



SCHOOL OF MUSIC

TEXAS TECH

J.T. & Margaret Talkington College of Visual & Performing Arts

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF MUSIC PRESENTS THE

# CONCERTO COMPETITION

WINNERS' RECITAL



## CONCERTO COMPETITION WINNERS' RECITAL

Saturday, May 3, 2025 | 2:00 pm

Helen Devitt Jones Theater | Buddy Holly Center for the Performing Arts

# PROGRAM

The order of performances will be determined by lottery.

*Concerto for Marimba and Orchestra*, mvmt. 1

Emmanuel Séjourné  
(b. 1961)

Jacob Cauley *marimba*  
Susan Neale *orchestra*

*Double Bass Concerto* no. 1 mvmt. 3

Giovanni Bottesini  
(1821-1889)

Gregory Faught *double bass*  
Susan Neale *orchestra*

*Piano Concerto* no. 1 mvmt. 1

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky  
(1840-1893)

Elías Manzo *piano*  
Becca Zeisler *orchestra*

*Ein Traum*

Edvard Grieg  
(1843-1907)

Ziyan Hu *soprano*  
Jared Tehse *orchestra*

*Concerto for Alto Saxophone*, mvmt. 1  
“Fire in the Earth”

David Maslanka  
(b. 1943)

Natalie Wilson *saxophone*  
Becca Zeisler *orchestra*

Jacob Cauley is a student of Lisa Rogers.  
Gregory Faught is a student of Mark Morton.  
Elias Hernandez is a student of Daniel del Pino.  
Ziyan Hu is a student of Gregory Brookes.  
Natalie Wilson is a student of David Dees.

## GUEST JUDGES



**Christine Kralik, cello** is the Assistant Professor of Cello at the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point. She was previously the Instructor of Cello at Middle Tennessee State University (2023-2024) in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, the University of Mississippi (2019-2023) in Oxford, Mississippi, and Angelo State University (2017-2019) in San Angelo, Texas.

Dr. Kralik is a thriving professional cellist who received her Doctorate of Musical Arts with an emphasis in cello performance from Texas Tech University in May of 2018. She holds a Masters in Music from the Cleveland Institute of Music and a Bachelor of Music from the University of Utah, where she was also named as the Outstanding Senior. She studied cello performance with Jeffrey Lastrapes at Texas Tech University, Cleveland Orchestra cellist Richard Weiss at the Cleveland Institute of Music, and Utah Symphony cellist Pegsoon Whang at the University of Utah.

Dr. Kralik has a vast symphonic and orchestral playing career. Dr. Kralik is principal cello of the Central Wisconsin Symphony currently. Dr. Kralik has held principal cello positions for the South Asian Symphony in India, the North Mississippi Symphony Orchestra, The Tennessee Philharmonic, and as the substitute principal cellist of the Mobile Symphony in Alabama for the 2023–2024 season.

Dr. Kralik has recently recorded in various recording studios in Salt Lake City Utah, and in Nashville Tennessee, producing music for movie scores, video games, theme parks, and for professional artists. She has an album of her own of Romantic era works for cello and piano titled: *Impassioned Cello*. She recently recorded a second album of works for cello and piano in the summer of 2024.

Dr. Kralik performs on a German Wilhelm Hammig cello dated 1907 and an unnamed French cello bow thought to be from the Pierre Simon School circa 1880.

## César DeLeón, director of Fine Arts, LISD



César De León currently serves as the proud Executive Director of Fine Arts for the Lubbock Independent School District. Prior to this, he served as the Fine Arts Supervisor for Austin ISD in Austin, Texas. Mr. De León has also served as a classroom educator and assistant principal, with a strong focus on student achievement, community engagement, and program development. His work is driven by a strong commitment to

student empowerment, equitable access, and the transformative impact of the arts in education, with a particular focus on students who are new to the country, English learners, and those receiving special education services.

