

FALL 2014



Notes

CELEBRATION OF STRINGS



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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The past six months have featured an unprecedented amount of growth and new beginnings for the WKU Pre-College Strings Program. When I think back over this period, I am overwhelmed with the amount of energy and excitement squeezed into this short time. Over the summer, Sarah Berry laid the groundwork for a positive semester by hosting the String Explosion, our yearly summer festival for area string students. Her revamped format featured new beginner classes and a fuller, more robust slate of musical—and outdoor!—activities for our students, leading to one of our best attended and most enthusiastic festivals yet.

The fall semester brought two brand new events to WKU's campus: the first annual WKU Violin Fest and the sixteenth Kentucky Cello Day. I had the distinct pleasure of hosting the Violin Fest. This two-day festival featured lectures, performances, masterclasses, and much more, providing not only further engagement with local students and teachers, but also helping to increase the program's regional profile. If you would like to read more about this event, see the article on page 4. The Kentucky Cello Day,



organized by Sarah Berry, gathered cellists from Kentucky and beyond for an engaging day of masterclasses, technique workshops, and cello choir readings. These two festivals welcomed nationally-renowned teachers and artists to WKU to work with our students and festival attendees.

In addition to these new events, the Pre-College Strings Program has blazed exciting new territory this semester. I was overjoyed to welcome one of the largest and most enthusiastic beginner classes that I've had since arriving at WKU. I am also happy to report that college strings students have been further integrated into active teaching

roles within the program. Many of our current pre-college students are able to receive additional weekly lessons from a college student teacher. I would like to invite more of our pre-college students to take advantage of this unique opportunity in the future.

Our growth in young students has been matched by an increasing level of interest from our concert goers. In my conversations with audience members throughout the semester, I sensed a continually deepening level of understanding and love for music. As a performer, it warms my heart to know that we, through the Pre-College program, are able to bring joy to others through music; and as a teacher, I know that no small part of this is due to the increasing dedication and performance standards of our students.

Thank you to all of our devoted parents and students, and also to the many supportive members of the WKU community. I am looking forward to another exciting semester, full of new opportunities and beautiful music.

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Ching-Yi Lin". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Ching-Yi Lin

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Jackson's Orchard

SEPTEMBER 20

On September 20th, guest conductor Sarah Berry led the Symphony at WKU in their annual Symphony Day performance at Jackson's Orchard. The pre-college students in cello group I performed a beautiful rendition of Somewhere Over the Rainbow, accompanied by the orchestra. Students who performed were Amelia Allen, Abigail German, Curtis Lin, Eliana Ricketts, and Trinity Rose.

Pre-College Halloween Recital

OCTOBER 25

The annual Halloween Recital was filled with a wide array of scary and elegant costumes, ghoulish treats, and of course, wonderful music. For our new beginners, the recital was their very first performance onstage. They shined like seasoned veterans. With ensemble skills to match their exuberant costumes, these students enjoyed the fruits of their remarkable amount of practice and dedication over the previous few months. The concert began with a beautiful performance of the French lullaby, Frere Jacques by Violin I. The violin groups that followed (Beginners violins and Violin II, III, and IV) increased the excitement and joy in the FAC Recital Hall as they presented works by Bach, Dvořák, Saint-Saëns, and other traditional pieces. The recital also featured a number of outstanding soloists: Emma Cox, Chloe Pitcock, Alyssa Keoshian, and Sonia Conte. Sonia offered an exciting rendition of the first movement of Vivaldi's Violin Concerto in A minor, accompanied by a string quartet of WKU students and faculty members. Works by Romberg and Mahler were presented by the viola and cello ensembles, including At the Zoo by Antoni Cofalik, a programmatic work that brought images of zoo life

FALL 2014 STUDENT PERFORMANCES



Jackson's Orchard - Cello Group 1

to mind. The afternoon recital came to a conclusion with the Western Violins rousing and unpredictable performance of Shostakovich's Duet for Two Violins. Students, parents, and other guests enjoyed a delightful afternoon of musical treats, featuring the culmination of many months of hard work.

Cello Studio Recital

NOVEMBER 23

The cello studio of Sarah Berry performed a recital with Ms. Alesia Speer accompanying them on the piano.

