



AMERICAN
VIOLA SOCIETY
2026 FESTIVAL

James Madison University | Harrisonburg, VA

June 3-6, 2026

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2026 American Viola Society Festival

*James Madison University, | Harrisonburg, VA
June 3-6, 2026*

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AVS MISSION STATEMENT

The American Viola Society inspires excellence and builds community through viola study, performance, research, composition, and lutherie. The premier source for all viola-related activities, the AVS is a non-profit organization that provides core resources for the global viola community.



WHEEL AD

2026 American Viola Society Festival

*James Madison University, | Harrisonburg, VA
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**Welcome to the 2026
American Viola Society Festival**



2026 American Viola Society Festival

*James Madison University, | Harrisonburg, VA
June 3-6, 2026*

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AND THANK YOU TO OUR HOST

JAMES MADISON
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2026 American Viola Society Festival

HOST SCHOOL WELCOME LETTER



Welcome to the James Madison University School of Music and the Forbes Center for the Performing Arts.

We are honored to be hosting the 2026 American Viola Society Festival and to share our community and the beautiful Shenandoah Valley. With your capable host Dr. Diane Phoenix-Neal, we have an exceptional experience planned for your time here in Harrisonburg. We are excited for you to experience world-class performances in our Concert Hall and Recital Hall, take a break to reflect on JMU's historic quad, and make the most of the local culinary delights.our Concert Hall and Recital Hall, take a break to reflect on JMU's historic quad, and make the most of the local culinary delights.

Situated in the College of Visual and Performing Arts, the JMU School of Music is a community dedicated to changing lives through music by cultivating creativity, artistry, and curiosity. Hosting this society of international artist, scholars, and pedagogues demonstrates the JMU School of Music's commitment to be a global beacon of innovative music pedagogy, artistry, and scholarship. The JMU School of Music has long been a center for excellence in Virginia and the United States. Music faculty represent JMU at every national and international music society gathering and they perform regionally, nationally, and internationally. Our students are similarly accomplished by winning national and international competitions and placing into top graduate programs. Over the past three years, JMU DMA graduates have been placed in eleven full-time positions in higher education.

The 2026 American Viola Society Festival wouldn't be possible without the host, volunteers, and support of the American Viola Society. I want to convey my deep appreciation to Diane Phoenix-Neal, who has worked tirelessly for the last two years, and her group of volunteers for making this event happen. Thank you to the American Viola Society for trusting us with such an important event.

Thank you for attending the 2026 American Viola Society Festival. I hope you are inspired and invigorated by your experiences here at JMU.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Allemeier". The signature is fluid and stylized, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

*John Allemeier, PhD Director
James Madison University School of Music*

2026 American Viola Society Festival

FESTIVAL HOST WELCOME LETTER



Dear Viola Friends,

It is my pleasure to welcome the 2026 American Viola Society Festival to James Madison University! The Forbes Center for the Performing Arts and the James Madison School of Music are gracious participating partners with the American Viola Society for several days of exciting events for viola lovers of all ages and backgrounds

As you navigate the JMU campus, and enjoy the excellent schedule of events, concerts, competitions, lectures, workshops and special guest artists, please make sure to visit our Exhibition of Modern Violas and Bows. During your visit to the American Viola Society Festival, you can plan to spend time with all exhibitors and vendors in the comfortable Forbes Center Grand Lobby-we are thankful for their support.

It is a team effort to successfully make this festival happen, and I'm thankful for the many hours of planning and creativity of the American Viola Society board and coordinators as well as for the tenacity and willingness of the Forbes Center team to support technical production. I am grateful to the College of Visual and Performing Arts, Dean Rubén Graciani, the School of Music and director John Allemeier for their unwavering support and encouragement, as well as to all the excellent administrative staff support within these hard-working units. It takes a village to make an event of this magnitude a success, bringing lovers of the viola from all over to James Madison University.

