

SCHOOL OF MUSIC, THEATRE, AND DANCE

at the University Center for the Arts

CELLO STUDIO

APRIL 3, 2025 | 7:30 P.M.

ORGAN RECITAL HALL



COLORADO STATE
UNIVERSITY

SEASON SPONSOR:



CELLO STUDIO RECITAL
APRIL 3, 2025 | 7:30 P.M. | ORGAN RECITAL HALL

Arboreto Salvatico

Giovanni Sollima (b. 1962)

La Sequoia

Aurora Farrell and Axel Gallegos, Cello

Suite in D Minor BWV 1008

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Prelude

Zuzu Davis, Cello

Concerto in D Minor

Edouard Lalo (1823-1892)

Prelude, lento – Allegro maestoso

Amy Effinger, Cello

Hyeji Seo, Piano

Suite in C Major BWV 1009

J.S. Bach

Sarabande

Bourree

Iain Ross, Cello

Sonata in E-Flat Major, op. 38

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

Allegretto quasi minueto

Aurora Farrell, Cello

Jooyeon Chang, Piano

Sonata for Cello and Piano, op. 6

Samuel Barber (1910-1981)

Adagio and Scherzo

Axel Gallegos, Cello
Juhyun Lee, Piano

******PAUSE******

Suite for 2 Cellos, op. 16

David Popper (1843-1913)

arr. Emilio Colon

Gavotte

Scherzo

Canzona di Barocco

Henryk Czyz (1923-2003)

arr. Angelika Machnik-Jones

Flop Turn River

Adam B. Silverman (b. 1973)

Mellow Cellos Tango

Michael Kibbe (b. 1945)

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY CELLO ENSEMBLE

Meredith Blecha-Wells

Ben Blount

Zuzu Davis

Amy Effinger

Aurora Farrell

Matthew Fox

Axel Gallegos

Cora Larson

Lillian Rogers

Alexander Strobel

Special Guest: Barbara Thiem

ABOUT THE MUSICIANS:

Praised for her “beautifully full and lyrically strong tone” by Gramophone Magazine, **Meredith Blecha-Wells** is a sought-after performer and instructor. She has played throughout much of the United States, as well as Europe, Australia, South America, and Asia. Currently based in Colorado, Dr. Blecha-Wells recently joined the faculty at Colorado State University.

As a recording artist, Dr. Blecha-Wells has released several CDs spanning the solo, chamber music, and orchestral space. Her solo album was described as “technically dazzling” (the Whole Note) and she was praised for her “lyrical warmth and her powerful athleticism” (Classical Music Discoveries). Dr. Blecha-Wells’ recordings can be found on labels including Naxos, Navona, and Onyx Lane Productions and broadcast on numerous radio stations such as WFMT (Chicago, IL), WMBR (Cambridge, MA), KALX (Berkeley, CA), WRUV (Burlington, VT), WCNY (Syracuse, NY), KUCO (Edmond, OK), among others.

Dr. Blecha-Wells previously served as the Professor of Cello at Oklahoma State University where she was awarded the College of Arts and Sciences Junior Faculty Award for Scholarly Excellence as well as the First Lady of OSU Distinguished Music Professor award. A passionate pedagogue, Dr. Blecha-Wells is committed to raising the efficiency and joy in learning. Her students have gone on to programs including the Juilliard School, the New England Conservatory, the Eastman School of Music, Rice University, the University of Michigan, the Manhattan School of Music, the San Francisco Conservatory, Northwestern University, Indiana University, the Cleveland Institute of Music, the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, the University of Southern California, DePaul University, and the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. Additionally, her students have won several competitions including the YoungArts National Awards, the Classics Alive Artists, Enkor International Competition, American Protégé Competition, Ad Astra String Competition, MTNA, Hyechka String Competition, among others. Dr. Blecha-Wells’ students have also been selected to participate in prestigious festivals including the National Youth Orchestra and the National Youth Orchestra 2, Brevard Music Festival, Eastern Music Festival, Green Mountain Music Festival, and several others.

Dr. Blecha-Wells has taught at numerous festivals, clinics, and institutes spanning six continents. She has had the pleasure of teaching at the International Cello Institute, the Alaska Cello Intensive, Gran Encuentro Chelistas in Colombia, the Saarburg Chamber Music Festival in Germany, the Chicago Suzuki Institute, the Austin Suzuki Institute, among others. She has given numerous clinics and was the featured cello clinician at the 2024 American String Teachers Association Conference.

Dr. Blecha-Wells received a bachelor's and master's degree in Cello Performance from Indiana University and holds a Doctor of Musical Arts in Performance and Literature from the Eastman School of Music. Her teachers have included Janos Starker, Alan Harris, Emilio Colon, Helga Winold, Richard Hirschl, and Marc Johnson. Additional studies include festival participation at the Taos School of Music, the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, Spoleto Festival USA, the National Repertory Orchestra, and the Bowdoin International Music Festival.

Ben Blount is a third year Mathematics and Computer Science dual major at Colorado State University. When he is not immersed in his studies he enjoys playing cello in the CSU cello ensemble.

Zuzu Davis is a first-year music education major from Austin, Texas. She has been playing cello for 7 years and is proficient in a number of other instruments. She frequently teaches private lessons, classrooms, and summer camps in both Fort Collins and Austin. She is currently a teaching artist and mentor in the Middle School Outreach Ensembles at CSU!

