

25TH Amelia Island chamber music festival



aicmf.org

2025–2026
25th anniversary season

25th Season

25th Anniversary Silver Soirée

Story & Song Center for Arts & Culture

October 12, 2025

Sounds of the Season featuring Time for Three

Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island

December 17, 2025

Anne Akiko Meyers and Jason Vieaux

Amelia River Club

January 18, 2026

Imani Winds

Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island

January 27, 2026

David Finckel and Wu Han

Amelia Plantation Chapel

February 12, 2026

Florida's Finest with Amernet Quartet

and the Lawson Ensemble, Jasmin Arakawa & Kevin Kenner

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

February 22, 2026

Orpheus Chamber Orchestra with Marc-André Hamelin

First Baptist Church

March 3, 2026

Viano Quartet with Zuill Bailey

Amelia Plantation Chapel

March 13, 2026

Free Family Concert: Just Jazzin' Around

with the Gary Motley Trio

Maxwell Hall at Memorial United Methodist Church

April 18, 2026

Khatia Buniatishvili

Amelia River Club

April 21, 2026

Marasco Young Artists' Concert

Sanctuary at Memorial United Methodist Church

May 9, 2026

Beethoven & Beer

Mocama Beer Company

June 10, 2026

Festival Finale: Miró Quartet and Beth Newdome Fellows

Historic Nassau County Courthouse

June 13, 2026

Cover Artwork by **Christopher Rex**

Performance venues, programs, dates, and times are subject to change.

Visit us at aicmf.org for the latest information.



All venues for Festival events are wheelchair accessible. It is the policy of Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival to comply with all of the requirements of The Americans with Disabilities Act. To request materials in accessible format, sign language interpreters, and/or any accommodation to participate in our programs and performances, please contact us at office@aicmf.org or (904) 261-1779 at least 10 days in advance to initiate your request.

Welcome!

Welcome to the **Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival's landmark 25th anniversary season!**

For 25 years, we have been bringing the **world's greatest music, internationally known performers, the magic of the Island**, a variety of **beautiful concert venues**, and more to music lovers around the area. Join us for an unforgettable experience as we celebrate our 25th anniversary with a blockbuster season.

We kick off the season on Dec. 17 with one of music's crossover megastar groups, the Grammy- and Emmy-winning ensemble **Time For Three**, who defy conventions with genre-bending excellence.

The season proper will include Georgian pianist sensation **Khatia Buniatishvili**; the brilliant young **Viano Quartet** joined by cellist **Zuill Bailey**; the **Imani Winds** making their Festival debut; chamber music power couple cellist **David Finckel** and pianist **Wu Han** sharing their visionary artistry; the **Orpheus Chamber Orchestra** joined by pianist **Marc-André Hamelin**; **Anne Akiko Meyers**, violin, and **Jason Vieaux**, guitar, joining forces for an intimate evening of violin and guitar in a new venue for us—the breathtaking marsh-front setting at The Amelia River Club; and we welcome some of the best resident musicians in the state for an exciting mixed program by **"Florida's Finest."**

We will also offer our annual **free Family Concert**, welcoming the **Gary Motley Trio** for **"Just Jazzin' Around,"** and a brand-new annual concert—the **Marasco Young Artists Concert**—celebrating the next generation of local young musicians.

The **Miró Quartet** will return for our popular **"Beethoven & Beer"** program and will lead our annual **Christopher Rex String Seminar**, welcoming two young rising-star quartets to coach with the Miró for a week and presenting an exciting **Festival Finale** concert all together.

Public master classes, school outreach programs, a "Meet the Musician" series, and more are all part of our celebratory 25th anniversary season.

Many of our concerts will sell out, so take a look through this brochure and **make your plans now** to join us to celebrate 25 years at another unforgettable Festival!



William Ransom

Artistic Director



A Letter from the Executive Director

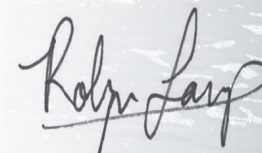
As I reflect on my first season as Executive Director of the Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival, I am filled with both gratitude and excitement. It has been a true honor to step into this role and discover the many ways this Festival enriches our lives with breathtaking performances by world-class musicians and a community that embraces music with such joy and appreciation. There is nothing I love more than watching our wonderful audiences rise to their feet, offering warm and thunderous applause to the guest musicians who visit this special place.

One of the many pleasures this year has been meeting so many longtime patrons, first-time concertgoers, dedicated volunteers, and generous supporters. Each of you has a story about what the Festival means to you. For some, it's the rush of hearing extraordinary artists up close. For others, it's the joy of sharing music with friends and family, or the quiet contentment of letting the gorgeous music wash over you.

I have been especially moved by the passion and commitment of our volunteers, board members, and staff. Their dedication is the foundation on which this Festival has thrived for more than two decades, and their partnership inspires me daily as we look toward the future.

I look forward to sharing more music, more conversations, and more moments of joy with you in the months ahead. Thank you for being part of the Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival family.

Warmly,



Robyn Lamp

Executive Director



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2025-2026 Ticketing Specials

Visitors to Amelia Island

If you are visiting Amelia Island, you may be eligible to receive a 50% discount on Festival tickets by presenting a valid confirmation from any lodging establishment located on Amelia Island. To get the discount - check availability, make your lodging reservation, and then call the Festival office at 904-261-1779 to purchase your discounted tickets.

Students Tickets

We are thrilled to offer students under the age of 25 tickets to most events for \$15.

Tickets are available for purchase on **aicmf.org**. Some exclusions apply.

Looking for ticket packages or season subscriptions?
Learn more at **aicmf.org/ticketing-specials**.

Festival Support

The Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival has been delivering world-class performances and providing music education for promising young students since our founding in 2001. We have been able to do this only thanks to your generous financial Support, as ticket sales only cover 22% of our operating costs. The remaining 78% comes from individual donors and corporate sponsors like you.

Here's how you can help:



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To learn more, please reach out to your financial advisor or contact us at: **(904) 261-1779** or **office@aicmf.org**. Visit us at **aicmf.org** to learn about the many benefits that are available to you by contributing at our various donor levels.

In addition, we are a volunteer-driven organization, and you can support us by putting your skills to work as a Festival volunteer.

Our website **aicmf.org/volunteer** provides complete information on volunteer opportunities and how you can sign up.