June is a beautiful season on the verdant JMU campus and during this special, festive occasion, it will overflow with our shared celebration of the viola!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diane Pheonix-Neal".

Diane Pheonix-Neal
2026 Festival Host

2026 American Viola Society Festival

AVS PRESIDENT WELCOME LETTER



AMERICAN**VIOLA**SOCIETY



Dear Friends, Colleagues, and Fellow Viola Lovers,

Welcome to the 2026 American Viola Society Festival! On behalf of the AVS, I'm thrilled to welcome you to the beautiful Shenandoah Valley region and the campus of James Madison University. We are so grateful to our host, Diane Phoenix-Neal, and the JMU School of Music and Forbes Center for the Performing Arts teams for welcoming us into their beautiful facilities for this wonderful celebration of our instrument.

This exciting festival highlights myriad facets of viola performance and scholarship at every career stage. We'll start the festival with emerging artists in our AVS Solo Competitions and Orchestral Audition Competition, and will wrap up on Saturday with a recital by one of the world's most recognized emerging talents, 2024 Primrose Competition Winner Emad Zolfaghari. In between, we'll enjoy featured performances and masterclasses by celebrated artists Victoria Chiang, Lynne Ramsey, and Marina Thibeault, discover the viola's edgy side with electric violist Rudolf Haken, learn from Teacher-in-Residence Peter Slowik, premiere a new viola ensemble work by Composer-in-Residence Kevin Day, and much, much more. In addition to our featured artists, the festival offers a full slate of programming selected by peer review through our proposals process, including lectures, lecture-recitals, workshops, and performances. It's going to be a great week!

While we typically dedicate each AVS Festival to a violist who has left a lasting legacy on the viola world, this year we are honoring FIVE. Three are likely to be familiar to everyone in attendance: Yizhak Schotten, Karen Ritscher, and Donald McInnes were all influential teachers and performers at major institutions. The other two made contributions that are just as significant to both the viola community and the AVS, and we are grateful to recognize them as well. Dr. Wilma Benson, a K-12 orchestra director and viola performer from the Louisville, KY area, honored the AVS with a planned gift from her estate in 2025. This generous donation was used to establish AVS Education Fund in support of educational initiatives such as the AVS Educator Mini-Grants. Dr. Thomas Hall was longtime professor of viola and music history at Chapman University and a contributor to the Journal of the American Viola Society. The donation of his fine viola to the AVS Viola Bank will enrich the learning of emerging pre-professional and early career artists for years to come. We celebrate all that Dr. Benson and Dr. Hall contributed to their communities through their teaching, performance, and service, as well as the legacies created by their impactful contributions to the AVS.

2026 American Viola Society Festival

AVS PRESIDENT WELCOME LETTER

We hope that you will not only enjoy the vast slate of Festival programming, but that between events you'll also plan to visit our exhibitors! There are dedicated Exhibitor Hours during lunch every day, so please reserve time to explore what our sponsors and vendors have on offer – and don't forget to thank them for their presence and support!

This year also features our third biennial Exhibition of Modern Violas and Bows. Be sure to visit and play the instruments on exhibition, vote for your favorites in the categories of playability and tone, then hear them performed by Daniel Foster, Principal Violist of the National Symphony Orchestra, at the Saturday morning Tone Competition. After lunch, winners of the competition will participate in a panel discussion with Luthier-in-Residence Bill Scott, Jr.

As we kick off this exciting festival, the AVS recognizes the tireless and dedicated efforts of Festival Coordinator Christina Ebersohl-Van Sycoc, Proposals Coordinator Tony Devroye, and Competitions Coordinator Gabrielle Padilla Molina, who all put in countless hours to make this event a success. Without them, this event would not have been possible. When you see them around over the course of the festival, please thank them!

Thank you for your presence here, and we wish you a wonderful 2026 AVS Festival!

