



**GRAND VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY**[®]

**DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC,
THEATRE, AND DANCE**

CelloFest Ensemble Concert

3:00 P.M.

Sunday, October 30, 2022

Louis Armstrong Theatre

Haas Center for Performing Arts

GVSU Allendale Campus

Program

Elegy op. 24 for cello and ensemble
Alicia Gregorian Sawyers

Gabriel Fauré
(1845 – 1924)

Violoncelles, vibrez! for two cellos and ensemble
Dr. Henry Duitman, conductor
Igor Cetkovic and Pablo Mahave-Veglia

Giovanni Sollima
(b. 1962)

Empty City for two cellos
Nick Photinos and Kevin Flynn

Yoav Shemesh
(b. 1981)

Hymnus op. 57 for twelve cellos
Dr. Henry Duitman, conductor
Natasha Farny, Nicholas Photinos, Igor Cetkovic, Mac Wyn
Alicia Gregorian Sawyers, Kevin Flynn, Levi Smith, Ethan Akers
Pablo Mahave-Veglia, Jordan Bancino, Alex Bowers, Alexis Bergsma

Julius Klengel
(1859 – 1933)

Two Chorales
Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685 – 1750)

From Rumanian Folk Dances (arr. Seymour)
Jocul cu bâță (Stick Dance)
Brâul (Sash Dance)
Buciumeana (Dance from Bucsum)
Măruntel (Fast Dance)

Béla Bartók
(1881 – 1945)

Nimrod from Enigma Variations op. 36 (arr. Johnstone)
Dr. Henry Duitman, conductor
Pablo Mahave-Veglia, Amelia Turrell, Kevin Flynn, Nick Photinos,
Ella Hengeveld, Alicia Gregorian Sawyers, Joseph Song, Jordan Bancino,
Natasha Farny, Karina Chung, Alex Bowers, Igor Cetkovic, Kenji Crawford,
Benjamin Lee, Mac Wyn, Kit DeGraw, Levi Smith, Maria Rocha,
Sophia Anderson, Ethan Akers, Emily Ryan, Amelia Turrell

Edward Elgar
(1857 – 1934)

Bios

Alicia Gregorian Sawyers is the principal cellist of the West Michigan Symphony. She is a native of East Lansing, MI where she started her musical training from an early age. She received her Masters Degree from New England Conservatory in 2008, studying with Natasha Brofsky and before that, her BM in 2006 from Michigan State University, studying with Suren Bagratuni. A diverse musician, Mrs. Sawyers has performed with famous artists ranging from Itzhak Perlman to Stevie Wonder and in 2015 she was invited to be a part of the pilot musicians that created the first music videos for Bar-rage 8. She has appeared in concert at Jordan Hall, Sanders Theater, Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall for the Mostly Mozart Festival. Mrs. Sawyers has spent her summers at various music festivals including the Bowdoin International Music Festival (ME), The Meadowmount School of Music (NY) and The Perlman Music Program (NY). As an orchestral musician, she has had the pleasure to work with many great conductors, including Joseph Silverstein and Hugh Wolf. A passionate chamber musician, she has had the opportunity to work with renowned musicians such as Paul Katz, Roger Tapping and members of the Borromeo and Juilliard String Quartets. She has been a guest performer at the Saugatuck (MI), White Lake (MI) and Four Seasons (NC) Chamber Music Festivals on various occasions. Living in Grand Rapids, MI, Mrs. Sawyers performs with several orchestras throughout the area and around the state. A dedicated teacher, Mrs. Sawyers currently teaches for the String Academy of Grand Rapids and maintains a studio of 20 students. She has been on Faculty at New England Music Camp (ME) and Blue Lake Suzuki Family Camp (MI).

Multi-Grammy Award-winning cellist **Nick Photinos** is one of the most innovative and multifaceted cellists of our time. An ardent advocate of new music, he has worked closely with many of the foremost composers of this era and has premiered hundreds of works throughout his career. Apart from four Grammy wins, he has received Musical America's Ensemble of the Year Award, the Macarthur Award for Creative and Effective Institutions, the inaugural Chamber Music America Visionary Award, the Naumburg

