

The CSUSB Music Department Presents the CSUSB

# Cello Ensemble

Performing Arts Recital Hall • May 2, 2025 at 7:00 PM



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN BERNARDINO

The California State University San Bernardino Music Department

Proudly Presents  
Cal State San Bernardino Cello Ensemble Concert

Recital Hall, Performing Arts Building  
May 2, 2025  
7:00 PM

## Program

*Bon Voyage!*  
*An Evening of Cello Music*

Welcome by CSUSB Cello Ensemble Director, Dr. Esther Back

Concerto Grosso in D minor Op. 11, No. 3, RV 565.....Antonio Vivaldi  
(1678-1741)  
arr. Laslo Varga  
(1924-2014)

“Allegro - Adagio Spiccato e Tutti - Allegro – Adagio - Largo e Spiccato – Allegro”

Annabelle Su – *cello I*; Karina Gomez-Torres – *cello II*;  
Taryn Brantsma – *cello III*; Adeline Epstein – *cello IV*  
Prof. Robert Zappulla, harpsichord/conductor\*

*Concerto for Cello and Orchestra in D major*, Hob. VIIIb:2.....Joseph Haydn  
(1732-1809)  
*I. Allegro Moderato*  
arr. Douglas Moore  
(b.1946)

Annabelle Su, *Soloist*

Dr. Esther Back\*\*, Karina Gomez-Torres - *cello I*; Adeline Epstein, Paige Rodriguez - *cello II*;  
Prof. Soo Jung Park\*, Taryn Brantsma, Camila Vega-Espinoza – *cello III*

*II. Adagio*

Adeline Epstein, *Soloist*

Dr. Esther Back, Karina Gomez-Torres - *cello I*; Annabelle Su, Paige Rodriguez - *cello II*;  
Prof. Soojung Park\*, Taryn Brantsma, Camila Vega-Espinoza – *cello III*  
Prof. Robert Zappulla, harpsichord/conductor\*

## Intermission

<i>Concerto for Cello and Orchestra in B minor</i> , Op. 104.....	Antonín Dvořák (1841-1904)
<i>III. Allegro</i>	
James Koo, <i>Soloist</i>	
Dr. Esther Back**, - <i>cello I</i> ; Prof. Soojung Park*, Karina Gomez-Torres - <i>cello II</i> ; Adeline Epstein, Paige Rodriguez – <i>cello III</i> ; Annabelle Su, Taryn Brantsma, Camila Vega-Espinoza – <i>cello IV</i>	
<i>Romance</i> , Op. 119, No. 1 for Four Cellos.....	Georg Goltermann (1824-1898)
“Andante non troppo”	
<i>Libertango</i> .....	Astor Piazzolla (1921- 1992) arr. Mitsu Saeki
<i>007 fantasised for cello octet</i> .....	Monty Norman et al. (1928-2022) arr. Richard Birchall (b.1981)
<i>Pavane</i> .....	Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924) Renaud Guieu (b.1981-)
<i>Exultate Jubilate</i> .....	Karl Jenkins (b. 1944-)
<i>Arioso</i> , from Cantata, BWV 156 .....	Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) arr. by Wolfgang Lehner (b.1968)
“Adagio”	
<i>Uptown Funk</i> .....	Mark Ronson et al. (b.1975) arr. Alison Gillies
“Funky”	

*CSUSB Cello Ensemble*

## **CSUSB Cello Ensemble (Spring 2025)**

Annabelle Su+  
Adeline Epstein+  
Karina Gomez-Torres+  
Taryn Brantsma+  
Shannan Bates++  
Camila Vega-Espinoza++

Alisa Charumattanont++  
Paige Rodriguez++  
Nathan Chu, violin ++  
Evan Hesskamp+  
Alex McLaughlin+  
Dr. Esther Back\*\*

Prof. Robert Zappulla, harpsichord/conductor\*

Prof. Soojung Park\*

\*\*Artistic Director of CSUSB Cello Ensemble

\*Guest performer

+CSUSB Music Cello Major Student / CSUSB Student

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

## About the Cal State University, 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.

## 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 **6:15 - 8:05 p.m. on Tuesday** (upcoming Fall Semester: August 22 – December 4, 2025)
- Offers Soloist opportunities (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)

## Bios

### Conductor/Harpsichordist



**Prof. 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 continuoist 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.

## Artistic Director/Conductor/Cellist



Hailed by a German critic for her Baroque cello playing as “Deep-rooted musicality, passion, and interpretive beauty meet Baroque music,” cellist **Dr. Esther Back** is known not only for her solo, orchestral, and chamber performances but also as an avid educator who serves as a faculty at CSU/San Bernardino. She is the founder, artistic director, and

conductor for the CSUSB Cello Ensemble and her former OCCE appeared on 88.9 KUCI, and prestigious venues in US/France, and she produced the recording, *Miracle of the Cellos*. Back is currently preparing a complete recording set of the six Bach unaccompanied cello suites for the Athene Label.

## Soloists



**Annabelle Su** Annabelle Su is a third year student at California State University, San Bernardino pursuing a Bachelor of Music degree in Cello Performance with a minor in Entrepreneurship in the Arts. Under the devoted instruction of Dr. Esther Back, Su has continuously developed her skills as a performer through countless

competitions and ensembles. Namely, a winner of two international competitions, the Golden Classical Music Award and the Grand Prize Virtuoso Competition, and the Young Artist Concerto Competition for the CSUSB Symphony Orchestra. In the future, she intends to study cello through graduate school and receive a Doctorate in Musical Arts.



**Addy (Adeline) Epstein**, 20 attends CSU San Bernardino where she is majoring in Computer Engineering while minoring in Music. She has been playing cello since the 5th grade through MTS in Big Bear. Currently, Addy privately studies with Dr. Esther Back and participates in several chamber groups within the community.



**James Koo**, 15 years old, young ambitious cellist who attends Valencia High School. James has been awarded in numerous competitions and won the position in one of the notable youth orchestra groups, the Orange County Youth Symphony, as well as the Junior Chamber Music group with honors. He currently pursues his cello studies under the direction of Dr. Esther Back.

## **Winners of the CSUSB Cello Ensemble Annual Solo Audition (Spring 2025)**

College Division: Adeline Epstein, Annabelle Su  
High School Division: James Koo

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

## Acknowledgments

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