



University
of Rochester
Eastman School of Music

FACULTY ARTIST SERIES

JOSEPH JOHNSON, CELLO

Monday, October 5, 2026
Kilbourn Hall
7:30 PM

PROGRAM

Sonata for Cello and Piano (2019)

Allegretto – Furioso, Presto – Allegretto
Andante
Cadenza
Allegro – Tranquillo

Kalevi Aho
(b. 1949)

Joonghun Cho, piano

Molitva (“Prayer”) for Cello and Mixed Choir (2022)

Galina Grigorjeva
(b. 1962)

Donald Nally, conductor
Dominic Fiacco, keyboards

Bernadette Alejandro
Zachary Amdur*
Abigail Bodvake
Kennah Brackett
Benjamin Coudriet
Harrison Dean
Julia Drover Crane
Nicholas Figura
Max Foreman
Carter Greeson

Amelia Harkey
Donna Hren
Joshua Johnstone
Morgan Kerr
Kiara Liu
Liliana Mann
Desmond Mulready
Andrew Perricone
Audrey Rivetta
LayVon Scott

Peter Schoellkopf
April Suh
Lily Sumida
Nicolas Taccetti
Zachary Thompson*
Noah Whitley
Emmie Williams
Gu Hong Wu

* soloist

INTERMISSION

Cello Concerto No. 1 in E-flat Major, Op. 107 (1959)

Allegretto
Moderato
Cadenza
Allegro con moto

Dmitri Shostakovich
(1906-1975)

Violin
Amelia Posner-Hess
Lauren Edwards
Ben Jackson
Kaylynn Li
Cara Wunder
Winter Wu
Kellen Mikesell
Sofia Grimes
Olivia Walberger
Lydia McConkie
Sedona Kmen
Emily Fischbach
Emily Bellman

Viola
Mateo Calderon
Job Campbell
Jordan Fletcher
Anna Brooke
Liam DeRosa

Cello
Ryan Post
Clara Schultz
Tyler Brown
Pyotr Alvarado
Anika Grieve
Oooju Robinson

Bass
Lindsey Joslin
Greg Galand
Austin Beck

Flute
Brooke Walden
Hannah Wang

Oboe
Xander O'Neill
Kayla Miller

Clarinet
Adam Kolars
Jay Kline

Bassoon
Alistair Picken
Faith Weigand

Horn
Lilah Costanzo

Timpani
Aiden Hughes

Celesta
Taya Promreuk

Conductor
Peiwen Zou



For program notes, artist biographies, and the most up-to-date information on Eastman concerts and events, scan this code to visit our online calendar.

We acknowledge with respect the Seneca Nation, known as the “Great Hill People” and “Keepers of the Western Door” of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. We take this opportunity to thank the people whose ancestral lands the Eastman School of Music of the University of Rochester currently occupies in Rochester, New York.

MEET THE ARTISTS

Joseph Johnson has been heard throughout the world as a soloist, chamber musician and educator. His festival appearances include performances in all classical genres at the American festivals of Santa Fe, Bach Dancing and Dynamite Society, Bard, Cactus Pear, Grand Teton, and Music in the Vineyards as well as the Pacific Music Festival in Sapporo, Japan, and the Virtuosi Festival in Brazil.



Mr. Johnson has served as Principal Cellist for the Toronto Symphony since the 2009/2010 season. Concerto highlights with the Toronto Symphony include performances of the Dvorak Concerto, Saint-Saens Concerto, Tchaikovsky Rococo Variations, Brahms Double Concerto with Jonathan Crow, Beethoven Triple Concerto with Jan Lisiecki and Jonathan Crow, Schumann Concerto, and Strauss Don Quixote. Other recent recital and concerto appearances include the Brahms Double Concerto with Robert Uchida and Symphony Nova Scotia, CPE Bach Concerto in a minor at University of Toronto, Sofia Gubaidulina “Seven Words” Concerto for cello, accordion (bayan) and strings at the Eastman School of Music, and the Shostakovich Cello Concerto with the Niagara Symphony.

A champion of new Music, Joseph has played the Canadian Premiere of the Unsuk Chin Cello Concerto with the Esprit Orchestra, Canadian Premiere of the Miguel del Aguila Cello Concerto with the Toronto Symphony and Edmonton Symphony, North American Premiere of the Peter Oetvos Cello Concerto with the Toronto Symphony, and the Marc-Andre Dalbavie Cello Concerto with the Esprit Orchestra. Next year he is scheduled to give the World Premiere of the Emilie Lebel Cello Concerto with the Toronto Symphony.

As well as being Principal Cellist of the Toronto Symphony, Mr. Johnson previously held the same position with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra. He also serves as Principal Cellist of the Santa Fe Opera, and during the 2008-2009 season, was acting Principal Cellist of the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Johnson has performed as guest Principal Cellist with the San Francisco Symphony, Detroit Symphony, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, and Trondheim Symphony. Prior to his Milwaukee appointment, Joseph Johnson was a member of The Minnesota Orchestra cello section for eleven years. He was a founding member of both the Prospect Park Players and the Minneapolis Quartet, the latter of which was honoured with The McKnight Foundation Award in 2005.

This year, Mr. Johnson was named the cellist for the New Orford String Quartet.

