

SARAH CUPIT



CELLO – Faculty Assistant

Sarah started playing the cello at the age of 3 and at 9 years old, she became a member of the Mooredale Youth Orchestra in Toronto. In 2014, Sarah moved to London Ontario where her studies began with Julia MacGregor. She sat as principal cellist in the London Youth Symphony and was featured as a soloist in 2016 performing R. Strauss' Romanze in F major and in 2018 she was invited to perform the Boccherini Cello Concerto in B flat with the London Community Orchestra.

In 2017, Sarah was selected to play principal cellist for the Montreal Suzuki String Orchestras' European tour which included performances in Vienna, Prague, Munich and Salzburg. The orchestra competed in the Summa Cum Laude International Youth Festival in Vienna and was awarded third place for their performance.

During Sarah's membership to the Forest City Talent Education program, she played principal cellist for their senior orchestra. She especially enjoyed participating in their chamber program inspiring her to pursue these interests at the Young Artists Pre-College Academy in 2018. There she performed Mendelssohn's Octet in Eb and played in weekly recitals and master class series. Sarah's chamber performances include, her quartet representing the National Music Camp at the Gala fundraiser for the Minstrel foundation which was held at Casa Loma in Toronto.

Currently, Sarah is a student at the University of Ottawa studying with Paul Marleyn. Her summer activities include working at the Sound Post and current assistant to the faculty at YAPCA, where she combines and shares her talents in tech support, creativity, programming and overall musical knowledge.

LEN INGRAO



CONDUCTOR

Len Ingrao is Artistic Director of the London Community Orchestra and the London Youth Symphony. He began studying conducting with Charles Zachary Bornstein in London Ontario and became Artistic Assistant Conductor of the London Mozart Festival in 1985. Subsequent training was with Karl Österreicher (Vienna, as auditor), John Barrnum (Toronto), and Gustav Meier (Windsor, Kitchener, and London OFSO Workshops).

Len was Assistant Conductor of the UWO Symphony Orchestra (1990-94) under Prof. Jerome Summers and Assistant Conductor with UWOPERA (1991-1999) under Prof. Jim McKay. He was Assistant Conductor to Stan Kopac for the London Youth Symphony (1997-2002) and the Niagara Youth Symphony (1997-2000). With that ensemble, he recorded Mendelssohn's Hebrides Overture on CD and conducted them during their 1998 European Tour of Holland, Germany, Belgium and France.

Guest appearances include the Windsor Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra London Canada, the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony Orchestra, and the Woodstock Strings. In June-July 2002, he led the London Youth Symphony on its tour of Austria and Italy, and on Remembrance Day 2006 he conducted LYS during a performance of Elgar's Violoncello Concerto at the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa, the first time a symphony orchestra had performed at the venue. He was also Principal Conductor of the Waterloo Chamber Players from 2002-2009, and Conductor of the UWO Chamber Orchestra in 2007-2008.

JOSEPH LANZA



VIOLIN

2018-2019 is Joseph Lanza's 31st season as Concertmaster of London Symphonia and its forerunner, Orchestra London. He has been a regular soloist with the ensemble in every musical genre, and has also directed programmes with his colleagues on numerous occasions.

Joseph has appeared several times as the lead violinist of the Westben Festival Orchestra, and has been a concertmaster/mentor for many years at The National Academy Orchestra, a training programme for young professionals which features guest concertmasters from Canada's finest orchestras.

A busy free-lance musician across the region, Joseph is particularly active on the period instrument scene in southern Ontario. He has served as a creative director of the Nota Bene Baroque Players in Kitchener. Joseph is proud and takes great satisfaction to be regularly engaged by Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra since 1996, including numerous recordings and tours around the world. Joseph is quite active in music education. He has taught both violin and baroque performance at Western University since 1995; last year, he was appointed coordinator of Western's Early Music Studio. Joseph coaches chamber music at Forest City Talent Education, and has become increasingly active as a private teacher. In the last two years he has become a frequently sought after adjudicator for music festivals across Ontario.

Joseph is married to London Symphonia oboist Jennifer Short; they are the proud parents of a multi-talented daughter. The family is ably herded by a fine little Shetland sheepdog named Laika.

BLAIR LOFGREN



CELLO

Described by Gramophone critic Ivan Moody as “a tremendous player”, cellist Blair Lofgren’s career is a marriage of extensive performing and dedication to his teaching.