Volunteer opportunities include (but are not limited to):

- Airport pick-up and drop-off of artists
- Driving artists to and from their lodging
- Concert ushers and green room attendant
- In-office administrative assistance
- Checking-in concert attendees, utilizing personal phone to scan tickets
- Assist production team with rehearsal & concert set up (some heavy lifting required)
- Identify grants opportunities for Festival
- Concert parking guides
- Provide housing for musicians



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AMELIA ISLAND

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Escape to the serene shores of our barrier island retreat at The Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island. Here, a one-of-a-kind beach awaits, where rolling dunes and swaying sea oats frame the ocean's endless horizon. Savor coastal-inspired cuisine, from the relaxed charm of Lowcountry favorites to the culinary artistry of the award-winning Salt restaurant. Rejuvenate your spirit with bespoke spa treatments, or connect with nature through immersive experiences from guided kayak tours to backwater fly fishing. Welcome to a seaside sanctuary where renewal and refinement meet.
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Festival History

Twenty-five XXV Vingt-cinq Venticinque Fünfundzwanzig

A quarter of a century!

As we embark on this special celebratory season, the number—however written—astounds me. Treasured and cherished memories linger. Looking back and re-reading old copies of the Islander have brought a renewed sense of amazement, pride, and awe.

From our very first season, it was quite evident that this Festival would be impacting the world of Chamber Music and making a huge imprint on our island.

Fifteen renowned musicians agreed to perform for that inaugural season, which ran for two consecutive weeks.

Our first AICMF office was located on Centre Street. Out front, on the sidewalk, a string quartet from Lassiter High School performed from noon until 1 p.m. each day to draw interest and promote the Festival. Musicians, volunteers, and Board members swarmed in and out as last-minute details were arranged.

The sites for concerts, which included Fort Clinch, the Palace Saloon, the Courthouse, Trinity United Methodist Church, and the Ritz, matched the creatively paired repertoire. It was edgy and unpredictable, delighting sold-out audiences.

The musicians, charmed with the venues and by our Southern hospitality, asked to return. The scope of musicians broadened. Moving forward, our audiences continued to experience an eclectic definition of creative chamber music. Not only were internationally acclaimed string quartets such as the Guarneri, Emerson, American, Tokyo, Takács, and the Dover performing, but we introduced a wide range of innovative programming. Pepe Romero's classical guitar concert included his wife's castanet performance. Another unconventional avant-garde pairing was an Australian didgeridoo, an ancient Australian Aboriginal instrument, with traditional violin. R. Carlos Nakai mesmerized the audience playing an eagle-bone whistle and a Native American cedar flute. Including Bluegrass musicians Chris Thile, the Kruger Brothers, and Béla Fleck added yet another dimension to our Festival.

The Festival evolved into the series you know today and has brought some of the world's most renowned musicians to our island.

This season, help us celebrate our past and join with us to experience the making of more treasured memories.

With a grateful heart,


Emma Mills Bledsoe, President



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Located in the heart of Amelia Island
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1430 Park Avenue, Fernandina Beach, FL 32024

Open every day

25th Anniversary Silver Soirée

Sunday, October 12, 2025 | 4PM

Story & Song Center for Arts & Culture

Join us for a sparkling evening to launch our 25th season, featuring live music, a special documentary premiere, and an exclusive look at what's ahead this season.

Join us for a sparkling event as the Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival launches its 25th Anniversary Season with a very special celebration — our **Silver Soirée**.

The second-floor gallery at Story & Song Center for Arts & Culture, affectionately known as “the neighborhood's living room,” will come alive with music, memories, and anticipation for the season ahead.

The evening begins with a piano performance by our Artistic Director, **Will Ransom**, followed by the premiere of a short documentary film created by local photographer and filmmaker **Bob Eberle**. This beautifully crafted film captures the Festival's remarkable journey, from its earliest concerts to its present-day reputation for world-class artistry.

Guests will also enjoy an exclusive preview of the 2025 Season, complete with captivating video clips of the artists who will grace our stages in the months ahead. Throughout the evening, explore a curated display of historical memorabilia — posters, programs, photographs, and press clippings — that tell the story of our first 25 years.

Savor hors d'oeuvres, sip from the cash bar, and mingle with fellow music lovers who share a passion for great performances and cherished community traditions.

Free admission with RSVP required.

Space is limited. Reserve your spot today and be part of the next chapter in our island's musical legacy.



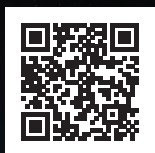
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divine way to
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poetic things
to the heart.

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”

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Sounds of the Season

featuring Time For Three



THE RITZ-CARLTON

Wednesday, December 17, 2025 | 7 PM

Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island

*Celebrate the season in style with the genre-blending trio Time For Three.
An unforgettable night of music, holiday cheer, and Ritz-Carlton elegance.*

Time For Three

Grammy- and Emmy-winning ensemble Time For Three (TF3) defies conventions with their genre-bending excellence. Comprised of Charles Yang (violin, vocals), Nicolas Kendall (violin, vocals), and Ranaan Meyer (double bass, vocals), the uniqueness of the trio's instrumentation well matches their sound, which blends eras, styles, and traditions from classical to Americana to singer-songwriter. TF3's collaborations with Pulitzer Prize winners

Jennifer Higdon and Kevin Puts resulted in the Grammy Award-winning album, "Letters for the Future," conducted by Xian Zhang and featuring the Philadelphia Orchestra. Their charismatic performances on major stages, frequent collaborations with acclaimed artists like Ben Folds and Arlo Guthrie, and commitment both on and offstage to encouraging the next generation of musicians, all showcase Time For Three's unwavering dedication to pushing creative boundaries and captivating audiences worldwide.

Meet the Musician Dinner

Tuesday, December 16, 2025 | 6 PM reception & 7 PM dinner at Salt

This exclusive evening offers guests the rare opportunity to meet the Grammy and Emmy-winning ensemble Time For Three in an intimate, relaxed setting before their highly anticipated performance. Visit aicmf.org to make your reservation.

Photo: Shervin Lainez

Anne Akiko Meyers and Jason Vieaux

Sunday, January 18, 2026 | 5 PM

Amelia River Club

Two Grammy-winning virtuosos join forces for an intimate evening of violin and guitar, in a breathtaking marsh-front setting.