Throughout his career, Mr. De León has led efforts in curriculum improvement, student mentorship, leadership development, and family and community partnerships. He brings a forward-thinking and student-centered approach to his leadership, constantly working to expand opportunities for all learners—particularly those who have been historically underserved and marginalized. He is highly sought after as a consultant for shaping school district policy and reimagining fine arts education to reflect the needs of today's diverse student populations.

Mr. De León is currently pursuing his doctoral degree at Texas A&M University in College Station, with a focus on advancing student-focused educational systems. He holds a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from The University of Texas at Austin and a dual Bachelor's Degree in Music Education and Biology from Texas State University.

Outside of his work in public education, Mr. De León is an active voice in leadership consulting and educational advocacy. He continues to inspire educators and students alike, championing the arts as a vital part of a high-quality, well-rounded education.

His professional affiliations include TMEA, TBA, TASA, TASB, and TUBA! (ITEA).

Mr. De León resides in Texas and remains deeply committed to building a future in which every student has access to meaningful learning experiences that uplift and empower.

### **Quinn Mason, conductor and composer**



Praised as “One of the most sought after young composers in the country” (Texas Monthly) and “a composer who clearly understands the orchestra and knows how to take advantage of its many varied colors” (Tallahassee Democrat), composer and conductor Quinn Mason (b. 1996) has distinguished himself as an artist of national and international renown. He previously served a successful tenure as Artist in

Residence of the Hartford Symphony Orchestra for the 2022-2023 season. He also served as the Detroit Symphony Orchestra’s Classical Roots composer in residence in 2022 (the youngest composer appointed to that role) and as KMFA 89.5’s inaugural composer in residence.

His music has been performed and commissioned by over 180 renowned orchestras, including the San Francisco, National, Cincinnati, Detroit, Seattle, Utah, Dallas, Fort Worth, Vermont, Kansas City, Memphis and Amarillo symphonies, Minnesota Orchestra, Rochester Philharmonic, Buffalo Philharmonic, Italy’s Orchestra Sinfonica Nazionale della RAI, UK’s Sheffield Philharmonic and numerous others. Recent performances have been also by the Phoenix, Spokane, Fairfax, Tallahassee, Plano, Princeton, Firelands and Waco Symphony Orchestras and the Northwest Sinfonietta.

As a conductor, Quinn has worked with Jukka Pekka Saraste, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Marin Alsop, Robert Spano, Gerard Schwarz, Carl Topilow, Miguel Harth-Bedoya and Christopher Zimmerman and served as assistant conductor at the PRISMA Music Festival. At age 27, he made his major orchestra debut conducting the National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center. He has also appeared as a guest conductor with many orchestras around the country, including the Houston Ballet Orchestra, Hartford Symphony Orchestra, West Virginia Symphony Orchestra, The Syracuse Orchestra, Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra and more.

Quinn has worked closely with renowned composers David Maslanka, Jake Heggie, Christopher Theofanidis, Libby Larsen, David Dzubay and Robert X. Rodriguez.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **VMC**

Saturday, May 3 | 6:30pm  
LHUCA

### **TTU Opera Theatre**

#### **Contes d'Hoffman**

Saturday, May 3 | 7:00pm  
Buddy Holly Hall - Helen Devitt Jones Theater

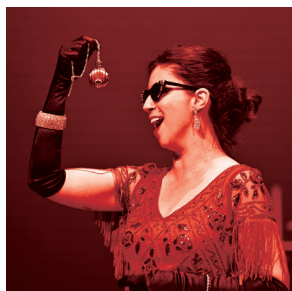


### **University Band**

Sunday, May 4 | 2:00pm  
Hemmle Recital Hall

### **Tuba Euphonium Ensemble**

Sunday, May 4 | 8:00pm  
Hemmle Recital Hall



### **Steel Drum Ensemble**

#### **30th Anniversary Celebration Concert**

Monday, May 5 | 8:00pm  
Hemmle Recital Hall

### **Lubbock Concert Band**

Friday, May 16 | 7:30pm  
Hemmle Recital Hall