Solo Recitals

DECEMBER 6

December 6th was a jam-packed day featuring over 60 solo performances. It featured the program's end-of-the-semester Solo Recitals in back-to-back performances in the WKU Choral Hall. This semester, each recital was named after a famous conductor; Recital Karajan, Recital Bernstein, and Recital Abbado. Each student had the opportunity to perform the music that they had been diligently preparing throughout this past semester. Each performance was a delight for the families, teachers, and audience members in attendance.



Christmas Performance at Christian Health Care Center

WKU Pre-College Strings Program Help to "Make the Season Bright"

DECEMBER 11

The WKU Pre-College Strings Program was honored to perform for the annual Bowling Green Medical Center's Make the Season Bright event. This program is a fundraising event for the Commonwealth Health Foundation to support free clinics, the dental clinic, and the hospitality house. On this evening of honor and remembrance, our Beginner Violin students gave many fantastic performances, including

Twinkle Variations, GDG, and Seesaw. Violin IV performed the traditional carol The Holly and the Ivy, and a jazzy version of Santa Clause is Comin' to Town. James Han and Christie Lin also performed solo pieces for this event.

Following the performance, audience members and performers gathered outside for the lighting of the Christmas tree. With cookies and hot chocolate keeping everyone warm, we were greeted by a special bearded guest who helped sing carols for the tree lighting. The students who performed for the Make the Season Bright event were highly praised by all in attendance, and they made their teachers proud!



Amelia Allen at Cello Solo Recital

Christmas Recital

DECEMBER 13

The Christmas Recital was held on December 13th in the beautiful sanctuary at the First Christian Church. This recital celebrated the end of our fall 2014 semester at the WKU Pre-College Strings Program. All of the faculty members are so proud of the progress our students have made this semester. Cello I opened the

recital with a touching arrangement of John Williams' Somewhere in My Memory from the movie Home Alone and a jazzy version of Jingle Bells accompanied by pianist Chris Allen. In addition to Christmas favorites and traditional folk songs, students performed music from a diverse range of composers: Liszt, Pierpont, Schumann, and even Leroy Anderson. Hannah Yim, Assistant Concertmaster of the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, arranged a beautiful rendition of Irving Berlin's White Christmas for the Western Violins. Solo performers for this recital included Jasmine Abacan, Joey Breslin (what a great performance of The Two Grenadiers!), James Han, Zoe Hu (congrats for going to the frog!), Maria Jackson, Rebekah Johns, Christie Lin, and Shmu'el Ricketts. We are excited to see what Spring Semester 2015 will bring!

WKU Pre-College Strings Program Visits Village Manor

DECEMBER 20

Pre-college students volunteered and visited the Village Manor Christian Care Community Center on December 20th to perform Christmas music for their residents. The afternoon began with Christmas quartet music played by Ching-Yi Lin, Carly Shoulders, Andy Braddock, and Sarah Berry and proceeded with several solo and group performances by violinists Garret Barr, Emma Cox, Olivia Gaskill, Sarah Hathaway, Maria Jackson, and Chloe Pitcock. Our students received many heartfelt compliments from the staff and residents of Village Manor. It was a wonderful way to share our love of music this Holiday Season. After the performance, students, parents, and faculty had a great time roller skating at the Skatebox!

Cello Day

BY SARAH BERRY



Bow fun at Suzuki Play-in with Sarah Kim



Maxwell Conte in masterclass with Alan Rafferty

In September, Sarah Berry hosted the Kentucky Cello Day XVI. Cello students of all ages traveled to Bowling Green for an exciting day of masterclasses, technique sessions, Suzuki classes and cello ensemble playing. Sponsored by the Kentucky Cello Club, the WKU music department, and the WKU Pre-College Strings Program, Cello Day XVI welcomed three wonderful guest artists and more than 50 cellists from all over the region to WKU's campus. The featured guest artists were Felix Wang, Professor of Cello at Vanderbilt University; Alan Rafferty, member of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra; and Sarah Kim, Suzuki Teacher and Director of the Cincinnati Young Artists Program.

The Cello Day featured two in-depth technique workshops. In Felix Wang's class, pre-college students explored a vast array of technical concepts using a D-major scale. It was astounding to see the breadth of ideas that can be practiced using only a single scale, including shifting motions, physical releases, instrument positioning, bow contact, and dynamic direction. At the end of the class, Felix presented some finger-tangling etudes to help with left hand dexterity. Across the hall, Alan Rafferty presented an advanced class for university and adult cellists. He covered topics such as audition preparation, orchestral excerpts, thumb position technique, and difficult bow strokes.

