

Tafelmusik Winter Institute 2015

Participant Biographies

VIOLIN

Suhashini Arulanandam (Mississauga, ON)

It has been more than a year since Suhashini had her first lessons on baroque violin with Jeanne Lamon, and she is now enjoying a blend of old and new in her musical life. As well as playing baroque violin in Aradia Ensemble, Suhashini performs with the Thin Edge New Music Collective. She is a member of the Hamilton Philharmonic and the Windsor Symphony Orchestra. This summer Suhashini attended both the Tafelmusik Baroque Summer Institute and the American Bach Soloists Academy.

[TBSI 2014]

Edmond Chan (Corpus Christi, TX / Philadelphia, PA)

Edmond Chan performs with many early music ensembles and orchestras, including Tempesta di Mare (Philadelphia), The Handel Choir of Baltimore, and Opera Lafayette, and has performed with The Bach Sinfonia, Washington Bach Consort, Brandywine Baroque, and for the National Cathedral, Washington, DC. He is co-founder and co-artistic director of the Washington, DC-based early music ensemble Corda Nova, and is concertmaster of the Austin Baroque Orchestra in Austin, Texas.

Hyunjung Choi (Seoul, Korea)

Dr. Hyunjung Choi is currently music lecturer at Gachon University and Jeonju University in Korea. She is also an active performer as a member of Baroque Company, Camerata Antiqua Seoul, Alla Classica, and Quattro Ewha. Hunjung holds a Master's degree from Northwestern University and a DMA in Violin Performance and Literature from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

[TBSI 2009]

Karin Cuellar (Santa Cruz, Bolivia)

A native of Bolivia, Karin A. Cuellar Rendon has performed extensively with many orchestras, including American Bach Soloists, ARTEK, National Symphony Orchestra of Bolivia, and the YOA Orchestra of the Americas. She attended the International Baroque Institute at Longy, The Baroque and Renaissance Music Festival Mission of Chiquitos, Festivale di Arte e Musica Sacra, and the American Bach Soloists Academy. An advocate for music education and social awareness, Karin has taught at the Union City Music Project, an El Sistema-inspired education program that uses music as a tool for social change. Karin earned a BMus in Violin Performance from Montclair State University, and is currently pursuing a MA in Historical Performance at Case Western Reserve University under Julie Andrijeski.

Alice Culin-Ellison (Louisville, KY)

Originally from Louisville, Kentucky, violinist Alice Culin-Ellison received her BMus from the University of Michigan, studying with Aaron Berofsky. Following her interest in early music, she continued her studies at Indiana University with Stanley Ritchie, graduating with a Masters in Early Music. She can be found performing with Bourbon Baroque, Indianapolis Baroque Orchestra, Ensemble Musical Offering, and Generation Harmonique, and has also performed internationally in Canada, England, China, and Japan. Alice is currently pursuing a Doctoral degree from Case Western Reserve University in the Historical Performance Program, studying with Julie Andrijeski.

[TBSI 2009-11, 2014]

Valerie Gordon (Denver, CO / Toronto, ON)

Valerie Gordon is originally from Denver, Colorado and has recently completed a Master's degree at Indiana University, where she was the recipient of an Associate Instructorship, studying baroque violin with Stanley Ritchie. Recent activities include performances with Aradia Ensemble and Indianapolis Baroque Orchestra. Valerie is a founding member of Elixir Baroque Ensemble, and is on the faculty of the Laurier String Academy and the Kingsway Conservatory in Toronto.

[TBSI 2010-11, TWI 2013-14]

Michelle Odorico (Toronto, ON)

Michelle Odorico grew up in Pickering, where she began playing violin at age four. She attended the Young Artists Performance Academy at the Glenn Gould School, and was a member of the Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra. She graduated from the University of Ottawa with a BMus in Violin Performance, and was a member of the Ottawa Symphony Orchestra. Michelle recently completed her MMus in Baroque Performance from the University of Toronto under Jeanne Lamon. She is the newest member of the Windermere String Quartet, and has played with the Elixir Baroque Ensemble, The Musicians in Ordinary, and Talisker Players. This past summer Michelle participated in the Venice Opera Project and performed with the Jeune Orchestre Atlantique under Phillippe Hereweghe.

[TBSI 2012-13, TWI 2013-14]

Chloe Prendergast (Denver, CO)

Chloe Prendergast is a recent graduate of Willamette University in Salem, Oregon. She has been playing early music on recorder and violin since the age of eleven. She is currently the violin apprentice in the Baroque Chamber Orchestra of Colorado as well as the orchestra's Marketing and Media Intern.

