

The **Rawlins Piano Trio** is a dynamic group of performers, teachers and scholars, distinguishing itself in arts outreach, masterclasses and a variety of performances. “These artists are first class. They perform with elan and intensity. Highly recommended!” says bassist and Inner Game of Music author Barry Green. Prestigious performance venues include Sejong Chamber Hall (Seoul, South Korea), Chiang-Kai-Shek Cultural Center (Kaohsiung, Taiwan), Teatro de Anita Villalaz for the Fundación Sinfonía Concertante de Panama and national conferences of the College Music Society and Chamber Music America.

Their diverse repertoire ranges from standard works to new and undiscovered pieces deserving to be brought into the public light. Owing to its expertise as a preeminent interpreter of American music, the ensemble has recorded five CDs of these works. *Attracting Opposites* (Azica, 2013) celebrates commissions by Miguel Roig-Francoli, Stephen Yarbrough, James Lentini, Timothy Hoekman and Emma Lou Diemer. In 2009, *American Discoveries* (Albany) presented the Trio’s first commissioned composition--*Volvic Maritim* by New York based composer, Daniel Bernard Roumain. Reviewer J. Scott Morrison declared *American Discoveries*, “...another winner from the Rawlins Trio...they continue their work of bringing us American composers' music that is worth hearing...Their playing is artful, suave and pleasing.”

The members of the Trio are on the faculty of the University of South Dakota Department of Music. As enthusiastic teachers, outreach is a vital component of their touring schedule with masterclasses and school visits on a regular basis throughout the United States and abroad. The ensemble is named in honor of the late Marjorie and Robert Rawlins, its principal benefactors and graduates of the University of South Dakota in the 1940s.

**Ioana Galu**, a native of Romania, has enjoyed a rich career as a performer, researcher and pedagogue in both Europe and the United States. Former Assistant Professor of Violin and chamber music at Gheorghe Dima Music Academy in Cluj, Romania, Galu has also been on the faculty at Heidelberg University, Bowling Green State University, and The College of Wooster. Galu joined the University of South Dakota in 2016 and is currently Associate Professor of Violin/Viola, co-director of the USD Chamber Orchestra and member of the Rawlins Piano Trio. She has served on the faculty of the Eastern Music Festival (Greenboro, NC) between 2004 and 2022, and is now the artistic director of the Arioso Chamber Players.

A graduate of Gheorghe Dima Music Academy, Romania, Galu earned a second master's degree in violin performance from Bowling Green State University, an Artist Diploma from University of Cincinnati's College Conservatory of Music and a doctorate in Contemporary Music from Bowling Green State University. Her most important teachers were Victoria Nicolae, Vasile Beluska, Yim Won Bin and Penny Thompson Kruse.

Galu has completed additional studies with the Voces String Quartet, Amernet String Quartet, Alexandru Gavrilovici, Kiss Ladislau, Trio Kadek, Jacques Saint-Yves, Sherban Lupu, Devics Sandor and Wolfram Just. In 2000, she earned a scholarship to study at the Académie Musicale de Villecroze. France.

She has been awarded prizes in several national and international competitions, including Second Prize in the Mozart International Competition for Piano Trios (Romania), and First Prize and Special Prize of the SOROS Foundation at the George Enescu Violin National Competition (Romania). She also won the Second Prize in the Starling Violin Competition College Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati (CCM) and was the winner of the CCM Concerto Competition with Bernstein's *Serenade*.

Galu has performed recitals in Romania, Hungary, Germany, France, Italy, and the United States. She appeared as soloist with Transylvania Philharmonic, Tg. Mures Philharmonic, Sibiu Philharmonic, and Satu Mare Philharmonic (Romania) and with CCM Orchestra, Heidelberg University Orchestra, Jackson Symphony Orchestra, Southern Great Lakes Symphony, Central Ohio Symphony, Perrysburg Symphony, BGSU Philharmonia, USD Chamber Orchestra, USD Symphony, USD Percussion Ensemble and South Dakota Symphony Orchestra (United States). Her most recent solo performances include Lou Harrison's Concerto for Violin and Percussion Ensemble and Malcolm Arnold's Concerto for Two Violins and String Orchestra.

Between 2006 and 2009 she served as the concertmaster of Central Ohio Symphony in Delaware, and between 2012 and 2016 she served as the concertmaster of the Southern Great Lakes Symphony Orchestra. Galu is currently a member of the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra.

Together with Bistrita Society of Concerts, Galu co-founded the "American Musicians in Transylvania" festival in her hometown of Bistrita, Romania. The festival brings together Romanian and American artists for chamber music concerts in different Transylvanian cities.

Galu presented the world premiere of Marilyn Shrude's violin concerto Libro D'Ore with the Central Ohio Symphony and the European premiere with the Sibiu State Philharmonic in Romania. She gave its US premiere and subsequently recorded the concerto for Albany Records.

Galu also recorded "Music Under Political Unrest" - Works for Two Violins by Grażyna Bacewicz, Henryk Górecki, and Michał Spisak with Iuliana Cotirlea, violin.

**Sonja Kraus**, originally from Germany, is an internationally acclaimed cellist, teacher, and music scholar, whose musical career has taken her around the world. Currently, Kraus holds the position of Associate Professor of Music (Cello) at the University of South Dakota where she teaches cello, chamber music, and co-directs the chamber orchestra. She is also the cellist of the renowned Rawlins Piano Trio. Since 2023, Kraus has been the orchestra manager of the International Chamber Orchestra of Puerto Rico and the artistic director of the Ensemble *Zusammen*.