WKU Pre-College students represented our program beautifully throughout the day. Kenzie Crowe and Maxwell Conte performed in masterclasses for Sarah Kim and Alan Rafferty. Kenzie gave an exuberant performance of the Klengel Concertino. Sarah Kim had great practice ideas to offer her, and they worked on vibrato. Maxwell performed the first movement of the Goltermann Cello Concerto No. 4 and worked with Alan Rafferty on some different bow techniques and musical pacing. Morgan Thomas and Josh Propst performed in a masterclass with Felix Wang. Morgan played the Prelude of the Bach Cello Suite No. 3 and Josh played the first movement of the Haydn C major Cello Concerto. Felix Wang covered a broad spectrum of ideas in his class, exploring intonation, bow hold and control, phrasing, and sound. It was inspiring for our students not only to observe the fantastic teaching that day, but also to hear the performances of other cellists, who came from all over Kentucky, Cincinnati, Nashville and Murfreesboro.

WKU Pre-College Cello Group I joined in the Suzuki Play-In led by Sarah Kim. The class was full of energy and creativity. Sarah Kim engaged the class of nine beginner cellists with numerous bow-hold games and counting exercises while they played through pieces in Suzuki books one, two, and three.

This exciting day concluded with a huge cello choir reading session.

Conducted by Sarah Berry, this 50-person ensemble played a wide range of repertoire, from simple folk songs to advanced four-part pieces. While simply hearing the sound of all of these cellists playing together was an unbelievable experience in and of itself, their beautiful musicality and camaraderie brought this fun-filled and insightful day to a heart-warming conclusion.



Professor Felix Wang and Morgan Thomas



Sarah conducting the Cello Choir

Violin FEST: A SUCCESS!

BY LANDON CASE

From the first moment our guests arrived on campus Friday to the ending of the Student Recital on Saturday night, Violin Fest was filled with much excitement, joy, and hard work. This two-day festival was the brainchild of Dr. Ching-Yi Lin, violin professor and Director of the Pre-College Strings Program at WKU. After months of planning, violinists and teachers from surrounding states came and enjoyed a weekend of masterclasses, group performances, faculty and student recitals, and special topic lectures. This year's faculty included Brenda Brenner, Associate Professor of Music at Indiana University and the president-elect of American String Teachers Association (ASTA), and WKU faculty members Ching-Yi Lin and Andrew Braddock. On Friday night, students began to arrive from Indiana, Missouri, Texas, Tennessee, and Kentucky to receive their registration packets and to attend the faculty recital later that evening. The students were very excited to be a part of Violin Fest.



Dr. Brenda Brenner working with Joy Fan

The Violin Fest officially began with a faculty recital on Friday night. The recital featured a variety of chamber music from many different stylistic periods. Dr. Lin and Dr. Brenner opened the concert with a lively and rousing performance of Leclair's Sonata no. 2, for two violins. Each violinist shined in this ornately detailed work, and the piece served as a fitting introduction



Violin Fest Faculty Recital

to a festival of violins. WKU piano professor Dr. Zachary Lopes joined Lin for the next work on the program, Charles Ives' Sonata no. 2 for violin and piano. Ives' style is defined by an interweaving of popular American tunes into a modernistic framework. Encompassing a huge variety of moods, from bombastic excitement to intimate sadness, this modern masterpiece captivated the audience. The performers were met with thunderous applause at the conclusion of the work. This performance alone made attendance at the Violin Fest worthwhile. The second half of the recital featured Johannes Brahms'



Beginner Rehearsal

majestic Piano Quintet, performed by Brenner, Lin, Andrew Braddock, Sarah Berry, and Lopes. This four-movement work is one of Brahms' finest chamber music compositions, and the performers certainly did it justice. Particularly notable was their fiery and impassioned rendition of the Scherzo movement. The students were inspired and afterward expressed their desire to play their best for their upcoming performances during the rest

of the Violin Fest.

