



Mission

Continuum Chamber Collective is dedicated to thoughtful and contextual programming, musical collaboration, and expanding concert audiences through engaging performances.

About

Founded in 2020, Continuum Chamber Collective is a flexible ensemble offering a fresh approach to chamber music concerts. The Collective presents captivating and intimate performances grounded in the highest level of musicianship and thoughtfully curated programming that balance contemporary works with beloved classical repertoire. Anchored by a core string quartet, Continuum collaborates with musicians who share its commitment to creative and contextual programming.

Since its founding, Continuum has appeared in prominent concert series including the Summit Concert Series, P Street Series, Union Square Chamber Music Society, Arts Club of Washington, Art in Conversation at James Cohan Gallery, and has previously served as the Quartet in Residence at the ArtsAhimsa Chamber Music Festival.

Continuum actively champions new music, premiering several works and serving as a source of inspiration for multiple composers. Highlights include the world premiere of Akshaya Avril Tucker's *Could Only Be Fantasy* (2023), the New York City premiere of Lisa Heffter's *Carbon Fiber String Quartet* (2023), and the Baltimore and New York City premieres of Jie Yang's *Sonata for Violin and Cello: Mountain Tunes and Dances* (2024).

Our 2026-27 season marks the return of Continuum's 5th annual summer series. Program announcements and concert details are coming soon—stay up to date by subscribing to our newsletter at continuumchamber.org.

For booking and business inquiries:
Quinton Braswell, General Manager
continuumchamber@gmail.com
202-860-8075

Recordings



Joseph Haydn, String Quartet in D Minor,
Op. 76 No.2 - Movement III



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Clarinet Quintet in
A major, K.581 - Movement II



Stephen Koncz, *A New Satiesfaction*
feat. *Gymnopedie No. 1*

Previous Programs

Pergo Sursum (2025)

Joseph Haydn
String Quartet in D Minor, Op. 76 No. 2 (1797)

Emily Jayakumar
Bell Birds (2020)

Paul Wiancko
LIFT for String Quartet, Part III (2016)

Postcards From Home (2024)

Rebecca Clarke
Two Pieces for Viola and Cello (1919)

Jessie Montgomery
Duo for Violin and Cello (2015)

Jie Yang
Mountain Tunes and Dances (1996)

Zhou Long
Chinese Folk Songs for String Quartet (1998)

Phantasies (2025)

Robert Welch
Sonata for Viola in D Minor (2025)

Pablo Sarasate
Carmen Fantasy, Op. 25 (1881)

Zoltan Kodaly
Serenade for Two Violins and Viola (1920)

Frank Bridge
Phantasie for Piano Quartet, H. 94 (1910)

Fellow Travelers (2023)

John Adams
Fellow Traveler (2013)

Lisa Heffter
Carbon Fiber String Quartet (2012)

Antonin Dvorak
Viola Quintet, Op. 97 (1893)



Previous Performances

2026

“Songs of Spiritual Being” at Gwynedd Mercy University with Aryssa Leigh Burrs, voice;
Leslie Burrs, flute; Ruth Stokes, cello (Philadelphia, PA)

2025

Arts Club of Washington Friday Concert Series (Washington, D.C.)

A Holiday Concert on P Street

Mozart’s Clarinet Quintet with Zac West, Clarinet

- Church of St. Clement (Alexandria, VA)
- Christ Lutheran (Washington, D.C.)

“Pergo Sursum” Annual Summer Concert Series

- Wee Scott Bookshop (Waynesboro, PA)
- Ann Street Salon Series (Baltimore, MD)
- Art in Conversation (New York City, NY)
- The P Street Concert Series (Washington, D.C.)

Phantasies on P Street (Washington, D.C.)

2024

Chausson’s Concerto for Violin, Piano, and String Quartet with Natsuko Takashima, violin;
Zoie Hightower, violin; Megan Yip, cello; Amy I-Lin Cheng, piano (Ann Arbor, MI)

“Postcards From Home” Annual Summer Concert Series

- Union Square Chamber Music Society (Baltimore, MD)
- Summit Concert Series (Parkville, MD)
- Art in Conversation Concert Series (New York City, NY)
- Ann Street Salon Series (Baltimore, MD)
- Continuum Chamber Collective at the Lyceum Theater (Alexandria, VA)

Union Square Chamber Music Society: “Mozart in Charm City” (Baltimore, MD)

Sprecker Series with Ariana Nelson, cello (Washington, D.C.)