Before moving to South Dakota, Kraus was the cello professor at the Universidad de Especialidades Espíritu Santo in Guayaquil where she helped to develop the first master's program for musicians in Ecuador. At that time, she was also the principal cellist of the Orquesta Filarmónica Municipal de Guayaquil. During her time in Indiana, Kraus was assistant principal cellist in the Columbus Indiana Philharmonic and a member of the Terre Haute Symphony Orchestra. In her final year in Germany, she worked in the Stuttgart Philharmonic Orchestra and before that as substitute cellist for the Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra and the Stuttgart Opera Orchestra.

Kraus received her bachelor's degree in cello performance and pedagogy from the State University of Music and Performing Arts in Stuttgart (Germany) as well as a master's and doctoral degree from the Jacobs School of Music – Indiana University Bloomington where she studied with Prof. Emilio Colón. As a researcher, Kraus focuses on broadening the cello repertoire by identifying manuscripts and creating editions of unpublished cello works from the classical era. So far, she has found three cello concertos by Franz Anton Hoffmeister and is in the process of creating scholarly editions for these works.

Early in her career, Kraus traveled with the National Youth Orchestra of Germany to Japan, Venezuela, and more than ten countries in Europe. During her undergraduate studies, her piano trio Ananda performed in many countries all over Europe with frequent appearances in Germany, France, and Switzerland. In August 2012, Kraus moved to the United States and has since performed as soloist or as part of chamber music ensembles in many states from East to West Coast. Towards the end of her graduate studies, she expanded her career to Latin American countries and territories, including Cuba, Puerto Rico, and Ecuador.

Kraus has been teaching since she started her studies in Germany. Right when she moved to Stuttgart, she began mentoring pre-college students at the Musikschule Unterensingen. After moving to the US, she was the Associate Instructor for cello at the Jacobs School of Music –

Indiana University Bloomington, where she later joined the faculty of the String Academy. In recent years, Kraus has been a sought-after performer, clinician, and instructor of masterclasses throughout the US and Latin America with invitations to the Colegio Universitario San Gerónimo de La Habana (Cuba), Conservatorio de Música de Puerto Rico, Jacobs School of Music – Indiana University (IN), Chapman University (CA), University of Missouri – Kansas City (MO), and the University of Oklahoma (OK). Kraus participated in several music festivals around the world including Habana Clásica, the International Chamber Orchestra of Puerto Rico, the Fresno Summer Orchestra Academy, and the California Orchestra Academy.

Praised by *The New York Concert Review* for “a solid foundation of fluent pianism” after her debut at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall, Korean pianist **Eun-Hee Park** enjoys a diverse career as soloist, chamber musician, and educator. She has given numerous concerts throughout the United States, South Korea, Japan, Italy, Brazil, and Costa Rica appearing in various prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall, the Seoul Arts Center in South Korea, and Izumi Hall in Japan. Park has been a recipient of many awards including Global Music Awards (2023 & 2022), The American Prize (Finalist in Chamber Music Performance, Semi-Finalist in Virtual Performance), the Special Prize for the Performance of Contemporary Music at the Competition Internationale, first prize at Oklahoma's Young Artists Competition, and first prize at the Concerto Competition at Colorado Mesa University. She has received numerous grants such as Music Fellowship Grant by Alabama Arts Council, Teaching & Scholarship Project Grant, Research & Creative Projects Grant, Concert & Lecture Grant, Graduate Student Academic Conference Grant, University Musical Associates Grant, and the James and Lola Faust Chamber Music Scholarship of the Mu Phi Epsilon Foundation.

As a founding member of **enhakē** ([www.enhake.org](http://www.enhake.org)), the prize-winning clarinet-violin-cello-piano quartet, Park has received many awards and grants, including Global Music Award's Silver Medal in the Chamber Music Category, First Prize at the Yellow Springs International Competition, Gold Medal at the International Chamber Music Ensemble Competition, the Judges Special Recognition Prize at the Plowman Chamber Music Competition, and an Encore Grant from the American Composers Forum. The group has released albums on the Naxos, Emeritus, MSR Classics, and Capstone labels, some of which were featured on NPR stations and the Korean Broadcasting System. The Naxos album *Gulfstream* was selected as *BBC Music Magazine's* Music US Choice, *MusicWeb International's* "CD of the Month," and *Naxos Critics' Choice*. Concerning this particular album, *Gramophone* stated, “[p]ianist Eun-Hee Park's fast, light-fingered touch...provides numerous moments of purely physical delight.”

A Nationally Certified Teacher of Music in Piano (NCTM) and Steinway Educational Partner, Dr. Park is a sought-after adjudicator and clinician. Park has held educational residencies at

Escape2Create at the Seaside Institute in Florida and with Albany Symphony Orchestra, Tallahassee Youth Orchestras, and the Costa Rican-North American Cultural Center. She has given masterclasses at numerous universities and high schools in the United States, South Korea, Costa Rica, and Brazil, as well as frequently invited as adjudicator and judge for competitions and auditions nationwide. Dr. Park is the newly appointed pianist of the Rawlins Piano Trio ([www.rawlinstrio.com](http://www.rawlinstrio.com)) and Assistant Professor of Music at the University of South Dakota starting in the Fall of 2024. Her previous appointments include the University of Montevallo as an Associate Professor of Music and Head of the Keyboard Area, the Hartt School, Music in the Mountains Conservatory, University of Southern Mississippi, Southern Mississippi Piano Institute, Westport School of Music, the Chapel Hill Chamber Music Workshop, Interlochen Arts Camp, Oklahoma City University, and Principal Pianist for the Albany Symphony Orchestra. Park holds degrees from Florida State University (D.M.), Oklahoma City University (M.M.), and Colorado Mesa University (B.A.). Her teachers include Carolyn Bridger, Amy I-Lin Cheng, Ernestine Scott, Michael Baron, Timothy Olsen (Organ), and Karyl Louwenaar (Harpsichord).