Holding the post of Violoncelle solo of the Orchestre Symphonique de Québec since the age of 24, Blair’s musical vitality sees him dividing his time to include teaching at the Conservatoire de musique de Québec, performing with the orchestra, collaborating in various chamber music ensembles, teaching masterclasses, appearing as guest principal cello of various orchestras and recording (most recently for the acclaimed “Dead Rising” video game sound track). During the summer, Blair can often be heard at various summer festivals performing with a range of prominent musical figures from around the world, as well as teaching and mentoring diverse new talents.

As a soloist, Blair performs regularly with orchestras across Canada. In recent seasons he has played the masterworks of Dvorak, Saint-Saëns, Tchaikovsky, Strauss, Shostakovich and Boccherini. In April 2017 he performed to critical acclaim, the monumental Sinfonia Concertante by Prokofiev with the Orchestre symphonique de Québec under the baton of Fayçal Karoui.

Born in Regina, central Canada, Mr. Lofgren began his studies at an early age, with Barbara Fitzpatrick and Cameron Lowe at the Regina Conservatory of Music. After receiving the President’s Gold Medal, Blair continued his studies at the Glenn Gould School in Toronto under Thomas Wiebe and John Kadz. He has also studied with such masters as Timothy Eddy, Laurence Lesser, Aldo Parisot, Philippe Muller, Jean Deplace, Roland Pidoux, Paul Watkins, Laurence Fenyes and Walter Joachim. His career has since seen him collaborate with such artists as Yo-Yo Ma, Joseph Kalichstein, Lynn Harrell, Marc-André Hamelin and Mark O’Conner.

This past year saw Blair inaugurating a new summer chamber music festival in Quebec City called *Les Escapades Musicales de la Cité*. He also co-founded the already successful cello octet *Élément 8*, comprised of cellists from the Orchestre Symphonique de Québec, as well as prominent cellists from the area.

An unforgettable experience in Mr. Lofgren’s career was his role as soloist in the début and recording of *Bright Sadness*, a work composed by Oleksa Lozowchuk. *Bright Sadness* is a work for string quintet and solo cello that marries the worlds of classical music, Ukrainian folklore and Eastern Orthodox sacred music. Critically acclaimed, the recording was “linked by the cellist Blair Lofgren’s beautiful playing. His tone is rich and always changing, preventing the rowdy moments of the dances from seeming overly pristine. Lofgren’s playing is brilliant.”

KATIE MCBEAN



VIOLA

Katie McBean began studying the viola at age 14 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. In her 15 years as a violist, she has performed across the country, excelling in both music festivals and competitions, including the NAC Young Artists program, Scotiastef, Northern Lights Bluegrass Festival, London Kiwanis Rosebowl, LMSF, Saskatchewan Provincial Music Festival, and the National CMFC Festival. In addition to her solo career, Katie is passionate about chamber and orchestral performance. She performed with the National Youth Orchestra for three consecutive summers (2007-2009), and was employed as a violist for the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra (2006-2012), Orchestra London, and now London Symphonia. She also performs with the Rebel Heart Collective, the Western Viola Ensemble, led by Sharon Wei, Serenata Series, and the London Symphonia Chamber Series.

Katie graduated from concurrent Western University degree programs in French Literature and Music Education. While attending Western, she studied with acclaimed violist, Sharon Wei, and is currently completing her Masters in Education to further her passion for education. Katie resides in London with her partner, Fraser, and their one year old son, Ellis! Together, they like to play with balls, crash down towers, and eat corn on the cob!

SCOTT ST. JOHN



VIOLIN/VIOLA

St. John was a member of the esteemed St. Lawrence String Quartet and faculty member at Stanford University for seven years, from 2006-2013. From 1990-2006, St. John was Associate Professor of Violin at University of Toronto, and founded the Felix Galimir Chamber Music Award for university students.

Currently, St. John is Concert Master of the ROCO Chamber Orchestra in Houston, Texas. He also coaches chamber music at Western University (Canada), and participates in the prestigious Marlboro Music Festival (Vermont).

A recent recording of Mozart’s Symphonia Concertante with his sister Lara St. John won a Juno Award in the Best Recording: Solo with Orchestra category. Working with composers has been important throughout St. John’s career; he has worked with John Adams, Charles Wuorinen, and Osvaldo Golijov in the US, and composers in Canada, including Arsenio Giron, Gary Kulesha, and Elizabeth Raum

St. John began his violin studies at age three with Richard Lawrence in London, Canada. He is a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music, where he studied violin with David Cerone, Arnold Steinhardt, and chamber music with Felix Galimir.

St. John supports several transportation advocacy groups, including Transport Action Canada and the Rail Passengers Association. He also supports Han Voice, a lobby organization for North Korean refugees in Canada.