Yours in celebration of the viola



Ames Asbell
AVS President

2026 American Viola Society Festival

FESTIVAL COORDINATOR WELCOME LETTER



AMERICAN**VIOLA**SOCIETY



If you are holding this program book, then we've somehow made it—after years of planning, emailing (*So. Many. Emails.*), revising plans, re-revising plans, and the occasional moment of quietly reassuring ourselves that yes, the tables will arrive — we are finally here together at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia for the 2026 American Viola Society Festival!

It is a genuine joy to welcome you to this gathering.

This festival is built on a simple but very real idea: that people who care deeply about music and about each other can create something larger than any one of us could manage alone. Over the next several days, that idea will take shape in rehearsals, masterclasses, performances, hallway reunions, and the unmistakable hum of a viola community fully in motion.

There is far more happening here than any one person can reasonably take in. That is not a flaw—it is a feature. Please wander. Follow your curiosity. Go to the thing you didn't plan on. Sit in on something you know nothing about. The best moments here tend to be slightly off the itinerary.

This gathering exists because of extraordinary generosity of our sponsors: William Harris Lee (Gold), Robertson & Sons (Silver), and Pirastro and Carriage House (Bronze); and our local partners: New Creations VA (for our festival tote bags), GoEx (for the hoodies and t-shirts), People Via Plants (for their beautiful handcrafted pottery), and Broad Porch Cafe (for ensuring that coffee is never far away when it is most urgently required).

This festival has come together through the work of an extraordinary team of people who have given an enormous amount of time, care, and attention—much of it in ways that will never fully be visible. My heartfelt thanks goes to Assistant Coordinator Anthony DeVroye, Proposals Coordinator Gabrielle Padilla, and Program Book Coordinator Lanson Wells.

And finally, thank you to *all of you*. For showing up. For bringing your instruments, your curiosity, your questions, your listening, and your presence. This festival is not just a collection of events—it is what happens when people decide to share time, sound, and attention and see what emerges.

There is no way to see everything. That's okay. Just follow what pulls you in— or, at the very least, follow the sound of Walton and hope for the best.

Welcome to the 2026 AVS Festival.

Christina Ebersohl-Van Scyoc
2026 Festival Coordinator

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2026 American Viola Society Festival

WEDNESDAY JUNE 3, 2026 | DEDICATION



YITZHAK SCHOTTEN (1943-2024)

Born in Haifa, Israel, in 1943, Yitzhak Schotten became one of the most influential violists and teachers of his generation. Inspired as a teenager after hearing William Primrose on the radio, Schotten went on to study with both Primrose and Lillian Fuchs, developing a distinguished career as a soloist, chamber musician, orchestral principal, and educator. He performed with major orchestras including the Boston Symphony Orchestra and served as principal violist of the Houston Symphony Orchestra.

An internationally respected pedagogue, Schotten joined the faculty of the University of Michigan School of Music in 1985 after teaching at Rice University Shepherd School of Music and the University of Washington. He presented masterclasses and performances throughout the world and served as artistic director of the XIV International Viola Congress. In recognition of his extraordinary contributions to viola performance and teaching, he received the American Viola Society Career Achievement Award in 2020.

2026 American Viola Society Festival

WEDNESDAY JUNE 3, 2026 | SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY

JUNE 3, 2026

8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Registration

Lower Lobby (Forbes, Downstairs)

8:30 am - 11:30 am

AVSF Collegiate Solo Competition

Jurors:

Room 1115 (Forbes Center)

Cello Suite no.#, BWV <i>I. Prelude</i>	J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
<i>Speed Etude</i>	Quincy Porter (1897-1966)
Concerto <i>I.</i>	Composer (dates)

Flora Cummings, *viola*
Aleksandra Velgosha, *piano*

Cello Suite no.#, BWV <i>I. Prelude</i>	J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
<i>Speed Etude</i>	Quincy Porter (1897-1966)
Concerto <i>I.</i>	Composer (dates)

