

The Music Department presents the CSUSB

# Cello Ensemble



11/8/2023

7:30 PM

PA Recital Hall



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN BERNARDINO

The California State University San Bernardino Music Program  
Proudly Presents the CSUSB

# Cello Ensemble

Recital Hall, Performing Arts Building  
November 8, 2023  
7:30 PM

## Program

Welcome by CSUSB Cello Ensemble Director, Esther Back

Concerto for Two Cellos and Orchestra.....Antonio Vivaldi  
in G minor, RV 531 (1678-1741)  
I. *Allegro* arr. Orfeo Mandozzi  
II. *Largo* (b.1968-)  
III. *Allegro*

Esther Back\*\*, Cello I; Annabelle Su, Cello II;  
Karina Gomez-Torres, Cello III;  
Jason Sanchez-Cardenas, Cello IV; Adeline Epstein, Cello V;  
Crystal (Soojung) Park\*, Cello VI  
Robert Zappulla, harpsichord

Overture to *Il barbiere di Siviglia*.....Gioachino Rossini  
(*The Barber of Seville*) (1841-1904)  
Allegro vivace arr. Douglas Moore  
(b. 1946-)

Esther Back\*\*, Annabelle Su, Kayla Manansala – Cello I;  
Jason Sanchez-Cardenas, Daniel Cardenas – Cello II;  
Adeline Epstein, Leonardo Sgambelluri – Cello III;  
Crystal (Soojung) Park\*, Karina Gomez-Torres – Cello IV

# Program

<i>Adagio for Cello Ensemble</i> .....	David Stern (b.1955-)
<i>Viva La Vida</i> .....	Coldplay (Guy Berryman, Jon Buckland, Will Champion, & Chris Martin) arr. Nick Halsey (b.1994-)
<i>007 fantasised for cello octet</i> .....	Monty Norman (1928-2022) et al. arr. Richard Birchall (b.1981-)

## Cello Ensemble

Milena Andreola++	Karina Gomez-Torres+
Dr. Esther Back**	Evan Hesskamp+
Shannan Bates++	Kayla Manansala++
Jason Sanchez-Cardenas+	Crystal (Soojung) Park*
Daniel Cardenas ++	Leonardo Sgambelluri++
Lyla Castro ++	Annabelle Su+
Adeline Epstein+	Camila Vega-Espinoza++

\*Professional Cellist

\*\*Artistic Director of CSUSB Cello Ensemble

+CSUSB Music Cello Major Student / CSUSB Student

++CSUSB Selected Open University/High School University  
Program Student

## **About the Cal State San Bernardino Cello Ensemble**

The CSUSB Cello Ensemble provides a wide range of performances, career development, and educational outreach opportunities. The Ensemble performs many different genres of music and a wide variety of classical (both original and great, familiar arrangements) that is more challenging than typical orchestral music. We provide a fun environment where cellists play together and bring out the sound and capabilities of the cello. We would like to develop cellists and bring out their highest levels every season and perform concerts at prestigious venues! This ensemble is modeled after the elite professional chamber cello group (consisting of twelve members) formed by the members of the Berlin Philharmonic and London Cello Orchestra.

In order to assure the highest levels of performance and musicianship, the CSUSB Cello Ensemble provides master classes/workshops that feature world-renowned professional artists/cellists and highly-respected instructors. The group also consistently provides opportunities to perform with professional artists and faculty-in-residence at CSUSB, which constitutes a significant experience for these students.

The CSUSB Cello Ensemble provides unique opportunities for cellists to perform as SOLOISTS within an orchestral setting before local, national, and international venues and audiences. Each year, the Ensemble holds a Solo Concerto Competition to identify a talented and deserving student to perform a concert/solo piece with the Cello Orchestra. The Ensemble is dedicated to challenging and motivating students to bring out their potential to be outstanding young musicians and help them with their artistic and professional development.

The Orange County Cello Ensemble, the director's former premier cello ensemble group, was synonymous with passion and dedication. As its artistic director, Dr. Back helped the OCCE members gain acceptance to prestigious colleges or achieve bright futures and successful careers. These members won prestigious awards and have contributed with unmatched service to their communities. We welcome you into this distinguished group and look forward to the impact you will make as a future CSUSB Cello Ensemble member for this upcoming academic year.

# Bio

**Robert Zappulla** holds the Fred W. Smith and Grace Hobson Smith Chair in Music at Claremont Graduate University and is known primarily as a harpsichordist and scholar specializing in the field of historical performance practices. His *Figured Bass Accompaniment in France* is a comprehensive study of French accompaniment treatises produced during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries; his translation with commentary of Vincenzo Manfredini's *Regole Armoniche*, a 1775 treatise dealing primarily with Italian continuo practices, also was recently published. He is editor of the music journal, *Performance Practice Review*, and was consulting editor for *Encyclopedia of the Harpsichord and Clavichord*. A former harpsichord pupil (as Fulbright Scholar) of the late, world-renowned harpsichordist Gustav Leonhardt, Professor Zappulla has appeared as soloist or continuist throughout North America and Europe. He has played with local period ensembles as well, including Con Gioia, the Angeles Consort, and the Los Angeles Baroque Orchestra. He is also the director of the period-instrument group, Concordia Clarimontis. Professor Zappulla currently is recording two CDs, of selected harpsichord works by Louis Couperin and Girolamo Frescobaldi, for the Delos label.