Kailey Richards (Ottawa, ON / Blomington, IN)

Kailey Richards is currently studying baroque violin in the Bachelor of Early Music programme at Indiana University under the tutelage of Stanley Ritchie and was the recipient of a Premier Young Artist Award. She previously studied with Julia Wedman and Patricia Ahern in Toronto, where she also attended the Tafelmusik Baroque Summer Institute. She is originally from Ottawa, where she began her studies with Daniel Taylor and Adrian Butterfield.

[TBSI 2013]

Arlan Vriens (Edmonton, AB)

Arlan Vriens is a MMus candidate in Violin Performance at Memorial University in St. John's, NL, and performs with the Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra as a Suncor String Fellow. He has performed in early music workshops and festivals in Toronto, Oberlin, Edmonton, and Vancouver, and was the recipient of a 2014 Early Music America Summer Workshop Scholarship.

[TBSI 2013]

VIOLIN/VIOLA

Peter Lekx (St. Catharines, ON / Cleveland, OH)

Peter Lekx performs on baroque violin and viola, and has appeared with numerous groups, including Aradia, Bourbon Baroque, Cambridge Concentus, New Comma Baroque, and Quicksilver. He is Artistic Director of Burning River Baroque (Cleveland), and holds degrees from Wilfrid Laurier, Penn State, and Boston University. Recent engagements include concertos with Northwestern University and NC Baroque Orchestra.

[TWI 2014]

Lindsey Strand-Polyak (Santa Monica, CA)

Lindsey Strand-Polyak is a violinist, violist, and scholar based in Los Angeles, CA, and holds a PhD/MM in Musicology/Violin Performance from UCLA. She performs with groups such as American Bach Soloists, Bach Collegium San Diego, Musica Angelica, Pacific MusicWorks, and directs the UCLA Early Music Ensemble.

[TBSI 2009]

VIOLA

Caren Abramoff (Ottawa, ON)

Caren Abramoff lives in Ottawa, where she is a freelance violist and teaches thirty violin, viola, and piano students. Caren directs the Ottawa Adult Chamber Strings, an amateur group that performs 16th- to 18th-century music in seniors' homes and at community events. Originally from Saskatchewan, Caren did her undergraduate studies in violin at the University of Victoria, and her MMus degree at the University of Ottawa with Rennie Regehr. Caren was introduced to historical performance at SUNY Sony Brook, where she completed her doctorate on modern viola with Larry Dutton. An alumna of TBSI, she is excited to be at TWI for the first time.

[TBSI 2012-14]

Suzanne Rousso (Durham, NC)

Suzanne Rousso was trained at the Curtis Institute of Music, The Eastman School, and the New England Conservatory, with teachers including Eugene Becker, Max Aronoff, Heidi Castleman and Walter Trampler. She held orchestral positions around the country, and in 1999 was appointed Director of Education for the North Carolina Symphony, with whom she performed regularly. After a stint with the Portland (Maine) Symphony, she returned to North Carolina to become Artistic Director of the Mallarmé Chamber Players, with whom she also performs as violist. She performs regularly with orchestras in the Durham area, and is a member of the newly-formed North Carolina Baroque Orchestra.

Andrew Waid (Tulsa, OK)

Andrew Waid is currently a DMA candidate in viola at Boston University, and also performs frequently on both modern and baroque instruments in numerous ensembles in Massachusetts and New England. Andrew participated in the American Bach Soloists Academy (San Francisco, 2013) and the International Baroque Institute at Longy (Cambridge, 2013 and 2014).

VIOLONCELLO

Denise Fan (Hong Kong / Boston, MA)

Denise Fan is a DMA candidate at Boston University, specializing in historical performance. She studies baroque cello with Sarah Freiberg, viola da gamba with Laura Jeppesen, and cello with Rhonda Rider. She is active as both a solo and chamber musician, and is a keen advocate of historically informed performance practice. Last summer she gave a seminar in period performance at the Chichibu International Music Festival in Japan.

[TBSI 2013]

Amy Laing (Nanaimo, BC / Toronto, ON)

Originally from Nanaimo, British Columbia, Amy earned her BMus degree from the HARID Conservatory in Boca Raton Florida, and her MMus from the Cleveland Institute of Music. Now living in Toronto, Amy plays regularly with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, and many other orchestras in Canada and abroad, and participates regularly in chamber music making. Amy held a one-year position as principal cello in the Victoria Symphony, where she also taught at the Victoria Conservatory of Music.