Pengzi Zhu, *viola*
Aleksandra Velgosha, *piano*

Cello Suite no.#, BWV <i>I. Prelude</i>	J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
<i>Speed Etude</i>	Quincy Porter (1897-1966)
Concerto <i>I.</i>	Composer (dates)

Limin Huang, *viola*
Aleksandra Velgosha, *piano*

2026 American Viola Society Festival

WEDNESDAY JUNE 3, 2026 | SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY

JUNE 3, 2026

Cello Suite no.#, BWV <i>I. Prelude</i>	J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
<i>Speed Etude</i>	Quincy Porter (1897-1966)
Concerto <i>I.</i>	Composer (dates)

Jinglin Zhou, *viola*
Aleksandra Velgosha, *piano*

Cello Suite no.#, BWV <i>I. Prelude</i>	J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
<i>Speed Etude</i>	Quincy Porter (1897-1966)
Concerto <i>I.</i>	Composer (dates)

Aubrey Williamson, *viola*
Adam Shenk, *piano*

Cello Suite no.#, BWV <i>I. Prelude</i>	J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
<i>Speed Etude</i>	Quincy Porter (1897-1966)
Concerto <i>I.</i>	Composer (dates)

Zihan Zhiang, *viola*
Adam Shenk, *piano*

AVSF Junior Competition

Jurors:

Recital Hall (Forbes)

Cello Suite no.#, BWV <i>I. Prelude</i>	J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
Baracolle	Blance Blood (1882-1933)
Concerto <i>I.</i>	Composer (dates)

Freya Price, *viola*
Denzel (Enzo) Abarquez, *piano*

2026 American Viola Society Festival

WEDNESDAY JUNE 3, 2026 | SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY

JUNE 3, 2026

Cello Suite no.#, BWV <i>I. Prelude</i>	J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
Barocolle	Blance Blood (1882-1933)
Concerto <i>I.</i>	Composer (dates)

Addison Ellis-Ottovo, *viola*
Denzel (Enzo) Abarquez, piano

Cello Suite no.#, BWV <i>I. Prelude</i>	J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
Barocolle	Blance Blood (1882-1933)
Concerto <i>I.</i>	Composer (dates)

Yuxi Bai, *viola*
Tingting Yao, piano

Cello Suite no.#, BWV <i>I. Prelude</i>	J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
Barocolle	Blance Blood (1882-1933)
Concerto <i>I.</i>	Composer (dates)

Sophie Wilkes, *viola*
Rosa Park, piano

Cello Suite no.#, BWV <i>I. Prelude</i>	J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
Barocolle	Blance Blood (1882-1933)
Concerto <i>I.</i>	Composer (dates)

Yuxuan Bai, *viola*
Tingting Yao, piano

2026 American Viola Society Festival

WEDNESDAY JUNE 3, 2026 | SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY

JUNE 3, 2026

11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Opening Cermonies

Concert Hall (Forbes Center)

1:00 pm

Exhibit Hall Opens

Forbes Lower Lobby and Grand Lobby

1:30 pm - 4:30 pm

AVSF Senior Solo Competition

Jurors:

Room 1115 (Forbes Center)

Cello Suite no. #, BWV <i>I. Prelude</i>	J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
Lullaby for viola and piano	Julia Klumpkey (1870-1961)
Concerto <i>I.</i>	Composer (dates)
Heejae (Kayla) Kim, <i>viola</i> Tingting Yao, <i>piano</i>	

Cello Suite no. #, BWV <i>I. Prelude</i>	J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
Lullaby for viola and piano	Julia Klumpkey (1870-1961)
Concerto <i>I.</i>	Composer (dates)
David Rankin, <i>viola</i> Tingting Yao, <i>piano</i>	

Cello Suite no. #, BWV <i>I. Prelude</i>	J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
Lullaby for viola and piano	Julia Klumpkey (1870-1961)
Concerto <i>I.</i>	Composer (dates)
Macy Brummal, <i>viola</i> Rosa Park, <i>piano</i>	