Anne Akiko Meyers

Anne Akiko Meyers, GRAMMY® Award winner, is one of the world's most esteemed and celebrated violinists. Renowned as a muse and champion of today's leading composers, she has commissioned, premiered, and recorded a significant body of contemporary violin repertoire. *The Strad* hails her as "the Wonder Woman of commissioning," a title earned through her close collaborations with visionary composers such as Arvo Pärt, Einojuhani Rautavaara, John Corigliano, Arturo Márquez, Philip Glass, Michael Daugherty, Mason Bates, Adam Schoenberg, Billy Childs, Jakub Ciupinski, Ola Gjeilo, Morten Lauridsen, Wynton Marsalis, Somei Satoh, and Eric Whitacre. Since her teens, Anne has performed around the world as soloist with leading orchestras, in recital and recorded more than 40 releases, which have become staples of classical music radio and streaming platforms.

In the 2025-26 season Meyers premieres Eric Whitacre's *The Pacific Has No Memory* with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Colorado Music Festival Orchestra, and Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, releases four new world premiere recordings, and performs in recitals and with leading orchestras. The new recordings include *Blue Electra*, a violin concerto by Michael Daugherty with David Alan Miller and the Albany Symphony; *Beloved*, including Billy Childs's requiem *In The Arms of the Beloved*, and selections by Ola Gjeilo and Eric Whitacre, with Grant Gershon and the Los Angeles Master Choral; Philip Glass's *New Chaconne* and *Violin Concerto No. 1*, with Gustavo Dudamel and the Los Angeles Philharmonic; and Adam Schoenberg's *Orchard in Fog*, with Gemma New and the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra.

Meyers has appeared twice on *The Tonight Show*, *Tiny Desk, Evening at Pops*, and *Great Performances*, and has made more than 40 critically acclaimed recordings. In 2024, her recording of Arturo Márquez's *Fandango*, with Gustavo Dudamel and the LA Philharmonic, received two Latin GRAMMY® Awards: Best Classical Album and Best Contemporary Composition. *Fandango* was premiered in 2021 at The Hollywood Bowl, and has been performed more than 40 times with 16 different orchestras around the world, including the LA Phil's triumphant return to Carnegie Hall after 32 years. Meyers returns to the Hollywood Bowl this September to reprise *Fandango* with the LA Phil.





Meet the Musician

Saturday, January 17, 2026 | 5 PM at Story & Song

Visit aicmf.org to make your reservation

Jason Vieaux

Grammy-winner Jason Vieaux, “among the elite of today’s classical guitarists” (Gramophone), is described by NPR as “perhaps the most precise and soulful classical guitarist of his generation”.

In appearances from New York’s Lincoln Center to Amsterdam’s Concertgebouw and the Seoul Arts Center, Jason Vieaux has cemented his reputation as an artist of brilliance and uncompromised mastery. Cited for his “eloquent and vibrant performances” on disc (Gramophone Magazine) he is hailed as “virtuosic, flamboyant, dashing and, sometimes ineffably lyrical” (New York Times) on stage.

Sought-after for his extensive concerto repertoire, Vieaux has performed with a long list of orchestras including Cleveland, Toronto, St. Louis, Houston, Columbus, and has made premiere recordings with the Nashville Symphony (Leshnoff Concerto) and the Norrköping Symphony (Beal *Six Sixteen*). He has worked with renowned conductors

including Giancarlo Guerrero, Jahja Ling, Gerard Schwarz, and David Robertson. Vieaux’s passion for new music has fostered premieres from Jeff Beal, Avner Dorman, Vivian Fung, Pierre Jalbert, Jonathan Leshnoff, David Ludwig, Mark Mancina, and Dan Visconti, among many others.

Vieaux’s extensive discography includes his “Bach Volume 2: Works for Violin” released on Azica in 2022 to rave reviews for his “eloquent and vibrant performances” (Gramophone). Additional 2022 releases include “Shining Night” featuring his duo with acclaimed violinist Anne Akiko Meyers (Avie Records) and Michael Fine’s “Concierto del Luna” with flutist Alexa Still (Sony Classical), both enjoying strong critical acclaim. Vieaux recorded Pat Metheny’s “Four Paths of Light”, a solo work dedicated to him by Pat, for Metheny’s 2021 album “Road to the Sun”. Jason Vieaux won the 2014 Best Instrumental Classical Solo Grammy Award for “Play”. The Huffington Post declared PLAY is “part of the revitalized interest in the classical guitar”.

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Imani Winds

Tuesday, January 27, 2026 | 7 PM

Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island

The trailblazing Imani Winds bring their vibrant, genre-spanning repertoire and cultural storytelling to the Ritz stage — a dynamic celebration of wind chamber music like you've never heard before.

Brandon Patrick George - flute

Toyin Spellman-Diaz - oboe

Mark Dover - clarinet

Kevin Newton - french horn

Monica Ellis - bassoon

Imani Winds is the 2024 GRAMMY® winner in the Classical Compendium category for Jeff Scott's "Passion for Bach and Coltrane" released on their recently formed record label, Imani Winds Media.

Celebrating over a quarter century of music making, the three time GRAMMY® nominated group has led both a revolution and evolution of the wind quintet through their dynamic playing, adventurous programming, imaginative collaborations and outreach endeavors that have inspired audiences of all ages and backgrounds.

The ensemble's playlist embraces traditional chamber music repertoire, and newly commissioned works from voices that reflect historical events and the times in which we currently live.

Recent and upcoming projects include a Jessie Montgomery composition inspired by her great-grandfather's migration from the American south to the north, a work by Carlos Simon celebrating iconic figures of the African American community

and a new sextet by Viet Cuong. These works and more have been commissioned as a part of the Legacy Commissioning Project. Reflecting on the issues of mass incarceration, Imani Winds 11th studio recording, "Belonging" by and with Andy Akiho will be released Summer 2024.

Twenty-seven seasons of full-time touring has brought Imani Winds to virtually every major chamber music series, performing arts center, and summer festival in the U.S. They regularly perform in prominent venues including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and the Kennedy Center and have a presence at festivals such as Chamber Music Northwest, Chautauqua Institution and Banff Centre.

Imani Winds thoughtfully curates unique residencies that include performances, workshops, and masterclasses to thousands of students each year at institutions such as the University of Chicago, Eastman School of Music and Duke University.

Their international presence includes concerts throughout Asia, Brazil, Australia, England, New Zealand and Europe.





Meet the Musician

Wednesday, February 11, 2026 | 5 PM at Story & Song

Visit aicmf.org to make your reservation

David Finckel & Wu Han

Thursday, February 12, 2026 | 7 PM

Amelia Plantation Chapel

Cellist David Finckel and pianist Wu Han—Artistic Directors of Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center—bring their visionary artistry to one of the Festival's most acoustically stunning venues.