A frequent performer praised for her "passion and expressiveness that is wholly accessible to modern ears yet entirely authentic, learned, and respectful of the sources" (D. Tenbrook), **Esther Back** is an acclaimed cellist known not only for her solo, orchestral, and chamber performances but also as an avid educator and outreach advocate. She has performed at major venues in both the US and Europe. Back also has collaborated in chamber music, concertos, and symphonies with renowned artists such as Lynn Harrell, Bernard Greenhouse, Robert Watson, and Alexander Treger. A long-term pupil of world-renowned Baroque cellist and viol player Jaap ter Linden, Back began studying at Frankfurt University at the age of eleven and came to the US sometime later. She holds BM (CSU/Fullerton), MM (University of Redlands) degrees in Cello Performance, and DMA/Historical Performance Practices (Claremont Graduate University) degree in Baroque cello and viola da gamba. At present, she is working toward PhD/Musicology degree at CGU. An enthusiastic teacher, Back serves as a faculty member at CSU/San Bernardino and has a large private studio; her students have won top awards at various music competitions, providing them with soloist

opportunities with professional orchestras and invitations to regularly perform at prestigious venues. She also is the founder, artistic director, and conductor of the CSU/San Bernardino Cello Ensemble. Under her numerous years of direction, the former Orange County Cello Ensemble (OCCE)—which she founded—performed live on 88.9 KUCI frequently as well as at Walt Disney Hall and prestigious venues in France. She also produced the CD album, “Miracle of the Cellos.” Esther Back began her professional orchestral career in 2007 and is a tenured cellist with the San Bernardino Symphony as well as a member of other noteworthy ensembles.

**Dr. David Stern** Dr. David Stern was born in Brooklyn, NY, on August 6, 1955. Early studies in composition with Stanley Wolfe at Juilliard. Mr. Wolfe was sufficiently impressed by Stern’s composing that he encouraged Stern to study composition privately with him. Stern later received a B. Mus at The Mannes College of Music, an M.A. from Queens College and a Ph.D. from The Graduate Center of CUNY. Dr. Stern has also studied composition with other teachers, but is primarily self-taught in composition. He taught music theory courses at the Mannes College of Music, University of North Texas, Ball State University, and Claremont Colleges. Dr. Stern had two orchestral compositions premiered at Ball State University in fall of 2002, his Symphony no. 1, dedicated to the glory and beauty of God, and “We Stand for Freedom: In Memoriam, September 11th, 2001.” This last work has already received several performances. In her review, Michelle Kinsley of The Star Press wrote: “A very impressive piece of music was performed next. We Stand For Freedom, written by Ball State University music faculty member David Stern, was quite simply music that every American needs to hear.” Other orchestral performances include two works about Leonardo da Vinci which were premiered in 2006 by the New Haven Symphony Orchestra. Da Vinci’s Musical Riddle is based on musical notation from a notebook of da Vinci, and Da Vinci’s Wings of Flight is a colorful tone poem for large orchestra, based on the great artist’s fascination with flight. “Lincoln Speaks of Liberty” sets extensive quotations by Lincoln to orchestral music, and has been performed to standing ovations.

### **Composer’s notes to *Adagio for Cello Ensemble* by David Stern**

The *Adagio for Cello Ensemble* is a lyrical work scored for five cello sections and is in ternary (A-B-A) form. The A theme was composed around 1994 on a synthesizer with string sounds.

I have long wanted to use this theme for concert music and experimented with different arrangements, finally adding a new theme for the B section and completing the Adagio in its present form in 2023. I consider this work to be a heartfelt tribute to our departed loved ones.

### **Join the CSUSB Cello Ensemble**

- Transferable University/College credits available - Please email to receive forms to complete the registration (High school students are eligible to apply for both Open University and High School University Programs)
- Auditions are required for interested high school/volunteer students (middle school students are acceptable - but must audition)
- Rehearses weekly every semester 7:00 - 8:50 p.m. on Tuesday (upcoming Spring Semester: January 23 –April 29, 2024)
- Offers Soloist opportunities (Semi-annual solo audition)
- Admission into a Cello Ensemble group is by audition only, and non-majors are welcome.
- All inquiries, including auditions, please contact Dr. Esther Back at [Esther.Back@csusb.edu](mailto:Esther.Back@csusb.edu).

### **Winners of the CSUSB Cello Ensemble Semi-annual Solo Audition (Spring 2023)**

- College Division: First Place, Annabelle Su (\$300.00 Scholarship)
- High School Division: First Place, Jacob Chen

### **Upcoming Events**

December 6 & 7, 7:30 p.m. A Holiday Gala Concert,  
CSUSB Performing Arts Building Recital Hall  
December 8 Solo Concerto Competition (Online)

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Thank you for your charitable donation! We are deeply grateful for your support!

**Acknowledgements**

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