Following an early morning coffee breakfast, the rest of Saturday promised a plethora of exciting opportunities. The Violin Fest featured group classes, ranging from a beginner's group all the way to a collegiate level group. Each class contained students from many different backgrounds grouped according to ability levels.

Lin and Brenner each gave masterclasses, featuring works such

as Sarasate's *Zigeunerweisen*, Bach's Partita in d minor, and Bruch's Violin Concerto. Dr. Brenner worked with Elizabeth Whitters on dance styles and polyphonic voicing in Bach, and she also helped Maggie Kasinger focus her passionate energy in Bruch's Violin Concerto in g minor. Alan Liu performed de Beriot's Concerto no. 9 in Dr. Lin's masterclass, and she shared insights about practicing techniques and vibrato. Fujin Zhang's performance of *Zigeunerweisen* elicited a lively and interesting discussion of phrasing and timing.

In addition, Dr. Brenner and WKU professor Andrew Braddock presented two special topic classes entitled "Setting Up For Success" and "Shakes, Wiggles, and Slides," respectively. Brenner gave suggestions regarding proper instrument size, quality of the instrument, position of the body and many other ways to ensure beginning success with the violin. Violin Fest participant Josh Bloecher noted that Brenner shared techniques for "utilizing the whole body from the knees to feet along with the upper body" and "avoiding tension as a young student." He added that the "whole

SPECIAL THANKS GO TO TEACHERS OF THE VIOLIN FEST 2014 PARTICIPANTS

Alyna Bloecher, WKU Pre-College Strings Program
Josh Bloecher, Bowling Green Christian Academy
Zara Bolone, Old Town Violins, Lexington, KY
Mary Boronow, McNeill Elementary School
Andy Braddock, Western Kentucky University
Dr. Brandon Christensen, Southeast Missouri State University
Kelsey Davidson, Daviess County High School, Owensboro, KY
Shannon Crow, Indianapolis, IN
Connie Heard, Vanderbilt University
Amy Helman, Franklin Suzuki Academy

Dr. Carolyn Huebl, Vanderbilt University
Phil Kent, Lafayette High School Orchestra
Dr. Ching-Yi Lin, Western Kentucky University
Courtney Morrison, South Warren Middle & High School
Dr. Felix Olschofka, University of North Texas
Patrick O'Rourke, Bowling Green High School
Sarah Skreko, Indianapolis, IN
Johnny Thompson, JohnnyThompsonMusic
Stacy Yates, Louisville, KY
Youth Performing Arts School (YPAS), Louisville, KY



Shostakovich Duet for Two Violins



presentation was wonderful and informative.” Mr. Braddock’s class focused on the essential techniques and physical motions necessary for a good vibrato. His interactive lecture provided students with a great insight into how vibrato should sound, look, and feel.

On Saturday evening, the final recital was a welcome treat after two days of hard work. The students’ attentive engagement and thorough preparation in their perspective classes made for excellent performances in this concert. The recital consisted of performances by the five group classes and multiple soloists. In particular, the young students blew away the audience members with their incredible intonation, while the Western Violins played with lock-step precision and mature musicality in Shostakovich’s Prelude and Gavotte. All the performances were polished and offered a wide selection of all things violin. The smiles on the faces of the students and parents at the recital were priceless, and they attested to the success of this festival.

The concert brought the inaugural WKU Violin Fest to a joyful and exciting conclusion. After such an auspicious first year, students and teachers alike are already looking forward to next year’s Violin Fest.



Landon Case, a native of Kentucky, is currently pursuing an undergraduate degree in Music Education at WKU. His principal teacher is Mr. Andrew Braddock. Landon serves as principal viola in the Symphony at WKU, and

he held the same position in the Daviess County High School orchestra in Owensboro. He continues to visit his hometown and volunteers his time by leading sectionals and serving as a teacher’s aid for the Owensboro Orchestra Programs. Landon regularly performs in Bowling Green, Kentucky as a member of the Pauli Quintet. He is actively involved in the WKU Pre-College Strings Program, where he serves as a student teaching assistant. Landon is currently the president of the WKU American String Teachers Association chapter. Under his leadership, the chapter received several scholarships to attend the 2015 ASTA National Conference in Salt Lake City, UT. The WKU ASTA chapter has helped to facilitate WKU events, including the WKU Violin Fest. In addition to playing viola, Landon is also a member of the WKU Choral Society, performing multiple times a year.