JENNIFER ORCHARD



VIOLIN

"I can't remember a time when I was not playing the violin," says PSO violinist Jennifer Orchard. The statement reflects on her earliest memories of music, but it speaks to a larger truth about this gifted artist: Life and music have always been joined as she lives out her life passion every day.

Orchard's biography spans all of the rites of passage that come with attaining the status of a world-class musician- the childhood successes the rigors of conservatory training, and the progress of a professional career. Yet the conventional narrative does not capture the more complete picture of Orchard, who has a heartfelt love for the beauty of music and a sense of purpose as she brings it to life.

Orchard came to the violin as a young child and grew rapidly. Her early success led to admission into the Curtis Institute of Music and The Juilliard School, where she honed the skills that would lead to a professional career.

She speaks with reverence of her teachers, including famed violinists Szymon Goldberg, Robert Mann and Lorand Fenyves, who helped her achieve both virtuosity and artistry.

From her conservatory studies, Orchard entered her first professional position as a member of the Lark Quartet. She played with Lark for eight years, from 1993-2001 and while there began a recording career that continues to this day.

Now a member of the Pittsburgh Symphony first violin section, Orchard channels her artistic endeavors through many avenues. In 2015, she and three other PSO musicians formed the Clarion Quartet which commits itself to performance and awareness of composers whose lives and careers were destroyed through the atrocities of WWII. These composers, deemed degenerate by the Nazi party have been neglected and largely forgotten since the war. The Clarion Quartet's mission is to break the silence and restore this music to its rightful place on the stages of today. Their recording of three such composers came out in 2018 and is available on Naxos.

Orchard's recording work also includes partnering with pianist Igor Kraevsky on the music of Paul Juon, a Russian composer whose works were also, though not through war, neglected and largely unknown. Orchard and Kraevsky's work together has spanned fifteen plus years, performing the world premiere of Paul Juon's Triple concerto in Moscow Conservatory Hall and producing many recordings including two world premieres entitled Weisse Nacht and Bagatellen.

Orchard expresses a sincere and humble gratitude for having had the opportunity in her life to play with great musicians and for appreciative audiences, which is the fulfillment of a life mission.

As for how she articulates that personal mission, she says without hesitation: "To always have passion about the music, and to never stop playing."

IRENE TANDBERG



VIOLIN – Academy Director

Irene Tandberg's career as performer and pedagogue spans four decades. She has established a vibrant private studio where students have been honoured with many prestigious scholarships and awards, obtained positions at notable international & domestic schools & orchestras, and pursued distinguished solo careers. In 1991, together with her two youngest of four children, Irene was drawn to the vitality of music making within Forest City School for Talent Education.

During her long tenure as Co Director at FCTE (FCSS), she developed the school's artistic direction, the administration of the program and cultivated many initiatives and projects that continue to thrive. In addition to these roles, she devotedly immersed herself in teaching master/group classes, coaching chamber groups and conducting ensembles. She also initiated FCTE's partnering with Western in Community Engaged learning and Pedagogy Course mentorship. In seeking to further enrich the students experience, Young Artists Pre-College Academy was created in 2018. YAPCA's diverse programming cultivates highly motivated students who are inspired to explore a high level of technical finesse and artistry in a collegial, non-competitive environment. Weekly Performance, Chamber and Master classes offer students the opportunity to master their skills and expand their musical knowledge under the tutelage of a dynamic faculty and guest artists. YAPCA is actively engaged in collaborative projects throughout the community, nurturing a lifelong commitment in supporting the arts and continues to partner with Western music students in chamber groups and education courses.

Irene is a vastly experienced and fervent pedagogue who has both written and given invited talks on performance, teaching and practice strategies. She is also a very active festival adjudicator, master class teacher and workshop clinician in music programs and teaching institutions across Canada. In addition to running her private studio, Coordinator for Western 360 and Directing YAPCA, she is a faculty member in the Performance Department at the University of Western Ontario.

PATRICK THERIAULT



CELLO

Patrick Theriault is a Canadian born cellist from London, ON. He holds both Bachelor and Master's degrees in music from Western University. He regularly performs as a soloist and collaborator with various artists and ensembles in the London area. He plays with the Quartetto Altezza alongside colleagues Jordan Clayton, Nic Carlucci, and Jeff Komar.

As a teacher, he holds a modest private studio as well as teaching at the Forest City Talent Education program and the London Youth Symphony. Patrick is passionate about both performance and education and wants to continue to bring music to new and younger audiences. Among his many musical interests, Patrick is passionate about early music and baroque performance practice, and hopes to pass this particular musical curiosity to new students at YAPCA and beyond.