David Finckel and Wu Han

Cellist David Finckel and pianist Wu Han, Musical America's *Musicians of the Year*, are among today's most distinguished classical artists. Their careers encompass world-class performances, acclaimed recordings, and visionary artistic direction. From New York to concert halls across the US, Europe, and Asia, they captivate global audiences. Their repertoire includes classical standards, contemporary commissions, and nearly the entire chamber music literature for cello and piano. As artistic directors, they curate over 300 concerts annually.

Finckel and Han founded ArtistLed in 1997, the first internet-based, artist-controlled classical recording label. With over 20 acclaimed releases, ArtistLed features both standard works and new repertoire.

Since 2004, Finckel and Han have been the Artistic Directors of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center (CMS), the world's largest chamber music presenter. During their tenure, the organization has significantly expanded its reach, enhancing its offerings in performances, educational programs, and recordings. They produced over 270 digital events during the pandemic, sustaining chamber music communities nationwide.

As founders and Artistic Directors of Music@Menlo since 2002, they have established the festival as a model of innovative programming and educational excellence. The festival label, Music@Menlo *LIVE*, has released over 130 high-quality CDs.



Dedicated to music education, Finckel and Wu Han transformed the CMS Two Program into the Bowers Program, which supports exceptional young musicians. They also lead the Chamber Music Institute at Music@Menlo and taught at the Isaac Stern Chamber Music Encounters in Israel, New York, and Japan. Their website offers a unique, free resource for students and arts organizations.

Wu Han, born in Taiwan, serves as Artistic Advisor for Wolf Trap and the Society of the Four Arts. She was appointed Artistic Director of La Musica in Sarasota in 2022. David Finckel, originally from New Jersey, was the first American student of Mstislav Rostropovich and is the former cellist of the Grammy Award-winning Emerson String Quartet. He currently teaches at The Juilliard School and Stony Brook University.

Finckel and Han, married in 1985, divide their time between touring, New York City, and Westchester County.

Florida's Finest with Amernet Quartet, the Lawson Ensemble, Jasmin Arakawa & Kevin Kenner

Sunday, February 22, 2026 | 5 PM

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

An extraordinary showcase of Florida's finest classical talent, featuring the Amernet Quartet, the Lawson Ensemble, and acclaimed pianists Jasmin Arakawa and Kevin Kenner in a celebration of homegrown excellence.

Amernet Quartet

Misha Vitenson - violin

Avi Nagin - violin

Michael Klotz - viola

Jason Calloway - cello



Praised for their "intelligence" and "immensely satisfying" playing by the New York Times, the Amernet String Quartet has garnered recognition as one of today's exceptional string quartets and are Ensemble-in-Residence at Florida International University in Miami. Their sound has been called "complex" but with an "old world flavor." Strad Magazine described the Amernet as "...a group of exceptional ability."

The Amernet's performance schedule has taken the quartet across the Americas and to Asia, Europe, and the Middle East. They have collaborated with many of today's most prominent artists and ensembles including the Tokyo and Ying quartets as well as Shmuel Ashkenasi, Roberto Diaz, Gary Hoffman, Ida Kavafian, Anthony McGill, Joseph Kalichstein, Sherrill Milnes, and Michael Tree.

Internationally, the quartet has appeared at major festivals around the world, including Cervantino, San Miguel de Allende, Aviv (Israel), and Colima (Mexico), while in Germany a critic commented that their playing was "fascinating, with flawless intonation, extraordinary beauty of sound, virtuosic brilliance, and homogeneity

of ensemble." (Nürnberger Nachrichten). The Amernet's U.S. engagements have included the Kennedy Center, the Tilles Center, Caramoor, Ensemble Music Society, the Great Lakes Festival, Newport, Friends of Chamber Music in Arizona and Syracuse, LPR in New York City, Chamber Music Society of Louisville, Music on the Edge in Pittsburgh, the University of Maine - Collins Center, and Market Square Concerts. The Amernet has also appeared as quartet soloist with the Cincinnati Symphony under Alan Gilbert and at West Virginia University and Gettysburg College. Earlier in their career, the Amernet won the gold medal at the Tokyo International Music Competition before being named first prize winners of the prestigious Banff International String Quartet Competition.

Prior to their current position at Florida International University, the Amernet held posts as Corbett String Quartet-in-Residence at Northern Kentucky University and at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. Additionally, the ensemble served as the Ernst Stiefel Quartet-in-Residence at the Caramoor Center for the Arts.



Lawson Ensemble

The Lawson Ensemble was formed in 2015 as a result of group members' desire to consistently perform chamber music with a level of excellence and commitment and to share this with the Jacksonville and regional community. Founding members are violinist **Aurica Duca**, violinist/violist **Clinton Dewing** and cellist **Nick Curry**. The group is in residence at the University of North Florida (UNF) in Jacksonville, Florida and performs regularly in Jacksonville and around the region. In the summer of 2016, the group joined the San Marco Chamber Music Society (SMCMS) and in the summer of 2018 toured and played concerts in England and Germany. The group also recorded for Albany Records.

Aurica and Clinton are husband and wife and are both full-time members of the Jacksonville Symphony. Nick is the Associate Professor of Cello at UNF, where he teaches. His wife, Cara Tasher, is the Director of Choral Activities at UNF. The trio played together for several years before forming The Lawson Ensemble, but a generous donation to the UNF music department allowed them to form and invite other gifted musicians to play with them for select programs. Nick, Clinton and Aurica believe in the enduring power of chamber music, the necessity for all music students to have a chamber experience, and the need for audiences to feel the immediacy, intimacy and beauty of the best chamber works.

Jasmin Arakawa
- piano

Hailed by *Gramophone* for her 'characterful sparkle', Jasmin Arakawa has performed widely in North America, Central and South America, Europe, China and Japan. A prizewinner of the Jean Françaix International Music Competition, she has been heard at Carnegie Hall, Salle Gaveau in Paris and Victoria Hall in Geneva, as well as in broadcasts of the ABC Australia, BBC, PBS and Radio France. She has appeared as a concerto soloist with the Philips Symfonie Orkest in Amsterdam, Orquestra Sinfonica de Piracicaba in Brazil, and numerous orchestras in the United States and her native Japan.