FACULTY PERFORMANCES

WKU FACULTY MASTERCLASSES



Ching-Yi's Pedagogy lecture at West Virginia University on December 1st



Steven at the BG Christian Academy on December 15th

Autumn Collage

SEPTEMBER 14

WKU Pre-College Faculty members Sarah Berry, Alyna Bloecher, Andrew Braddock, and Ching-Yi Lin performed in the 2014 Autumn Collage Concert, an annual recital presented by WKU faculty members to raise scholarship money for WKU music students. They played works by Piazzolla, Vieuxtemps, and Ives.

Jackson's Orchard

SEPTEMBER 20

Steven Stewart was featured as a soloist in Jay Ungar's Ashokan Farewell at the annual WKU Jackson's Orchard Concert.

"An Evening of Music with Friends" Alesia Speer Piano Recital

OCTOBER 12

Alyna Bloecher and Sarah Berry joined WKU piano faculty member Alesia Speer in recital on October 12th. Alyna and Alesia performed Beethoven's Romance in F Major, Op. 50 and Gershwin's Prelude No.2 arranged for violin and piano by the famous 20th century violinist, Jascha Heifetz. Later in the program, Alyna, Sarah, and Alesia performed Piazzolla's Oblivion arranged for violin, piano, and cello.



Chamber Music on the Hill

Viola and Piano Recital

OCTOBER 19

Guest pianist Bernadette Lo, professor at the University of the South in Sewanee, TN, joined faculty member Andrew Braddock for a recital of works for viola and piano. This varied recital featured pieces from a broad stylistic range, including Henry Vieuxtemps' Sonata in B-flat, Béla Bartók's Sonatina, J.S. Bach's Sonata in D for viola da gamba, and Hindemith's Sonata, op. 25 no. 4.

Chamber Music on the Hill

NOVEMBER 9

On November 9th, faculty members Ching-Yi Lin, Alyna Bloecher, Andrew Braddock, Sarah Berry, and Dr. Zachary Lopes performed Brahms' Piano Quintet in F minor, Op. 34. The recital, held in WKU's beautiful Van Meter Auditorium, also included works by Charles Ives and Henry Vieuxtemps.

GUEST ARTIST MASTERCLASSES AT WKU

Elisabeth Small

OCTOBER 17

In addition to an excellent masterclass to our pre-college and college violin students, Ms. Elisabeth Small gave an inspiring performance of Corigliano's Red Violin Caprices on October 17th. Among her many distinctions, Ms. Small is an Assistant Professor of Violin and coordinator of strings at the Belmont University School of Music. She serves as Artistic Director of Belmont Camerata, the resident faculty ensemble. During the summer, Ms. Small teaches at Belmont's String Crossings Camp for high school students who are learning the style of classical, jazz, rock and bluegrass.

Larchmere Quartet

NOVEMBER 1

On November 1st, members of the Larchmere Quartet visited WKU and gave master classes to our pre-college and university students. The quartet is comprised of Jessica Tong (violin), Alicia Choi (violin), Rose Wollman (viola), and Kirsten Jerme (cello). Performers for the master classes included Sonia Conte, Elizabeth Whitters, Alyna Bloecher, Liu Xinyu, Morgan Thomas, David Wiles, Bethany Daniels, and Ashley Brown. In addition to the insightful master classes for our students, the quartet also gave a beautiful performance that evening in the WKU Recital Hall. They presented penetrating interpretations of two



Larchmere Quartet Masterclasses

masterworks for string quartet: Joseph Haydn's "Sunrise" Quartet, op. 76 no. 4, and Johannes Brahms' String Quartet in C minor. The Haydn was played with clarity and precision, easily highlighting the exciting interplay between the instruments. Brahms' quartet is a pulsating and energetic work, full of stormy passions and overwhelming gestures. The players were certainly up for the challenge, as they not only mastered this work's tempestuous nature, but also drew out moments of true beauty and serenity.

The Larchmere Quartet currently holds the faculty position of Eykamp Quartet-in-Residence at the University of Evansville in Evansville, Indiana, where they work with students and serve as the University's ambassadors of chamber music.