ADDISON TENG



VIOLIN

Addison Teng has given extensive solo and chamber music performances throughout Taiwan, Hong Kong, Italy, France, the Philippines, and the United States. He has performed as soloist with the Oberlin College Orchestra, Eastman String Fellowship Orchestra, Sinfonia Academy Orchestra in the Philippines, and the University of Macedonia Symphony Orchestra. Upcoming performances are planned with Symphony Irvine and Music Institute of Chicago Community Orchestra as well as recitals throughout the U.S. and abroad. Teng was chosen by the dean of the Oberlin Conservatory to appear on Italian television to promote Oberlin in Italy. He is the recipient of the 2018 Outstanding Young Alumni Award at Oberlin College and Conservatory, which recognizes young alumni who have distinguished themselves in their professional careers and their service to humanity. He has also been named a Distinguished Alumnus of the Meadowmount School of Music.

A rising pedagogue of his generation, Teng joined the violin and chamber music faculty of the Music Institute of Chicago in 2013, the faculty of the Montecito International Music Festival in 2014, the faculty of DePaul University School of Music in 2018, and the faculty of the Pacific Music Institute in 2020. Previously he served as teaching assistant at the Meadowmount School of Music and Northwestern University Bienen School of Music, assisting Sally Thomas, Amy Barlowe, and Roland and Almita Vamos. He has given masterclasses and coaching at the Taipei American School, Conservatório Villa-Lobos in Rio de Janeiro, Eastman Pre-College, and Lawrence University, as well as classes in Canada, the Philippines, Greece, and China. In the fall of 2016, Teng embarked on a tour to Cebu, Philippines with his students, where he gave masterclasses and concerts. A similar tour in the fall of 2018 took Teng and his students to Thessaloniki, Greece, and in fall 2019 they toured San Marino and Italy and were featured on San Marino national television.

His students have recently placed at competitions both locally and nationally, including Hellam Young Artists Competition, Denver Young Artists National Violin Competition, Indianapolis Matinee Musicale Competition, Walgreens National Competition, Indiana School of Music Concerto Competition, Confucius Music Festival Competition, Sejong Music Competition, and DePaul Concerto Competition, among others. Many of his students have been admitted to top universities and conservatories, including Indiana University, Northwestern University, Manhattan School of Music, New England Conservatory, Mannes New School of Music, Berklee College of Music, and University of Wisconsin–Madison, and have been awarded a Fulbright and Wells scholarship. His students have gone on to win jobs at Chicago Lyric Opera Orchestra, Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Grant Park Orchestra, Peninsula Music Festival, Evansville Philharmonic, and Louisville Philharmonic. Teng's students have soloed with the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra, Springfield Symphony, and Montecito Festival Orchestra, and have been guest concertmaster of Fort Wayne Symphony. In 2015, the Addison C. Teng merit scholarship was established at the Music Institute of Chicago for his studio.

SHARON WEI



VIOLA

Sharon Wei is a dynamic and varied musician, establishing herself as one of the most respected violists on the scene today. She has appeared as soloist, chamber musician, and guest principal violist throughout North America and Europe. She has collaborated with conductors such as James Levine, Kent Nagano, Paavo Järvi, Zubin Mehta, and Yuri Temirkanov;

Sharon has also shared the stage with Lynn Harrell, Gary Hoffman, Lawrence Lesser, Peter Frankl, Joseph Silverstein, Jonathan Crow, Mark Fewer, Joel Quarrington, James Campbell, James Sommerville and the St. Lawrence String Quartet. In 2006, Sharon and pianist Angela Park co-founded Ensemble Made in Canada, which includes violinist Elissa Lee and cellist Rachel Mercer.

Ensemble Made in Canada performs in various configurations: sonatas, duos, and quartet repertoire. The group has commissioned and premiered works by American composer John B. Hedges and Canadian composers John Burge and Christopher Mayo. Upcoming commissions include works by Canadian composers David Myska and Omar Daniel. EMIC begins as Ensemble-in-Residence at Western University in London, Ontario, starting September 2014.

Independently of EMIC, Sharon's other commissions include a work by American composer Harold Meltzer, who wrote a double concerto for Sharon and violinist Scott St. John. Sharon has given masterclasses throughout China, the US, and Canada.

She was on the faculty at Yale University and Stanford University and began her appointment as Assistant Professor of Viola at Western University in 2014. Sharon created a course for performance majors in which students learn important off-stage initiatives such as networking, grant writing, website design, and managing finances. Rare time away from the viola is spent on Bikram yoga (done in 12 cities and counting), hiking, playing Settlers of Catan, and seeking out macaron shops.