Kevin Kenner
- piano

Recognized as one of the top Chopin interpreters of our time, Kevin Kenner was the top prize winner in the 1990 Chopin Competition in Warsaw, as well as top prizes in the Tchaikovsky Competition and the Terrance Judd Competition, among others.

Born in California, Kenner was introduced early to the classical music traditions of Poland and studied as a teenager with Poland's eminent professor Ludwik Stefański in Cracow. When he returned to the U.S. he continued his studies with Leon Fleisher at the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore and worked with Leonard Bernstein at the Tanglewood Music Center.

Orpheus Chamber Orchestra

with Marc-André Hamelin

Tuesday, March 3, 2026 | 7 PM

First Baptist Church

The world-renowned, conductor-less Orpheus Chamber Orchestra brings its signature precision and collaborative energy to Amelia Island in a landmark performance featuring 11-time Grammy-nominated pianist Marc-André Hamelin.

Orpheus Chamber Orchestra is a radical experiment in musical democracy, proving for over fifty years what happens when exceptional artists gather with total trust in each other and faith in the creative process. Orpheus began in 1972 when cellist Julian Fifer assembled a group of New York freelancers in their early twenties to play orchestral repertoire as if it were chamber music. In that age of co-ops and communes, the idealistic Orpheans snubbed the “corporate” path of symphony orchestras and learned how to play, plan, and promote concerts as a true collective, with leadership roles rotating from the very first performance.

It's one thing for the four players of a string quartet to lean into the group sound and react spontaneously, but with 20 to 30 musicians together, the complexities and payoffs are magnified exponentially. Within its first decade, Orpheus made Carnegie Hall their home and

became a global sensation through tours of Europe and Asia. Their catalog of recordings for Deutsche Grammophon, Nonesuch, and other labels grew to include more than 70 albums that still stand as benchmarks of the chamber orchestra repertoire, including Haydn symphonies, Mozart concertos, and twentieth-century gems by Stravinsky, Schoenberg, Ravel, and Bartók.

The sound of Orpheus is defined by relationships, and guest artists have always been crucial partners in the process. Orpheus brings out the best in their collaborators, with bonds that deepen over time, as heard in the long arc of music-making with soloists such as Richard Goode, Vadim Gluzman, Anne Akiko Meyers, and Branford Marsalis, and in the commitment to welcoming next-generation artists including Nobuyuki Tsujii, Tine Thing Helseth, and Caleb Teicher. By partnering with



jazz legends Brad Mehldau, Wayne Shorter, and Vijay Iyer, as well as actors Christine Baranski and Liev Schreiber, Orpheus expands the boundaries of what a chamber orchestra can achieve. Collaborating with composers like Jessie Montgomery, Billy Childs, and Fazil Say has been another crucial way Orpheus evolves, commissioning numerous world-premieres every year. Having proven the power of direct communication and open-mindedness within the ensemble, the only relationship Orpheus has never had any use for is one with a conductor.

At home in New York and in the many concert halls it visits in the U.S. and beyond, Orpheus begins their next fifty years with a renewed commitment to enriching and reflecting the surrounding community. Orpheus Reflections™ brings the healing power of music to those living with dementia and their caregivers. Celebrating more than twenty years, Access Orpheus shares the orchestra's collaborative process with 1,500 New York City Public School students annually through coachings, school visits, and unparalleled access to their rehearsals and performances at Carnegie Hall. And through the Orpheus Leadership Institute, the musicians impart positive lessons of leadership and democracy to global organizations and businesses. Always evolving as artists and leaders, the Orpheus musicians carry their legacy forward, counting on their shared artistry and mutual respect to make music and effect change.



Marc-André Hamelin

Pianist Marc-André Hamelin, a "performer of near-superhuman technical prowess" (The New York Times), is acclaimed worldwide for his unrivaled consummate musicianship. He continues to amass praise for his brilliant pianism in the great works of the repertoire, and for his intrepid exploration of the rarities of the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries. He regularly performs around the globe with the leading orchestras and conductors of our time, and gives recitals at major concert venues and festivals worldwide.

Hamelin's 2025/2026 season spans North America, Europe, Asia, and Australia, with a dynamic mix of orchestral, recital, and chamber music engagements. He opens the season with a tour of Australia and Asia, featuring concerto and recital appearances with the Sydney Symphony under Sir Donald Runnicles, concerto engagements with the Wuxi, Ningbo, and Shenzhen symphonies, and solo recitals in Adelaide, Xiamen, and Shenzhen.

In North America, Hamelin appears with the Philadelphia Orchestra and Yannick Nézet-Séguin, the San Diego Symphony with Thomas Guggeis, the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra with Jaime Martin, and with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, on tour. Recital highlights include Chicago Symphony Presents, San Francisco Symphony, Chamber Music Pittsburgh, Keyboard Concerts in Fresno, and Soka Performing Arts Center. In duo with Maria João Pires, he is presented by The Cleveland Orchestra, the Gilmore Piano Festival, and the Fortas Chamber Music Series at the Kennedy Center.





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Viano Quartet with Zuill Bailey

Friday, March 13, 2026 | 7 PM

Amelia Plantation Chapel

The award-winning Viano Quartet joins Festival favorite and GRAMMY-Award winning cellist Zuill Bailey for a night of chamber music synergy.

Praised for their "virtuosity, visceral expression, and rare unity of intention" (Boston Globe), the Viano Quartet has quickly soared to international acclaim as one of the most dynamic and in-demand string quartets of their generation. Winners of the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant in 2025, the ensemble has captivated audiences worldwide ever since they were awarded First Prize at the 13th Banff International String Quartet Competition, with appearances at renowned venues such as Lincoln Center in New York, Berlin's Konzerthaus, Toronto's Koerner Hall, Hong Kong's City Hall, and London's Wigmore Hall. The Viano Quartet are Bowers Program Artists at The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center from 2024-2027.

Highlights of the Viano Quartet's 2025-26 season include debut performances at London's Southbank Centre, the Frick Collection in New York, Dublin's National Concert Hall, Coast Live Music, Friends of Chamber Music Kansas City, Apex Concerts, the Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival, the Fortas Series at the Kennedy Center, Premiere Performances HK, and a mainstage full recital debut at the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. The quartet also makes return appearances at Stanford Live, Forte Chamber Music, the Beaches Fine Arts Series, the Buffalo Chamber Music Society's Slee Series (for the second half of their Beethoven cycle), Chamber Music Albuquerque, and the Sanibel Music Festival.