2023

“Fellow Travelers” Annual Summer Concert Series

- The P Street Concert Series (Washington, D.C.)
- Summit Concert Series (Parkville, MD)
- Dvorak Viola Quartet with Michael Chong, viola (Takoma Park, MD)
- Conversations with Art and Music (New York City, NY)
- Ann Street Salon Series (Baltimore, MD)

Oboe and Strings: A Revival with Jillian Kouzel, oboe (Ann Arbor, MI)

2022

Annual Summer Concert Series with David Kaplan, cello; Jillian Kouzel, oboe

- Summit Concert Series (Parkville, MD)
- James Cohan Gallery (New York City, NY)
- ArtsAhimsa Festival (Lenox, MA)

2021

Continuum Chamber Collective at the Lyceum Theater with Jillian Kouzel, oboe
Adam Maloney, bass (Alexandria, VA)

Bios

Performer headshot and full bio available upon request.



Dr. Michael Romans violin

Internationally acclaimed violinist Dr. Michael Romans captivates audiences worldwide with his extraordinary artistry and magnetic stage presence. Hailed as a "fine musician and a great leader," he commands the violin with both technical brilliance and profound musical intelligence. Dr. Romans serves as a distinguished member of the Air Force Strings ensemble in Washington, D.C., regularly performing for the President of the United States, foreign dignitaries, and members of Congress. His international career spans Europe's most celebrated venues, including the Berlin Konzerthaus and Hamburg's Elbphilharmonie as co-associate concertmaster of the Schleswig-Holstein Festival Orchestra, plus notable performances at Carnegie Hall and the Sarasota Music Festival. As co-concertmaster of the renowned Aspen Conducting Academy Orchestra and former concertmaster of the National Repertory Orchestra, he has led America's finest musicians on prestigious stages worldwide. Dr. Romans earned his Doctorate in Violin Performance from the University of Michigan under renowned pedagogues Fabiola Kim and Danielle Belen, receiving a prestigious full merit scholarship for his Master's degree. He also holds dual bachelor's degrees from Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music and Kelley School of Business.



Diane Yang violin

Continuum cofounder Diane Yang is a multifaceted violinist who lives for chamber music. Praised for her "lusty" sound by the *Texas Classical Review*, Diane made her international recital debut at age 9, first soloed with an orchestra as a competition winner at age 12, and has since performed across the States, the UK, Canada, and China. She has shared the stage with musicians such as Laufey, Yo-Yo Ma, Yuja Wang, Chris Thile, Rufus Wainwright, the Dover Quartet, and many others. 2025-2026 engagements include multiple performances at Carnegie Hall, DROM NYC, "The Between" Exhibition by Taylor Byers (NYC), and the Virginia Symphony Orchestra. Recently, she has recorded works by Kaija Saariaho with the Glass Clouds Ensemble (NYC), performed a full run of *Beauty and the Beast* at Northern Stage theatre (Vermont), and premiered multiple new works in New York City, Chicago, and Washington, DC.

Diane believes everyone is an artist at heart. She has taught privately for over 15 years as well as in Baltimore, Chicago, and New York City public schools. Diane completed a Fellowship at the Civic Orchestra of Chicago and served as a representative on the Audience Development Committee of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. She is a graduate of the Pre-Conservatory Violin Program at the Peabody Institute and holds degrees from the University of Michigan and Northwestern University.

Bios

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Ivan Mendoza
viola

Praised by *The Strad Magazine* for “warm sound [and] much joy”, violist Ivan Mendoza began his musical studies at the age of ten in his hometown of Baltimore, Maryland. He received his degree from John J. Cali School of Music under the tutelage of Honggang Li and Kathryn Lockwood. Recent notable engagements include a recital at Carnegie Hall, Felix Mendelssohn’s Octet with the Shanghai Quartet, the music of Charles Loeffler with soprano Barbara Dever and pianist Ron Levy, and performances at Encore Chamber Music Festival, Intersections Festival, and Bargemusic NYC.

An avid chamber musician, Ivan is a recipient of the Oscar Ravina Talent Grant and held chamber music residencies at Montclair State University, Lunenburg Academy of Music Performance, and Shenandoah Conservatory. He is a founding member of the Continuum Chamber Collective—an ensemble dedicated to performing works from underrepresented groups in classical music and regularly performs in the Washington D.C. and New York City areas. In addition, Ivan regularly appears with the Baltimore Chamber Orchestra, Reading Symphony, and the Virginia Symphony. Ivan is currently based in the Greater Washington DC/Baltimore area and is on the viola faculty of the Artsahimsa Chamber Music Festival in Lenox, Massachusetts.