Amy Effinger is a first-year undergraduate student majoring in Cello Performance. She comes to Colorado from Oklahoma City where she studied at the Classen School of Advanced Studies. She is currently the assistant principal of the Colorado State University Symphony Orchestra and participated in All-State orchestras in high school.

Aurora Farrell is a first-year Music Performance major from Colorado Springs. She has studied music for almost her whole life, but chose cello almost eight years ago. Aurora has participated in several orchestra, solo, and chamber music opportunities, and has experience in composing and recording modern music.

Matt Fox is a second-year Music Education student from Colorado Springs. Through his coursework at CSU, Matt pursues his passions for learning and promoting expression through music. He is a Teacher and Mentor in the CSU-run Middle School Outreach Ensemble, and Vice President of the CSU Collegiate ASTA chapter.

Axel Gallegos is a first-year master's student from Kansas City, Missouri. He received his Bachelor of Music in Cello Performance from Drake University studying under Dr. Ashley Sidon. He would like to thank his mentors, past and current, for their continued support, guidance, and willingness to share their knowledge; his friends and family for having his back; and his benefactors, Ryan and Terry Anderson, for whose support he is immensely grateful.

Cora Larson is a first-year Music Education major from Lakewood Colorado. She is passionate about teaching and enjoys playing in musical productions. Equally dedicated to academics, Cora is a member of the Blake Leadership Scholars at CSU.

Lillian Rogers is a second-year Music Composition Student from Colorado Springs. She has experience in audio recording and songwriting. Lillian has been playing cello for 11 years and composing since even earlier. She is active in the local music scene performing with other artists through improv work. She also produces songs under the name Lilly Mae.

Iain Ross is a sophomore majoring in Computer Science with a minor in Music. A passionate chamber musician, he has performed numerous quartet works, including Mendelssohn's String Quartet No. 2, Op. 13 and Montgomery's Strum. As principal cellist of the Northern Colorado Youth Orchestra, he helped lead the ensemble to a third-place finish at the ASTA National Orchestra Festival in Atlanta, competing against top high school orchestras from across the country. Additionally, Iain has participated in masterclasses with renowned cellists such as Guy Johnston and Dr. Erik Anderson.

Alex Strobel is a first-year Music Education student from Bellingham, Washington. At CSU, he explores many musical opportunities including orchestra, choir, and collaborative piano as well as pursuing passion for teaching and fostering community. Alex is a Teacher and Mentor in the CSU Middle School Outreach Ensemble and the instrumental officer for the Evergreen Jazz Choir.

Barbara Thiem is an internationally acclaimed cellist who combines teaching cello and coaching chamber music with her active schedule of solo, concerto, and chamber music performances in Europe and the United States. She is a founding member of the Mendelssohn Trio which regularly performs throughout the United States, as well as Austria, Switzerland and Germany including appearances at the International Mendelssohn Festival in Berlin. Her prolific solo performance schedule includes 20-30 concerts each year across Europe, the U.S., Canada, and South America, as well as many guest artist appearances at the International Draeseke Conference in Coburg, Germany.

In addition to concertizing, Thiem has recorded for many radio stations and has produced several CDs, among them a set of *Bach Suites* for solo cello, *Complete Works for Cello and Piano* by Felix Draeseke with pianist Wolfgang Mueller-Steinbach, *Works for Cello and Organ* with organist Robert Cavarra, and cello/bass duets with Gary Karr. She has published translations of Gerhard Mantel's *Cello Technique*, and Ernst Mendelssohn Bartholdy's *From New York to San Francisco*, both with Indiana University Press, as well as a number of articles

on good postural and practicing habits, which have appeared in the *American String Teacher Association Journal* and the *American Suzuki Journal*.

As an active clinician, lecturer, and adjudicator, Thiem has been a guest at the Encontro Orquestra de Cordas da UnB in Brazil, the Pan American Cello Festival in Texas, and at prominent national association conferences, including the Music Teachers National Association, the American Musicological Society, and the American String Teachers Association, as well as various state music teacher's conferences and contests.

Barbara Thiem taught and performed within the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance at Colorado State University until her retirement in 2022 where she taught cello and chamber music, led a three-semester course in cello pedagogy, and served on the faculty for CSU's Pre-College Chamber Music Program. The Mendelssohn Trio is in residence at the University, and Thiem has also participated in research within CSU's renowned music therapy area. Previous teaching appointments include the University of Wyoming, Indiana University, Lamont School of Music, University of Colorado, University of Texas, and Iowa State University. She has often administered the International Summer Academy of Schloss Ort, Austria.

Barbara Thiem holds a Masters degree in Cello Performance from Indiana University where she was a Graduate Teaching Assistant to Janos Starker and was awarded the coveted Performer's Certificate, as well as degrees from Staatliche Hochschule für Musik in Cologne, Germany where she studied with avant-garde cellist Siegfried Palm.

Barbara Thiem is a 'Best Teacher' award-winner at Colorado State University, and a 'Teacher of the Year,' nominee for the College of Liberal Arts.

SHOW YOUR CSU RAMS PRIDE.



Your Pride Should Go Where You Do.

Show your pride year-round with our exclusive CSU Visa®

Debit Cards, free with any FNBO Checking Account.

Visit us online, or stop by a branch to open your account today.



fnbo.com/csu