has been a member of the Lakewood/Century Band since 1985.

Elliot Wilcox has been on the Century College music faculty since 1999. He teaches music theory, ear training, music appreciation, and directs the Century Chamber Orchestra. He received his Masters in Arts in Piano Performance from Northwestern University and his Masters of Arts in Music Theory from the University of Minnesota. Mr. Wilcox is a Performing Artist for Thursday Musical and many of his solo piano performances have been broadcast on Minnesota Public Radio. Prior to teaching at Century, he taught studio piano at Anoka Ramsey Community College and also worked as a professional piano technician. Mr. Wilcox is currently the Chair of Auditions for Thursday Musical.