Erica Ogihara
cello

Hailing from Miami Florida, Indiana-based cellist Erica Ogihara is a passionate performer and teacher. She has put together numerous chamber projects which have led to her participation in masterclasses with artists such as pianist Ursula Oppens and violinist Ida Kavafian. Heard as a soloist with orchestras including the Alhambra Symphony Orchestra and the Ars Flores Symphony Orchestra, Erica has also been a laureate at several competitions including the Walenstein Music Competition and the Artist Series of Sarasota Competition.

As an educator, Erica wishes to cultivate a love of music and provide music education to as many people as possible. Selected as a 2021 Fellow at ArtistYear, the premier AmeriCorps program dedicated for artists, she taught music and cello to District I schools through her service year. Erica is a Suzuki Association of the Americas registered instructor and completed her teacher training in books 1-8 with Pam Devenport and books 9-10 with Tanya Carey. She is currently on faculty at Mimi Zweig’s Jacobs String Academy. Erica began her studies on the cello at the age of 10 with Audrey Pilafian. She is pursuing her Doctorate in Cello Performance at Indiana University Jacobs School of Music under Brandon Vamos of the Pacifica Quartet, and also holds degrees from The Juilliard School and Oberlin Conservatory. Erica plays on a 2019 cello by Alexander Tzankow, an endeavor made possible by the generous support by the Marks family through Juilliard’s Career Advancement Fellowship.

Bios

Performer headshot and full bio available upon request.



March Irchai piano

Mark Irchai (b. 1996), is an American concert pianist and conductor, hailed as a “virtuoso... who perform[s] with gorgeous balance” (Wednesday Music Club). Recently featured on broadcasts for WQXR (NYC Public Radio) and KPBX (Spokane Public Radio), his concertizing has taken him across the United States and Europe, where he has become known for his diverse musical programming and multi-colored sound. His awards include 1st prizes at the XIV International Orfeo Music Competition, the George Mason University Concerto Competition, and the Golden Classical Awards International Music Competition. He was also awarded the Newton Swift Award in Collaborative Piano by the Mannes School of Music. He’s performed with many highly regarded artists, including Grammy-winners Zuill Bailey and John Aler.

Irchai performs in solo recitals to regularly sold-out audiences in venues such as Carnegie Hall’s Weill Recital Hall, Dumbarton Oaks, the embassies of Turkey and Austria to the United States, and more. He also performs frequently with duo partner Amanda Zoe Vest, mezzo-soprano, and with the Continuum Chamber Collective (CCC). Irchai is also the Artistic and General Director of Loudoun Lyric Opera, an organization he leads into “a new era” (Opera Today).

A committed educator, Irchai is currently an adjunct professor at Shenandoah Conservatory in Winchester, VA, and is on faculty at the Levine School of Music in Washington DC. Irchai studied piano with Anna Balakerskaia and Simone Dinnerstein.



Quinton Braswell General Manager, cello

Mr. Braswell is a multidisciplinary creative leader and cellist with over a decade of experience across non-profit initiatives, performance, and branding. He is a founding member and General Manager of the Continuum Chamber Collective, where he oversees organizational strategy and daily operations. He is also a Designer for The Washington Post’s brand studio, producing brand, marketing, event, and corporate creative. Focused on creative storytelling and mission-centered design, his portfolio includes work with the National Philharmonic, Sound Impact, and the International Pride Orchestra. A native of Alexandria, Virginia, Mr. Braswell holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music Technology with a minor in Arts Management from George Mason University and a Master of Arts in Cello Performance from the Royal Academy of Music in London. Previous performance engagements include the Pan American Symphony Orchestra, the London Young Sinfonia, and multiple PBS broadcasts with the American Pops Orchestra.

Bios

Performer headshot and full bio available upon request.



Erik Franklin clarinet

Erik Franklin is a clarinetist, composer, and educator whose performing career spans nearly all fifty states and much of Europe. Newly appointed Bass Clarinetist of the York Symphony Orchestra, Franklin also appears regularly as a soloist and chamber musician with ensembles including the Ann Street Trio and the Heartwood Duo. A former member of the United States Army Field Band (Washington, D.C.), he has performed in venues ranging from veterans' homes to Carnegie Hall.

As a composer, Franklin's lyrical, expressive works invite performers' individuality to shine. His music has earned recognition from the National Association of Teachers of Singing and New York City's songSLAM festival, and has been commissioned by ensembles such as the Interlochen Arts Academy Band and the U.S. Air Force Academy Band. A passionate educator, he co-founded Baltimore's Patterson Park Academy of Music and directs the Indiana Clarinet Experience, reflecting his deep belief in music's power to build community.

Erik earned a Doctorate of Music from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, but please do not call him Dr. Franklin!

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