Elizabeth Lyon (Ithaca, NY)

A versatile and inquisitive musician, Ms. Lyon has taken baroque cello lessons with Phoebe Carrai and has studied cello-fortepiano repertoire with Audrey Axinn. She has played baroque cello in masterclasses for Malcolm Bilson, William Christie, Monica Huggett, Myron Lutzke, Bart van Oort, and Tanya Tompkins. Elizabeth performs on a Barak Norman baroque cello generously loaned to her by Bonnie Hampton. Most recently, Elizabeth was honoured with the William Schuman Prize for Outstanding Achievement and Leadership in Music upon graduating from the Juilliard School.

Alexa Pilon (Saskatoon, SK / Los Angeles, CA)

Alexa Pilon, cello, completed a BMus in 2009 with Mark Rudoff and a MMus in 2010 with Leanne Zacharias, both at Brandon University in Brandon, Manitoba, Canada. She recently finished the Advanced Certificate Program with Tafelmusik at University of Toronto, studying with Christina Mahler. She is a founding member of Rezonance, an early music ensemble based in Toronto, and Concitato 415, an early music ensemble based in Los Angeles. She has performed with Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra and Chamber Choir in Handel's *Hercules*. She has recently moved to Los Angeles to begin a DMA at the University of Southern California. She is currently studying baroque cello with William Skeen, and baroque bassoon and dulcian with Charlie Koster.

[TBSI 2009-10; TBSI Continuo Team 2013; TWI 2013]

DOUBLE BASS / VIOLONE

Andrew Charles Goodlett (Indianapolis, IN / Winnipeg, MA)

Andrew Goodlett is currently serving as the Assistant Principle bass of the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra. Andrew received his BMus in Orchestra Performance and Jazz Studies from Michigan State University and his MMus from Northwestern University. This is Andrew's second Winter Institute, and he has also been to the Tafelmusik Baroque Summer Institute for the past two summers.

[TBSI 2013-14; TWI 2014]

Filip Stasiak (London, ON)

Double bassist Filip Stasiak holds a Diploma in Chamber Music from Wilfrid Laurier University, a MMus in Literature and Performance from Western University, and a BMus from Wayne State University in Detroit. Filip is currently a member of the Niagara Symphony, the International Symphony of Sarnia and Port Huron, and London Ontario's award-winning world music group The Light of East Ensemble. As a teacher, Stasiak has a large private studio in London Ontario and is a Lecturer in the Music Education department at Western University.

[TBSI 2013]

HARPSICHORD

Matthew J. Hall (Ithaca, NY)

Matthew J. Hall has received praise for his "lively and adventurous" playing and "eloquent virtuosity" (*Boston Musical Intelligencer*). He is a former Fulbright Scholar and holds degrees in musicology, performance practice, and linguistics from Harvard, Boston University, and the University of Leeds (UK). He is now a Ph.D. candidate in musicology at Cornell University.

Wesley Shen (Toronto, ON)

Wesley Shen is a harpsichordist and pianist based in Toronto. Specializing in baroque and contemporary music, he is interested in the continued revival of the harpsichord as a contemporary musical instrument.

[TBSI 2012-13; TBSI continuo assistant 2014; TWI 2013-14]

THEORBO/GUITAR

Michel Angers (Quebec City, QC)

Michel Angers completed a Master's degree from Laval University in Quebec, and was awarded highest distinction from Quebec Music Conservatory. In 2005, Michel Angers won the Canadian Music Competition in the classical guitar category. He studied lute with Lucas Harris at the Tafelmusik Baroque Summer Institute and Oberlin Baroque Performance Institute. Twice a grant holder of the Marco Fodella Foundation, Michel specialized in early music under Paul Beier at the International Academy of Music in Milan. Michel plays in numerous artistic projects for various ensembles as a continuo player (Les Violons du Roy, Les Idées Heureuses, Da Sonar, Ensemble Anonymus, and Constantinople) and as a soloist in America and Europe. He is a recording artist for Italian label Stradivarius.

[TBSI 2006-07]

Warner Iversen (Rochester, NY)

Warner Iversen is currently finishing his DMA in early music and classical guitar at the Eastman School of Music, where he studies theorbo and baroque guitar under Paul O'Dette. As a soloist, Mr. Iversen has performed in the 2014 Lute Society of America Festival in Cleveland as well as the 2013 Rochester Early Music Festival, among others.

Arash Noori (Toronto, ON / New Haven, CT)

With his performances described as “well-wrought and subtly moving” (New Haven Advocate), Arash Noori has gained a reputation as a versatile musician with a repertoire ranging from early to contemporary music. He has been a top-prize winner at several national and international competitions, including the Great Lakes International Festival and Competition, and Guitare Montreal.

[TBSI 2014]