

Equally at home playing Bartok and Broadway, Chicago native Chad Topaz first picked up a viola in 1984, three years after beginning his musical training on violin. Currently a violist with the Berkshire Symphony and a regular participant in the Chamber Music Conference East, Chad is a passionate chamber musician whose honors include First Prize in the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition and Harvard University's Horblitt Prize for Chamber Music. Orchestrally, he has performed with the Boston Philharmonic and the St. Louis Philharmonic, in addition to maintaining an avid freelance presence in Boston at the time of his residence. Interested in connections between the musical and visual arts, Chad has enjoyed performing in museums including the Art Institute of Chicago and the Fogg Museum. In Chad's other life, he holds a Ph.D. in applied mathematics from Northwestern University and is Professor of Complex Systems at Williams College, adjunct Professor of Applied Mathematics at the University of Colorado, and co-founder of QSIDE Institute, a social justice research-to-action nonprofit organization. Chad wrote his college application essay on viola jokes.

Solo Music Study

Cathy Basrak, Boston Symphony Orchestra
Junah Chung, CUNY Graduate Center
Ellen Higham, New Haven Symphony Orchestra
Peter Slowik, Oberlin College

Matthew Williams, University of Minnesota
Michael Zaretsky, Boston Symphony Orchestra
John Ziarko, Longy School of Music

Chamber Music Study

Amadi Azikiwe, violin/viola, NYU Steinhardt
En-Chi Cheng, Metropolitan Opera
David Commanday, cello, Harvard University
Allan Dennis, bass, Midwest Young Artists
Michael Dumouchel, clarinet, Montreal Symphony
Korine Fujiwara, viola, Carpe Diem String Quartet
Read Gainsford, piano, Florida State University
Amy Galluzzo, New England Conservatory

Shem Guibbory, violin, Metropolitan Orchestra
Eugene Kim, cello, New England Conservatory
Carol Ou, cello, New England Conservatory
Brad Ritchie, cello, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra
Kate Vincent, viola, Firebird Ensemble
Sam Weiser, violin, Carpe Diem String Quartet
Masako Yanagita, violin, Springfield Symphony

Orchestral Experience (Selected)

Berkshire Symphony Orchestra (substitute principal)
Boston Philharmonic Orchestra
Bach Society Orchestra, Harvard University, principal
Lowell Opera Society, Harvard University, principal
Toscanini Chamber Orchestra, Harvard University, principal
St. Louis Philharmonic Orchestra

Awards

Horblitt Prize for Chamber Music (Harvard University), Millennium Quartet
First Prize, Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition, Greenfield Quartet

Solo Repertoire (Selected)

Works of JC Bach, JS Bach, Bartok, Bloch, Brahms, Bruch, Casadesus, Clarke, Haydn, Hindemith, Milhaud, Mozart, Ripper, Schubert, Shostakovich, Shulman, Stamitz, Telemann, and more. Details available upon request.

Chamber Music (Selected)

Beethoven, String Quartets, op. 18
Beethoven, String Quartets, op. 59
Beethoven, String Quartet, op. 74
Beethoven, String Quartet, op. 131
Borodin, String Quartet no. 2
Brahms, Clarinet Quintet, op. 115
Brahms, Piano Quartet no. 1, op. 25
Brahms, Piano Quintet, op. 34
Brahms, String Quintet no. 2, op. 111
Brahms, String Sextet, op. 18
Cras, String Trio
Dohnanyi, Serenade, op. 10
Dvorak, Piano Quintet no. 2, op. 81
Dvorak, String Quartet no. 10, op. 51
Dvorak, String Quartet no. 12, op. 96
Faure, Piano Quartet no. 1, op. 15
Haydn, String Quartets (numerous)

Korngold, String Quartet no. 2, op. 26
Mendelssohn, String Quartet, op. 12
Mendelssohn, String Quintet no. 1, op. 18
Mendelssohn, String Octet, op. 20
Mozart, String Quartets (numerous)
Mozart, String Quintet K516
Price, String Quartet no. 2
Ravel, String Quartet
Schubert, String Quintet, D. 956
Schubert, Piano Quintet, D. 667
Schulhoff, Five Pieces
Schumann, Piano Quartet, op. 47
Schumann, Piano Quintet, op. 44
Shostakovich, String Quartet no. 1, op. 49
Shostakovich, String Quartet no. 8, op. 110
Vaughan Williams, Phantasy Quintet
Wolf, Italian Serenade

References

Available upon request