and the Concert Artists Guild Grand Prize. Described as a “commanding soloist” (ClevelandClassical.com) whose “virtuoso cello playing is scintillating” (Chicago Classical Review) and “outstanding for his exquisite precision” (SFCV.org), Photinos has collaborated and toured with an astounding array of artists including rock/pop artists Björk, Wilco, Bryce Dessner, Bonnie “Prince” Billy, film composer Gustavo Santaolalla, classical artists Dawn Upshaw, Philip Glass, the Bang on a Can All-Stars, and jazz artists including Sheila Jordan, Laurence Hobgood, Zach Brock, and Matt Ulery. He has appeared as soloist with numerous orchestras including the Cleveland, Philadelphia, Cincinnati, Toronto, Utah, and Atlanta Symphonies, the last with whom he recorded Jennifer Higdon’s *On a Wire*. He has performed across the globe including the Sydney Opera House, the Barbican in London, KBC Hall in Seoul, Carnegie Hall in New York City, Walt Disney Hall in Los Angeles, and Red Rocks Amphitheatre outside Denver. This season Photinos debuts in Sweden, at the National Gallery of Art in Washington DC, in a solo recital at the Winnipeg Gallery of Art, and at the inaugural Chosen Vale International Cello Seminar. He also performs across nine US states and returns as a soloist to the Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival and the Bang on a Can Summer Festival, where he has taught since 2007. In 2019 he reached millions of listeners on “Live from Here” with Chris Thile and on Netflix’s original movie *The Two Popes*. During Photinos’ 24-year tenure as the founding cellist and co-Artistic Director of Eighth Blackbird, he performed over 1000 concerts and premiered hundreds of new works, including Steve Reich’s Pulitzer Prize-winning *Double Sextet* and works by Andy Akiho, Michael Gordon, Amy Beth Kirsten, David Lang, David T. Little, Nico Muhly, Carlos Sanchez-Gutierrez, Julia Wolfe, and Pamela Z. Eighth Blackbird held multi-year residency positions at the Curtis Institute of Music, the University of Chicago, and at the University of Richmond. Photinos is a graduate of Northwestern University, the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, and the Oberlin Conservatory of Music. He lives in the Chicago area with his daughter and wife, with whom he is co-Artistic Director of Chamber Music at Bethany, a concert series bringing world-class instrumental and vocal chamber music to Chicago’s north side.

Kevin Flynn is pursuing his Doctor of Music at Indiana University as the Eva Heinitz Memorial Scholar and assistant to his teacher, Emilio Colón. He received his Master of Music from Indiana University, and a double Bachelor of Arts in Cello and Philosophy from Grand Valley State University, studying under Pablo Mahave-Veglia. He has played in other eclectic venues including Constellation Chicago, Yellowstone National Park, and Old San Juan's Castillo San Cristobal. He has been a guest on American Public Media's Performance Today in I CARE IF YOU LISTEN. Previous engagements include concerts across Canada with The Magisterra Soloists, GVSU New Music Ensemble's 2016 National Parks Tour, Bloomington Indiana Early Music Festival, Fresch Inc. Festival with Fifth House Ensemble, and the Tafelmusik Baroque Summer Institute. He made his first commercial recording as a member of the Grand Valley State University New Music Ensemble, a CD of newly-commissioned works celebrating the centennial of the National Parks Service, released in April 2020 through Innova Recordings. Kevin has served as an adjunct lecturer in music theory in the GVSU music department, and as a teaching assistant in the GVSU Philosophy department. His hobbies include cooking with cast iron, taking pictures of his cat, and losing at chess.

A native of Belgrade, Serbia, cellist **Igor Cetkovic** enjoys a career as a soloist, chamber musician, orchestra member, and educator. Igor has served with orchestras across Europe and the United States, including the Bergen Philharmonic, Stavanger Symphony Orchestra, the Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestra, and as solo cellist of the Serbian chamber orchestra, "The St. George Strings". A winner of many national and regional competitions and performance awards, Igor finished his doctoral studies at Michigan State University, studying under the renowned Suren Bagratuni. He also holds degrees from Stavanger University, University of Belgrade and Central Michigan University. Igor's other principal teachers include his father Relja Cetkovic, Sandra Belic, Liv Opdal and Jamie Fiste. Currently, Mr. Cetkovic plays principal cello and is an artist-in-residence with the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra, assistant principal cello of the West Michigan Symphony, principal cellist of the Saginaw Bay

Symphony and cellist for Burdick-Thorne String Quartet. In addition to his performing schedule, Igor enjoys teaching both college and high-school students. Mr. Cetkovic is a former cello professor at Albion College and has given masterclasses at the Flint Institute of Music and for MASTA (Michigan chapter of American String Teachers Association).

American cellist **Natasha Farny** has performed with the Boston Symphony, the Buffalo Philharmonic, and several regional orchestras throughout New York state. Solo and chamber music tours include appearances in Germany, the Czech Republic, Italy, and Brazil, and nationally at Chicago's Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concerts, Brooklyn's Bargemusic "Here and Now" Series, and Florida's BIG ARTS Sanibel series. Ms. Farny's debut CD of French cello music on the Centaur label appeared in January 2020. Nationally, Ms. Farny has performed live on radio programs including Chicago's "Live from WFMT", and is a regular guest at WXXI's "Live from Hochstein" series in Rochester, New York. In the 2022 season, her duo Ekstasis with pianist Eliran Avni will premiere Avner Dorman's new Double Concerto, release their first CD called "Women's Voices," and present recitals in Michigan and Massachusetts. Recent performances have taken the duo to Merkin Hall, Strings Music Festival (CO), The Holland Theater (OH), and the Del E. Webb Performing Arts Center (AZ). She has been appointed to numerous summer festivals including the Sewanee Music Festival, the Brancaloni International Music Festival, the National Music Festival (MD), and the Colorado Music Festival. During the year, holds a professorship at the School of Music at SUNY Fredonia.

