



American violinist Daniel Rafimayeri is the 2019 Burdick-Thorne Gold medalist of the Stulberg International String Competition, where he also received the award for best performance of Bach. Highlights of his recent solo engagements include performances of Bruch Concerto with The Baltimore Chamber Symphony, The Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra, and The York Symphony Orchestra. Daniel was selected to perform solo Bach with the Juilliard 2023 Spring Dances and won the 2023 Salon de Virtuosi career grant. He is a featured artist with the French Consulate in New York City and has performed on the stages of Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully at Lincoln Center, Summer Stage, Miller Auditorium, Kosciuszko Foundation, Harris Concert Hall at the Aspen Music Festival, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

A dedicated chamber musician, Daniel has performed in multiple chamber showcases with The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and his pre-college chamber group won the Manhattan School of Music chamber competition. Daniel was selected for the Wu Han/David Finckel chamber program at the Aspen Music Festival, the Heifetz International Music Institute, The Young Artists Program in Ottawa, Keshet Eilon Music Center, Music Academy of the West, and Greenwood Chamber Music Camp in Massachusetts.

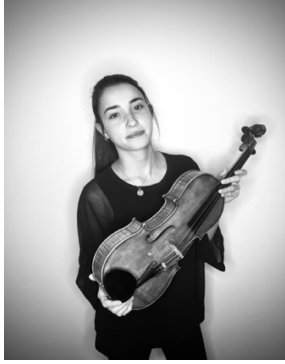
Of French-Iranian heritage Daniel was born and raised in New York City, where he attended Hunter College Elementary and High School and the Manhattan School of Music pre-college program. An alum of NPR's From The Top, Daniel won the NYYS concerto competition and soloed with The Manhattan School of Music Philharmonic. He holds a Bachelor's degree in violin performance from The Juilliard School where he is currently pursuing a Masters with Catherine Cho and Ronald Copes. His previous teachers include Patinka Kopec, Shmuel Ashkenasi, Si-Jing Huang, and Paul Biss.



French violinist Alix Auclair began playing the violin at the age of five, inspired by her cellist sister. She began her formal musical training in 2013 at the Chartres Conservatory before becoming a student of Maurice Moulin. She also received musical instruction from Catherine Brière, a professor at the Paris Conservatory. In 2019, Alix was admitted to the Boulogne-Billancourt CRR, where she joined Professor Catherine Montier's studio and began studying chamber music with pianist Aline Bartissol.

Starting in 2016, Alix achieved success in several competitions: she received a *1st* at the 2016 Épinal Competition, a 2nd prize at the 2017 Vatelot-Rampal Competition, and a *1st Prize* at the 2017 Épinal Competition. In the summer of 2022, Alix met Professor Chloé Kiffer at the MusicAlp Festival in Tignes, France. A year later, she was accepted into the Manhattan School of Music with a full scholarship to study in Kiffer's studio.

While in New York, Alix has performed at the French Embassy and the French Consulate for events such as "L'Entraide Française" and "L'Âge d'Or." Most recently, she performed and recorded for the New York Theatre Ballet.



French-Israeli violist Ella Bukszpan began studying the violin at age 7 with Emma Elishov, and at age 14, switched to viola and studied with Delia Yaakov at the Israeli Conservatory of Music in Tel Aviv, and continued her studies with Tali Kravitz at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance. She holds a bachelor degree from the Manhattan School of Music and is currently pursuing her Master degree, studying with both Pinchas Zukerman and Patinka Kopec at the Manhattan School of Music.

Ella participated in music programs and festivals such as the Perlman Music Program, Young Artists Program, Keshet Eilon Summer Program, Aspen Music Festival, Musethica, Summer Music Academy of Nice, Astona Summer Music Academy, and Polyphony Foundation.

In addition, she has collaborated with distinguished artists such as members of the American String Quartet, Jerusalem Quartet, Juilliard Quartet, Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, and Israel Philharmonic.

Ella is a Thelma Yellin High School of the Arts graduate who has performed solo with the school's symphony orchestra. She participated in the David Goldman Chamber Music Program for Outstanding Musicians at the Jerusalem Music Center and was a Young Israel Philharmonic Orchestra member. Ella has served in the Israeli Defense Force as an "Outstanding Musician."

Ella received numerous scholarships and awards, such as the Havah Stern Excellence Scholarship, America-Israel Cultural Foundation, Ronen Foundation, and Zefunot Culture Foundation. Yehuda Zisapelize at the Ruth Widder Chamber Music Competition and 1st prize at the American String Quartet Competition at the Manhattan School of Music.

Ella serves as a viola and violin faculty at the Thurnauer School of Music at the Kaplen JCC in New Jersey, as a substitute viola and violin faculty at the Manhattan School of Music pre-college division, and served as a viola and violin faculty at the Anselmo Academy Music School. Ella plays on a viola made by Jacob Stainer in 1660, generously loaned to her by Mr. Yehuda Zisapel.



Canadian cellist Matthew Christakos joined the New York Philharmonic as Associate Principal Cello in January 2024. Originally from Toronto, he studied with Peter Wiley and Gary Hoffman at the Curtis Institute of Music, and has served as principal cello of the Curtis Symphony Orchestra, National Youth Orchestra of Canada, and Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra. Christakos's recent honors include the 2019 Canada Council for the Arts's Michael Measures Prize, second prize in the Canadian Music Competition's 2019 Stepping Stone, and first prize in the 2017 Toronto Kiwanis Music Festival President's Trophy Competition. CBC Music included him in its 2019 edition of 30 hot Canadian classical musicians under 30.

Before attending Curtis, Christakos studied in Toronto at the Royal Conservatory of Music's Phil and Eli Taylor Performance Academy for Young Artists, where he won the concerto competition and performed as soloist with the Academy Chamber Orchestra. In 2019 he toured Canada and Spain as a featured soloist with the National Youth Orchestra of Canada. He is an alumnus of the Morningside Music Bridge program. He previously studied with David Hetherington and Hans Jørgen Jensen. He began cello at age four.