David Rose By Dwight Pounds

NOVEMBER 3

The Strings Faculty of Western Kentucky University were very pleased to welcome David Rose, Professor of Viola at the State University of New York, Fredonia, to Bowling Green as guest lecturer and master class presenter. His presentation was titled "Bach Makes You Better." Professor Rose used various compositions for strings by Johann Sebastian Bach (most of these from the Solo Suites for Cello/Viola) to illustrate his points and identify their technical challenges. Among his topics were the "tyranny of the bar line," in which the chemistry (musical phrasing) between the notes was affected by conventional printing (especially by young people learning Bach suites for the first time), the

structure of chords, and where to put emphasis on bow changes. With Bach Suite in D Minor he was very careful to emphasize the prevalence of the minor third groupings, and the proper bow utilization to achieve an effective dynamic interpretation of the suite. The primary emphasis of his presentation, both in the Bach lecture and the following master classes, centered on bowing and right arm positions. Rose employed terms such as “Z bowing,” North-South and East-West alignment, and “limp-bowing” for gradually moving the bow from frog to tip.

During the master classes with WKU students Landon Case, Matt Propst, and Katie Mae Woosley, Rose again concentrated on bowing techniques. Making this a truly interactive class, Rose had the entire

room engaged in arm-swinging exercises that illustrated the weight and movement of the arm, wrist, hand, and fingers. His goal was to show the musicians to use strength and weight only when necessary, with special attention given to the lightness and speed required of the fingers alone. Other topics addressed were instrument positioning and balance, special downward shifting techniques, the meaning and inflection of slurs, and string-specific bowing techniques.

Dr. Ching-Yi Lin and Professor Andrew Braddock are to be congratulated for bringing David Rose to WKU as an extension of his trip from Knoxville where he was part the annual Celebration of the Viola at University of Tennessee

Christine Kim

NOVEMBER 20

On November 20th Christine Kim, Associate Professor of Cello at Middle Tennessee University gave an inspiring master class to some of the WKU Pre-College and University Cello Students. Performers included Josh Propst, Shelly Burgess, and Amelia Allen. Christine Kim has performed for concert series' throughout the United States, including Da Camera of Houston, the Foundation for Modern Music, and Musiq. Kim has also appeared as a concerto soloist with the La Crosse, Evanston, Madison, and Milwaukee Symphonies. As an orchestral musician, Kim has also performed with the New Hampshire Music Festival and the Tanglewood Music Center orchestras.



David Rose, Bach Lecture

Special Recognitions



Ben Guthrie leading Western Violins

WKU Pre-College students prepare for the Christmas recital at Old Union School



Beautifully decorated "Christmas Violin"



Maria Jackson at Christmas Recital



A big thank you goes to our pianists, Lindsey Byrd, Ben Lee, and Elizabeth Whitters!

Congratulations to our students who were chosen for the Kentucky All-State orchestras!

Kelly Lin & Carly Shoulders, *violin*

Matt Propst & Sydney Garrison, *viola*

David Wiles, Maxwell Conte, & Morgan Thomas, *cello*

OCTOBER 17

Garrett took his violin to his kindergarten classroom at Foundation Christian Academy for Show and Tell for the letter "V". He demonstrated the parts of his violin and played See Saw, Ant Song, GDG, & AEA with bow. His fellow classmates greatly enjoyed and his teacher Ms. Lee Duff shared she knew how to play the cello. It was a fun day!

NOVEMBER 8

Trinity Rose, Book Two Recital

DECEMBER 10

Violist Landon Case, WKU Pre-College Strings Student Helper, received the "Performer of the Semester" recognition from the Strings Department at WKU. Landon performed Ernest Bloch's Suite Hebraique in the bi-annual Performer of the Semester student recital.

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Thank You

I would like to thank President Gary A. Ransdell, Dean David Lee of Potter College, and Dr. Scott Harris of the Music Department for their support of the WKU Pre-College Strings Program.

Heartfelt thanks also goes to Lowell Guthrie, Marcus Dukes, and Amanda Lee for their invaluable assistance to the program.

Finally, I would like to thank our faculty members Sarah Berry, Alyn Bloecher, Andy Braddock, and Steven Stewart. You are the heart of the Pre-College Strings Program, and without you, none of this would be possible. I am inspired by you on a daily basis, and you give me the desire and energy to further our shared vision.

Ching-Yi Lin



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