2026 American Viola Society Festival

WEDNESDAY JUNE 3, 2026 | SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY

JUNE 3, 2026

Cello Suite no.#, BWV <i>I. Prelude</i>	J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
Lullaby for viola and piano	Julia Klumpkey (1870-1961)
Concerto <i>I.</i>	Composer (dates)
Tony Jin, <i>viola</i> Rosa Park, <i>piano</i>	

Cello Suite no.#, BWV <i>I. Prelude</i>	J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
Lullaby for viola and piano	Julia Klumpkey (1870-1961)
Concerto <i>I.</i>	Composer (dates)
Sunjoo Lucas Park, <i>viola</i> Rosa Park, <i>piano</i>	

1:30 pm - 4:30 pm

AVSF Orchestra Audition Competition & Seminar

Jurors:
Room 108 (Music Building-Large Band Room)

The Orchestra Audition Competition & Seminar provides a unique experience for Festival attendees to listen behind the screen from the perspective of the judging panel. The Semi-Final and Final round will be followed by a panel discussion from the jurors on the audition process.
Orchestra Audition Competition Finalists: Jacob Burk, Amanda Kellman, Madilynn Price, Samantha Peng, and Angela Rubin

1:30 pm - 2:30 pm

AVS Shared Recital: *Portrait of a woman*

Recital Hall (Forbes)

Diane Phoenix-Neal & Sherry Grant. This multimedia recital celebrates 20th- and 21st-century works by female composers from New Zealand, Taiwan, the United States, Venezuela, and Australia, including Chihchun Chi-sun Lee 李志純, Jessie Montgomery, and Johanna Selleck.

2026 American Viola Society Festival

WEDNESDAY JUNE 3, 2026 | SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY

JUNE 3, 2026

1:30 pm - 2:30 pm

Explosive Viola Music! Find It, play it, Help make it.

Room 142/Choir Room (Music)

Michael Delfin & Michale Hall. This lecture-recital challenges the stereotype of the viola as purely melancholic through two energetic contemporary works: Krakatoa by Stacy Garrop and Zing Boom by Michelle McQuade Dewhirst. Combining performance and discussion, the program explores collaboration, commissioning, and the viola's virtuosic and expressive possibilities.

The Few, The Proud, The Violas: The State of the Union

Room 318 (Music)

Alice Sprinkle. This lecture, based on a 2026 PhD study, examines the current viola world through cultural, pedagogical, and psycho-sociological perspectives using data from sixty participants. It explores key issues such as identity, repertoire, stereotypes, health, and pedagogy, offering insight into today's viola community and its challenges.

2:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Rethinking Bach's Cello Suites

Room 321 (Music)

Edward Klorman. This presentation explores new scholarship on Bach's Cello Suites, focusing on their origins, sources, and performance history on cello and viola. It challenges longstanding assumptions and encourages a more open, experimental approach to these foundational works.

Underrepresented Twice: Unknown Soviet Repertoire by Female Composers and Ethnic Minorities

Room 204 (Music)

Nathan Pollak. This lecture-recital explores overlooked Soviet-era viola works by Alexander Shchetynsky, Elena Firsova, and Khayyam Mirzazade, highlighting expressive, experimental repertoire shaped by cultural identity and political context, and encouraging expansion of the viola canon.

2:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Electric Viola Workshop: Signature Artist Rudolf Haken

Room 108/Large Band Room (Music)

Explore the expressive possibilities of the electric viola with pioneering performer and innovator Rudolf Haken.

2026 American Viola Society Festival

WEDNESDAY JUNE 3, 2026 | SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY

JUNE 3, 2026

3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Violin To Viola: Developing an Efficient Pedagogy

Room 318 (Music)

Peijun Xu. This presentation explores practical strategies for helping violinists transition successfully to the viola through an integrated approach to string pedagogy. Covering technique, clef reading, repertoire, and level-appropriate studies, the session highlights how combining violin and viola training can strengthen musicianship and expand opportunities.