A gifted and inspiring teacher, Mr. Johnson is the newly appointed Associate Professor of Cello at the Eastman School of Music. He previously held the position of Associate Professor of Cello at the University of Toronto. Mr. Johnson was the cello coach for the Toronto Youth Symphony for ten years, and is a regular coach and teacher at the New World Symphony in Miami. He has conducted numerous master classes for a wide range of institutions and ensembles, including The Shepherd School of Music at Rice University, Eastman School of Music, Manhattan School of Music, Northwestern University, the youth orchestras of the Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Chicago, Madison, and Toronto symphonies, as well as The Glenn Gould School of The Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto.

A graduate of the Eastman School of Music, Joseph Johnson earned his Master's degree from Northwestern University. Awards and honours include a performer's certificate from the Eastman School of Music and first prize from the American String Teachers Association National Solo Competition.

Mr. Johnson performs on a magnificent J.B. Vuillaume cello crafted in 1840.

Praised by *El Comercio* as a “pianist with a masterful display of artistry, affirming his well-deserved reputation,” **Joonghun Cho** is a dedicated performing artist known for his versatility as a pianist, chamber musician, and pedagogue. He has concertized widely giving performances across South Korea, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Slovakia, the UK, Canada, Japan, and the United States. His performances have included solo appearances with renowned orchestras, such as the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra, Flint Symphony Orchestra, Kalamazoo Philharmonia, and Brescia Master Orchestra. His musical prowess has also led to invitations as a guest artist at esteemed music festivals and concert series, such as the Gijón International Piano Festival, Palmetto International Piano Festival, Porto Pianofest, Yeon-Eum Summer Music Festival, Nine Sparrows Arts Foundation Chamber Music Series, Douglas Haas Legacy Concert Series, Festival Internacional de Música José Luis Vega “Pelis,” and the American Liszt Society Festival.



Joonghun's passion for collaborative music extends to his flourishing career as a chamber musician. He has had the privilege of showcasing his chamber music performances at numerous renowned institutions and festivals, such as the Eastman School of Music, University of Michigan, University of Toronto, Royal Conservatory of Music, International Cello Institute and Caledon Music Festival. His chamber music collaborations have included performances with distinguished musicians like Joseph Johnson, Luri Lee, Logan Skelton, among others. Notably, he recently participated in a recording project featuring new compositions by William Horne, which was released by Blue Griffin Recording Label in 2024.

In addition to his performing career, Joonghun has garnered numerous prizes in international competitions. His achievements include the gold medal in the Vienna International Music Competition, first prize in the Master Orchestra International Concerto Competition, second prize in the William C. Byrd Young Artist Competition, first prize in the International Chopin Piano Competition in Japan, second prize in the Schimmel USASU International Piano Competition, third prize in the Glasgow International Piano Competition for Young Pianists, first prize in the Sungjung Music Concours, second prize in the Kookmin Ilbo Music Concours, and second prize in the Korea-Germany Brahms Association Music Concours.

Born in Suwon, South Korea, Joonghun commenced his musical journey at the Yewon School and Seoul Art High School in Seoul, studying under the guidance of Min Sook Jeon, Tong-il Han, and Hyoung-Joon Chang. Upon relocating to the United States, he pursued his Bachelor of Music in piano performance at the Eastman School of Music, studying with Barry Snyder. Joonghun continued his musical education at the University of Michigan under the mentorship of Logan Skelton, completing both his Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts.

Currently based in Toronto, Canada, Joonghun serves as the artistic director for the Gibson Classical Concert Series, where he continues to inspire audiences with his musical expertise.

Donald Nally collaborates with creative artists, leading orchestras, and art museums to make new works for choir that address social and environmental issues. He has commissioned over 200 works and, with his ensemble The Crossing, has produced 39 recordings, winning 4 Grammy Awards for Best Choral Performance, while nominated eleven times. The Crossing was Musical America's 2024 Ensemble of the Year and regularly tours Europe and the United States in venues such as Disney Hall, the National Gallery, Lincoln Center, The Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall, Finnish National Opera, the Baltic Sea Festival, Muziekgebouw in Amsterdam, and the Park Avenue Armory.



Donald has held distinguished tenures as chorus master for Lyric Opera of Chicago, Welsh National Opera, Opera Philadelphia, and for many seasons at Il festival dei due mondi in Spoleto, Italy. He has prepared choruses for the Philadelphia Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Boston Symphony Orchestra, and the BBC Symphony Orchestra.

Donald works closely with the artists Allora & Calzadilla and composer David Lang on projects in museums of London, Porto, Cordoba, Edmonton, Houston, Osaka, and Philadelphia. He has been visiting resident artist at the Park Avenue Armory and music director of The Mile-Long Opera, David Lang's 1000-voice work on The High Line in Manhattan. Two of his projects have been preserved by the National Archives of The Library of Congress as cultural artifacts, both responding to the 2020 pandemic: his 72-chapter series *Rising w/ The Crossing*, and *Carols after a Plague*, with contributions from 12 composers.

Recent collaborations include the Swedish Radio Choir, Klockriketeatern at the Finnish National Opera, Musikgebouw (Amsterdam), the Baltic Sea Festival in Stockholm, the Big Ears Festival, the Haarlem KoorBiënnale, and various projects at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Donald is a frequent guest artist/teacher at universities, including Yale, Harvard, the Curtis Institute, the University of Chicago, Indiana University, Notre Dame, UNC Chapel Hill, and Boston Conservatory.

Donald is the John W. Beattie Chair of Music Emeritus at Northwestern University. This season he is Visiting Professor of Choral Studies at Westminster Choir College of Rider University and Visiting Professor at the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University.