Cellist **Pablo Mahave-Veglia** resides in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where he is a Professor at Grand Valley State University. Mr. Mahave-Veglia is a cellist and teacher of broad interests whose repertoire ranges from the early baroque, performed on period instruments, to his ongoing interest in researching, performing and recording the work of contemporary Latin-American composers. He counts among his musical influences his late mother, the noted piano pedagogue Mercedes Veglia, as well as such artists/teachers as Arnaldo Fuentes,

Steven Doane, Tsuyoshi Tsutsumi, Janos Starker and Uri Vardi. Over the last couple of seasons he has been much in demand as a chamber musician, joining the roster for the Ontario-based “Magisterra Soloist” for a tour of eastern Canada, as well as performing as a member of the Harlem Chamber Players during their residency at the University of Iowa. This last year he played the complete Vivaldi Sonatas with harpsichordist Gregory Crowell at the “Music at Penn Alps” in Maryland, as well as travelling to his native Chile to play a recital at the Frutillar Festival, and play the Saint-Saëns Concerto with orchestras in Antofagasta and La Serena. An alumnus of the Interlochen Arts Academy, Dr. Mahave-Veglia holds degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Indiana University and the Eastman School of Music. Mr. Mahave-Veglia has recorded for the *Eroica*, *Centaur*, *Audite*, *Ghostly International* and *Innova* labels.



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For updated information on Music, Theatre, and Dance events, please visit
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If you are interested in supporting Music, Theatre, and Dance programs, please consider contacting Grand Valley's University Development Office at 616-331-6000 or universitydevelopment@gvsu.edu.

The use of cameras, video cameras, or recording devices is strictly prohibited. Please remember to turn off your cell phones.

GVSU Music Faculty

Gregory Alley	Sam Gould	Danny Phipps
Corie Auger	Adam Graham	Bill Ryan
Christopher Belland	Dan Graser	James Sawyer
Rachael Bergan	Ying-Jou Huang	Dale Scriemer
Ryan Blok	Letitia Jap	Joel Schut
Richard Britsch	Robert Johnson	Dan Scott
Arthur Campbell	Gary June	Greg Secor
Paul Carlson	Shirley Lemon	Kathryn Stieler
Sookkyung Cho	Andrew Lenhart	Paul Swantek
Robin Connell	Kája Lill	Kevin Tutt
Greg Crowell	Pablo Mahave-Veglia	Alexis VanZalen
Michael Drost	Helen Marlais	Marlen Vavrikova
Lisa Feurzeig	Barry Martin	Kody Wallace
Andrew Focks	John Martin	Abigail Walsh
Tim Froncek	Christopher Mason	Mark Williams
Beth Gibbs	Chuck Norris	Alex Wilson
Patricia Gordon	Victoria Olsen	Molly York

Upcoming MTD Events

- November 4 at 7:30 p.m. - *A Minister's Wife*. KBB, PAC
November 5 at 7:30 p.m. - *A Minister's Wife*. KBB, PAC
November 6 at 2:00 p.m. - *A Minister's Wife*. KBB, PAC
November 6 at 5:00 p.m. - Faculty Recital: Pablo Mahave-Veglia, cello. SVS
November 6 at 5:00 p.m. - GV Piano Series: FrenchFest #2. St. Mark's
November 7 at 5:00 p.m. - GV Piano Series: FrenchFest #2. SVS, PAC
November 7 at 7:00 p.m. - South Chicago Dance Theatre. LAT, PAC
November 9 at 7:30 p.m. - Guest Artist: Oliver Jia, piano. SVS, PAC
November 11 at 7:30 p.m. - New Music Ensemble. LAT Lobby, PAC
November 12 at 7:00 p.m. - New Music Initiative. LAT, PAC
November 18 at 7:30 p.m. - *Gloria*. KBB, PAC
November 19 at 7:30 p.m. - *Gloria*. KBB, PAC
November 20 at 2:00 p.m. - *Gloria*. KBB, PAC
November 20 at 3:00 p.m. - Guest Artist: Piano Duo. SVS, PAC
November 20 at 7:30 p.m. - Early Music Ensemble. SVS, PAC
November 29 at 7:30 p.m. - Symphony Orchestra. LAT, PAC
November 30 at 7:30 p.m. - Concert Band. LAT, PAC