Meet the Musician

March 12, 2026 | 5PM at Story and Song

Visit aicmf.org to make your reservation



Zuill Bailey - Cello

Zuill Bailey, widely considered one of the premiere cellists in the world, is a Grammy® Award winning, internationally renowned soloist, recitalist, Artistic Director and teacher. His rare combination of celebrated artistry, technical wizardry and engaging personality has made him one of the most sought after and active cellists today.

Mr. Bailey has been featured with symphony orchestras and music festivals worldwide. He won the Best Solo Performance Grammy Award in 2017, for his recording of Michael Daugherty's "Tales of Hemingway," with the Nashville Symphony led by Giancarlo Guerrero. His extensive discography includes his newest release – the world premier recording of Ellen Taaffe Zwilich's Cello Concerto with the Santa Rosa Symphony. In 2021 he released his second recording of the Bach Cello Suites for PS Audio's Octave Records label, recorded and mixed in stereo and multichannel sound.



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Free Family Concert:

Just Jazzin' Around with the Gary Motley Trio

Saturday, April 18, 2026 | 3 PM

Maxwell Hall at Memorial United Methodist Church

The Gary Motley Trio introduces young audiences to the quintessential American musical art form in this fun and interactive performance. Designed for young listeners but perfect for music lovers of all ages!

Gary Motley Trio

The Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival is excited to welcome the Gary Motley Trio for a special mini concert aimed at introducing young audiences to the vibrant world of jazz music. This engaging and interactive children's program, titled "Just Jazzin' Around," will cover the fundamentals of jazz, including improvisation and rhythm. Additionally, students will learn about legendary jazz figures such as Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington. Joining Motley will be bassist Andy Eulau and drummer Emrah Kotan.

Gary Motley:

Gary Motley embarked on a solo career in 1994 and is at the forefront of jazz in the southeastern United States. Based in Atlanta, he has captivated audiences in venues around the world. His career achievements as a recording artist, composer, performer, arranger, educator and piano virtuoso led to his induction into the Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame in 2015. Making artistic expression his life's work, he has performed with notable artists of the jazz world ranging from Dave Brubeck to Regina Carter and Kenny Barron and was featured on NPR's Piano Jazz with Marian McPartland. Recognized by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Great American Jazz Piano Competition, Gary explores many genres of music while maintaining a relentless standard of excellence. His upcoming recording, *Spectrum* was released in 2024.



Emrah Kotan:

Emrah Kotan, an accomplished and versatile musician, hailing from Turkey, has established himself as a distinguished percussionist with a rich blend of classical training and contemporary jazz expertise. Graduating with a Master's degree in Jazz Studies from Georgia State University in the United States, Emrah's musical journey knows no boundaries.



Andy Eulau:

Bassist Andy Eulau is a musical product of the vast diversity that defines his native New York metropolitan area. A veteran of the New York music scene, his "drive and rich sound" (*Downbeat Magazine*) led to associations with the Village Vanguard Orchestra, the BMI Jazz Orchestra, Gene Bertoncini, S.Y.O.T.O.S., and the Gary Morgan Pan-American Big Band, as well as several theater and symphony orchestras.



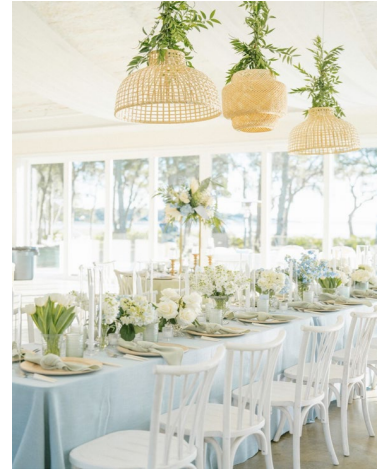
The Preserve at The Amelia River Club Amelia Island, FL



Set against the natural beauty of Amelia Island's marsh, our venue redefines coastal elegance. Floor-to-ceiling windows and panoramic marsh views create a stylish and charming canvas for celebrations of every kind.



For inquiries, please reach out to
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Khatia Buniatishvili

Tuesday, April 21, 2026 | 7 PM

Amelia River Club

A global sensation, Georgian pianist Khatia Buniatishvili brings her signature intensity and poetic power to Amelia Island for a rare, unforgettable recital.

French-Georgian pianist Khatia Buniatishvili is one of the most prominent classical artists of today. Khatia has been blessed with impressive ability. She discovered the piano at the age of three thanks to her mother, who used to leave a new musical score on her piano each day for her to devour. She performed her first concert with the Chamber Orchestra of Tbilisi at the age of six. She studied with Tengiz Amiredjibi in Tbilisi and went on to work with Oleg Maisenberg in Vienna.

Khatia has always had a special relationship with her instrument, considering pianos around the world as friends from whom she must bring out the best, respecting the oddities of their characters and sampling the charms of their personalities.

A fixture in the most prestigious venues around the world, she has performed at Carnegie Hall, the Concertgebouw, Berliner Philharmonie, Royal Festival Hall, Vienna's Musikverein and Konzerthaus, Philharmonie de Paris, and Suntory Hall, as well as at the Salzburg, Verbier, BBC Proms, Progetto Martha Argerich, and the Hollywood Bowl festivals. Her notable collaborations involve the Israel Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, NHK Symphony, London Symphony, Orchestre National de Paris, and Munich Philharmonic, and prominent conductors, among them Zubin Mehta, Gustavo Dudamel, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Paavo Järvi, Jaap Van Zweden, Gianandrea Noseda, Myung-Whun Chung and Leonard Slatkin.

But the audience she inspires with her extraordinary artistry is not limited to traditional classical music lovers. Her charisma attracts a younger generation and those who would not usually listen to classical music. Her deeply humanistic qualities, piercing intellect, mastery of five languages, involvement in diverse areas of art and in several cultures, mixture of traditional classical musical training and very personal interpretations of composer's scores give her performances bottomless depth, intensity, and grace.

Recipient of two ECHO Klassik Awards, Khatia's recordings encompass the works of Chopin, Rachmaninoff, Brahms, Liszt, Bach, and Schubert, as well as Satie, Morricone, Gainsbourg, Pärt, and Cage. In addition to her solo albums, she has recorded with Gidon Kremer, Paavo Järvi, and the band Coldplay.

A committed humanitarian, she has participated in benefit concerts for causes close to her heart: the plight of refugees, the United Nations, human rights, and music education.