Gamifying the practice room

Room 142/Choir Room (Music)

Nick Revel. *DragonScales: The Hero Levels* is a fantasy-based etude system that turns viola practice into an immersive storytelling experience. This lecture-recital demonstrates how narrative, play-along audio, and progressive studies can build technique while making learning more engaging and collaborative.

AVS Shared Recital: Beethoven's Violin Sonatas for Viola

Recital Hall (Forbes)

Eric Wong, John Paul Younes, Tanav Gowda, & Nathan Cheung This program features Beethoven's violin sonatas, transcribed for viola and piano by Eric Wong, tracing his stylistic evolution from Classical clarity to Romantic intensity. Including Sonata No. 1 in D major, Op. 12, the "Spring" Sonata Op. 24, and the dramatic "Kreutzer" Sonata Op. 47, the recital highlights the expressive range of the viola across three contrasting works.

4:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Integrating Pop Music & Diverse Composers in the Beginner Viola Studio

Room 321 (Music)

Johanna Beaver. This session introduces beginner-friendly viola arrangements of pop, jazz, and contemporary music designed to better reflect students' musical worlds while reinforcing core technique. Featuring works by artists such as Taylor Swift, Billie Eilish, and Lin-Manuel Miranda, the resource pairs accessible repertoire with clear pedagogical goals and traditional method books.

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Exhibitor Break: Catered

Forbes Lower Lobby (Downstairs) and Grand Lobby (Upstairs)

2026 American Viola Society Festival

WEDNESDAY JUNE 3, 2026 | SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY

JUNE 3, 2026

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Signature Artist Concert: Victoria Chiang - Elegance & Expression

Concert Hall (Forbes)

Brandenburg Concerto no.6

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

I. Allegro

II. Adagio ma non tanto

III. Allegro

Victoria Chiang and Lynne Ramsey, solo viola

Stephanie Knutsen and Danielle Wiebe, viola

Diana Flesner, cello

Sam Suggs, double bass

Lynne Mackey, harpsichord

Viola Concerto in G Major (TWV 51:G9)

Georg Philipp Telemann (1681-1767)

I. Largo

II. Allegro

III. Andante

IV. Presto

Victoria Chiang, viola

String Quartet of Northern Virginia

Lynne Mackey, harpsichord

INTERMISSION

Sinfonia Concertante in E-Flat Major (K.364)

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

I. Allegro maestoso

II. Andante

III. Presto

Victoria Chiang, viola

David Perry, violin

AVSF Chamber Orchestra: Dr. Kira Omelchenko, conductor

2026 American Viola Society Festival

SIGNATURE ARTIST, VICTORIA CHIANG



VICTORIA CHIANG has performed as soloist, recitalist, and chamber musician across North America, Europe and Asia. Her most recent recording of the viola concertos of Stamitz and Hoffmeister was released by Naxos to critical acclaim. Other recordings include Pleyel Sinfonia Concertante for Violin and Viola also on Naxos as well as a recording of Shostakovich and Roslavets Viola sonatas. She has performed as soloist with the National Philharmonic Orchestra, The National Gallery of Art Orchestra, the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra, the Romanian State Philharmonics of Constantza and Tirgu Muresh, the Duluth Superior Symphony Orchestra, the Acadiana Symphony (Lafayette, LA) and the Baltimore Chamber Orchestra. Ms. Chiang has collaborated as guest artist with Guarneri, Takacs, Tokyo, American, Arianna and Pro Arte String Quartets, and with members of the Emerson, Cleveland, and Juilliard String Quartets. She has been a regular guest artist at the Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival, a frequent guest on the Bargemusic series, and has given solo performances in Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall and at the XXV, XXXVIII and XL International Viola Congresses.