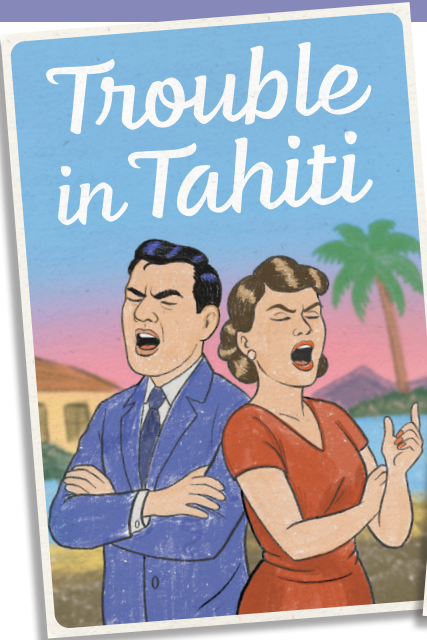
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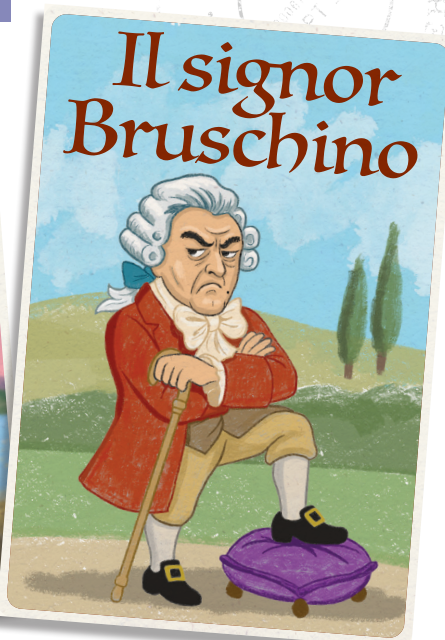
Amelia Plantation Chapel

Presented in association with the
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Trouble in Tahiti by Leonard Berstein

Il Signor Bruschino by Rossini



May 22 @ 7PM

Amelia Plantation Chapel

For more information visit: ameliaislandopera.org

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Marasco Young Artists' Concert

Saturday, May 9, 2026 | 5 PM

Sanctuary at Memorial United Methodist Church

Celebrate the next generation of classical stars in this inspiring concert featuring local young musicians — a vibrant new tradition of mentorship and discovery in remembrance of the Festival's former Executive Director, Dr. Joe Marasco.

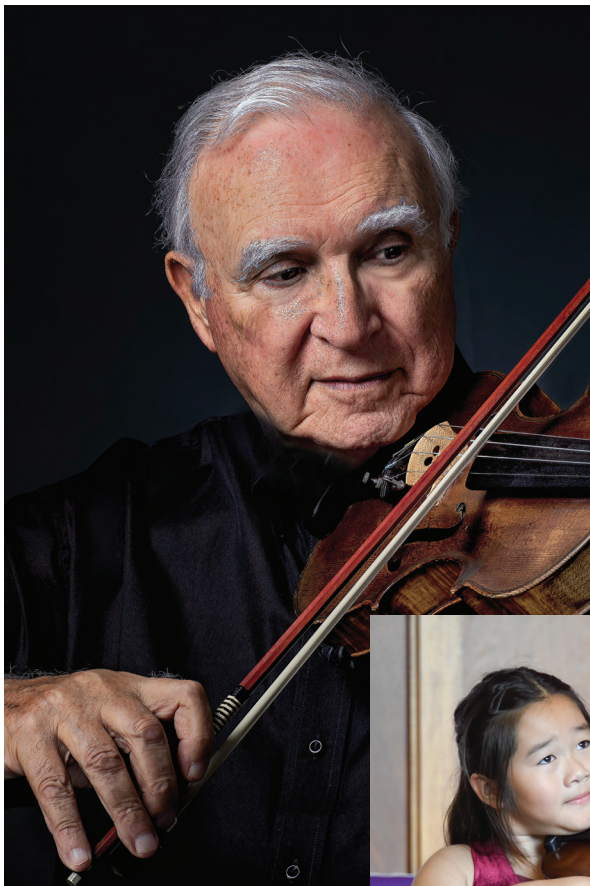


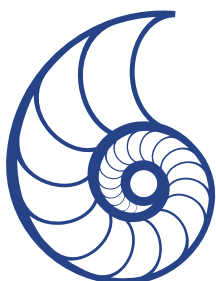
Photo: Steve Leimberg

The Marasco Young Artists' Concert is a new annual tradition launched in honor of our beloved former Executive Director, Dr. Joe Marasco. This inaugural concert pays tribute to Dr. Marasco's lasting legacy of leadership, mentorship, and deep commitment to the arts. A passionate supporter of music education and young talent, Dr. Joe believed in providing opportunities for the next generation of musicians to grow, perform, and be inspired. We are proud to carry that vision forward with this concert, which will be held each year as a living testament to his values.

This free event features performances by outstanding local student musicians and ensembles, offering them a professional platform to share their artistry. The concert is part of the Festival's mission to

support young artists by giving them valuable experience, exposure to classical music, and opportunities to connect with their peers and mentors. It is our hope that this concert will become a meaningful milestone for emerging musicians in our community for years to come.

Join us as we celebrate both the future of music and the memory of a man whose passion and generosity continue to shape the heart of our Festival.



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A SEASON FOR OPERA FANS

FANFARE!

**Oct 10
St. Augustine Beach**

This one-night-only event, hosted by General & Artistic Director Curtis Tucker, showcases the season's upcoming operas paired with a multi-course dinner by Chef Norberto Jaramillo of La Cocina at the Cellar Upstairs.

CARMEN

**Dec 31 • Jan 2 • Jan 4
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Experience Georges Bizet's iconic tale of passion, drama, and tragedy! As FCO's most ambitious production to date, this fully-staged with orchestra company premiere features mezzo-soprano Sarah Nordin in the title role.

THE MIKADO

**Spring 2026
St. Johns County**

Performed as originally produced, this timeless operetta features Sir William Gilbert's not-so-subtle lyrics and dialogue poking fun at England's politics, while Sir Arthur Sullivan provides one hummable tune after another.



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Beethoven & Beer

with the Miró Quartet

Wednesday, June 10, 2026 | 4:30 PM & 7:30 PM

Mocama Beer Company

Raise a glass with the Miró Quartet at our signature casual concert blending masterful Beethoven with a relaxed brewery vibe — the perfect pairing of tradition and fun.