Ms. Chiang is a founding member of The Aspen String Trio. The group concertizes internationally, and was Ensemble in Residence at the University of Baltimore for six seasons. In addition to being on the faculty of the Peabody Conservatory of Music and the Aspen Music Festival, Ms. Chiang has recently joined the viola faculty at the McDuffie Center at Mercer University. Formerly on the faculty of The Juilliard School and the Hartt School of Music, and a former member of the board of the American Viola Society, her students hold significant positions in orchestras, in string quartets, and on conservatory faculties across the US and in Europe. Additionally, Ms. Chiang has taught at the Perlman Music Program: Winter Residency in Sarasota, Madeline Island Chamber Music Festival, Heifetz International music Institute, Domaine Forget, Great Wall Festival (Beijing) among others.

Ms. Chiang earned the Master of Music degree and Performer's Certificate from the Eastman School of Music, and the Bachelor of Music degree from the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. Her principal teachers include Heidi Castleman and Masao Kawasaki, viola; and Dorothy DeLay and Kurt Sassmannshaus, violin.

NEW BÄRENREITER EDITIONS for Viola



Bohuslav Martinů **Rhapsody-Concerto for Viola and Orchestra H 337**

URTEXT / Eds. A. Březina, P. Silverthorne, J. Zichová
Piano reduction BA11751-90

The “Rhapsody-Concerto” is the first work from Martinů’s so-called “Fantasy Period.” It is characterized by a lightening and loosening of compositional structure. The term “Rhapsody” underscores the work’s freer form and predominantly meditative character. It was composed in 1952.

Johann Sebastian Bach **Three Sonatas and Three Partitas for Violin solo BWV 1001–1006**

Arranged for **Viola Solo**
by C. Park BA05276

J. S. Bach’s sonatas and partitas for solo violin as well as his suites for solo cello are among the highlights of eighteenth-century solo string literature. Conductor, violist, and educator Chung Park based his arrangements of these works for solo viola on a thorough study of the Bärenreiter Urtext editions of the originals. His editions provide elegant and idiomatic solutions to the technical challenges of playing these works on the viola.

Georg Philipp Telemann

Twelve Fantasias for Viola da Gamba without Bass TWV 40: 26–37

Arranged for **Viola Solo** by M. Galaganov
BA10885

Telemann’s fantasias for viola da gamba remained largely unknown until recently—the only surviving copy of these works was rediscovered in 2015. Violist Misha Galaganov has arranged them for solo viola, largely preserving the original musical text. A foreword (Eng/ Ger) and a detailed commentary on readings and editorial issues (Eng) explain his approach to the arrangement and offer practical playing tips.

Johann Sebastian Bach **Six Suites for Violoncello solo BWV 1007-1012**

Arranged for **Viola Solo**
by C. Park BA05272



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2026 American Viola Society Festival

THURSDAY JUNE 4, 2026 | DEDICATION



KAREN RITSCHER (1952-2025)

This festival day is dedicated to violist Karen Ritscher, a deeply influential performer, teacher, and movement practitioner whose work reshaped viola pedagogy and embodied musicianship.

Ritscher taught at institutions including the Manhattan School of Music, NYU, Boston University, Rice University, Mannes, Oberlin, and the Eastman School of Music, and shared her expertise through workshops across the Americas, Europe, and Asia. A longtime faculty member of the Karen Tuttle Coordination Workshop, she helped generations of violists develop tension-free, expressive playing rooted in physical and emotional awareness.

As a performer, she served as principal or assistant principal with ensembles including the Dallas Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Brooklyn Philharmonic, and American Composers Orchestra, and appeared with groups such as the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra and New York City Ballet Orchestra. She was also active as a soloist and chamber musician, championing new works by leading contemporary composers.

A certified 5Rhythms teacher, Ritscher integrated movement and music in workshops with artists, caregivers, and medical communities, including her "Dancing with Dementia" work in New York City.

Her legacy lives on in her teaching, writing, and artistry, and in her belief that music is a fully embodied act of expression, healing, and connection.