The Miró Quartet is one of America's most celebrated string quartets, praised as "furiously committed" by *The New Yorker* and recognized for its "exceptional tonal focus and interpretive intensity" by the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*.¹ For 30 years, the Miró Quartet has performed throughout the world on the most prestigious concert stages, earning accolades from critics and audiences alike. Based in Austin, TX, and thriving on the area's storied music scene, the Miró Quartet takes pride in finding new ways to communicate with audiences of all backgrounds while cultivating the longstanding tradition of chamber music.

The Miró Quartet was nominated for a 2024 GRAMMY® Award for its album *House of Belonging*, created in collaboration with Austin-based choral group Conspirare, and in May 2024 released a new album, *Home*, on Pentatone. Now celebrating their 30th anniversary, the Miró Quartet's upcoming

projects include a series at Chamber Music Tulsa and performances for String Theory at the Hunter, Music Toronto, International Classical Concerts, BIG ARTS, and more. Past projects include *Here on Earth* with pianist Lara Downes, the premiere of a new version of Kevin Puts' *Credo*, and collaborations with composers Steven Banks, Tamar-Kali, and Gabriel Kahane, as well as soprano Karen Slack.

The Miró Quartet took its name and inspiration from the Spanish artist Joan Miró, whose Surrealist works—with subject matter drawn from the realm of memory, dreams, and imaginative fantasy—are some of the most groundbreaking, influential, and admired of the 20th century. Visit miroquartet.com for more information.

Visit miroquartet.com for more information.





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- Dec 19 **The Nutcracker & Sorcerer's Apprentice**
- Feb 13 **Romeo and Juliet: Tchaikovsky & Bernstein**
- Mar 6 **Mozart & More: Concertos for Two Pianos**
- Mar 27 **Barber & Mendelssohn**
- Apr 24 **Beethoven's Fifth**
- May 15 **Beethoven's Triple & Brahms**
- Jun 5 **Rachmaninoff's Third**

Ticketed bus patrons will depart from the AMC movie theater parking lot in Yulee at 5:30 p.m. and then from the Harris Teeter parking lot on Amelia Island at 6:00 p.m.



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Festival Finale:

Miró Quartet and Beth Newdome Fellows

Saturday, June 13, 2026 | 3 PM

Historic Nassau County Courthouse

A rousing Festival close with the Miró Quartet and the rising stars of the Beth Newdome Fellowship program — a celebration of mentorship, musical excellence, and community.

Since our inaugural season, the Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival has recognized the vital role of music education in shaping the next generation of artists. What began as masterclasses and mentoring through our Young Resident Artists program has evolved into one of our signature educational initiatives—the annual Christopher Rex String Seminar. Each year, we invite exceptional string students from

the nation's top conservatories and universities to join us as Beth Newdome Fellowship Artists. These young musicians, poised to launch professional careers, spend an intensive week in Amelia Island receiving mentorship from a world-class quartet. Their training culminates in a series of public performances, including community outreach concerts and the highly anticipated Festival Finale Concert in June.



Photo: Suntory Hall




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Education Initiatives and Civic Engagement

Over the past twenty-four years, the Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival has remained deeply committed to fostering a love of music through education and civic engagement. From offering introductory violin lessons to young children, to hosting advanced masterclasses for college and conservatory-level musicians, we are proud to nurture talent at every stage of artistic development. Our educational initiatives have included the prestigious Christopher Rex String Seminar for our Beth Newdome Fellowship Artists, a unique and immersive program that prepares emerging professionals for the rigors of a chamber music career. We've also brought music into the lives of people across generations with programs such as a multi-generational strings class in partnership with the Nassau County Council on Aging, as well as outreach performances in local schools

and assisted living facilities throughout Nassau County.

This season, we are especially excited to expand our educational reach through a dynamic collaboration with the University of North Florida and the Jacksonville Youth Symphony Orchestras, presenting four masterclass opportunities led by world-renowned Festival artists. In addition, we warmly invite the entire community to engage with our musicians beyond the stage at three special "Meet the Musician" events—an opportunity to hear directly from the artists, ask questions, and gain deeper insight into the life and artistry behind the music. These initiatives reflect our belief that music is not only to be performed, but shared—sparking connection, curiosity, and joy throughout our community.

Master Classes

The Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival is honored to provide exceptional young musicians with a unique opportunity to learn directly from the world-class artists featured in our season. As part of our ongoing commitment to music education, the Festival will offer four exclusive masterclass opportunities this season, allowing students to engage, perform for, and grow under the guidance of internationally acclaimed performers.

January 27, 2026 - Imani Winds

at Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestra

February 11, 2026 - David Finckel, cello,

at University of North Florida

February 21, 2026 - Jasmin Arakawa, piano,

at Amelia Baptist Church

March 12, 2026 - Viano Quartet

at University of North Florida

These masterclasses are free and open to the public for observation. Visit aicmf.org for more information

Meet the Musician

This season, we're excited to present three Meet the Musician events at Story & Song Center for Arts & Culture. Enjoy a relaxed atmosphere with a drink in hand as you listen to engaging interviews with Festival artists and take part in a lively audience Q&A. These events offer a rare, behind-the-scenes look at the lives, inspirations, and creative journeys of world-class musicians. Audiences will leave with a deeper connection to the music as well as the remarkable artists who bring it to life.

Saturday, January 17, 2026

Anne Akiko Meyers, violin

Jason Vieaux, guitar

Wednesday, February 11, 2026

David Finckel, cello

Wu Han, piano

Thursday, March 12, 2026

Zuill Bailey, cello

All Meet the Musician events are free, with RSVP required.. Visit aicmf.org for more information

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Patron Party

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Concert Sponsorship (Headliner)

Post-Concert Reception with Artists*

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Hope Diamond Nautilus (\$20,000+)

Name in Program

Primary Early Ticket Purchase

VIP Seating at Ticketed Events

Patron Party

10 Free Tickets per Season (Headliner)

Concert Sponsorship (Headliner)

Post-Concert Reception with Artists*

Reserved Parking Space at Concert Venue**

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*Not available at all concerts

**Reserved parking available at select venues. Reserved parking is non-transferable

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The Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival gratefully acknowledges our many contributors for their financial support. Without you, our Festival would not exist, and we sincerely thank you for your patronage. The following list presents contributions and pledges made from August 1, 2024 through August 25, 2025. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy. If we have omitted or incorrectly listed a name, we sincerely apologize and ask that you notify us at 904-261-1779 or email us for correction.

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