

Violin 1

Violinist Hilary Castle maintains an active schedule as an ensemble musician, soloist, and teacher. Her music interests span a wide range, from classical to contemporary, and she enjoys equally performing as a member of an orchestral team and connecting with audiences in solo performance. “The electric energy behind Hilary’s playing is indescribable ... She breathes life into the music and personifies it in a way that would shame those who thought this music could ever be boring.”

Hilary has played with a diversity of groups, from the New Haven Symphony Orchestra, Arcos Orchestra, CIRCE duo and New Retro Strings to performances and recordings with American violinist and composer Mark O'Connor, award-winning jazz vocalist Allan Harris, Danish singer/songwriter Oh Land and Bonobo. Recent performances have taken her to The United Nations, Iridium Jazz Club, The Town Hall, Zinc Bar, Bargemusic and Smoke Jazz Club. Performances and projects have been featured in TimeOut New York, the New York Times, New York Daily News, BUST magazine, The Day, Westerly Sun, on Sirius Radio’s Linked with Peter Cummings, and on MNN Television’s Minding Your Business hosted by June Middleton.

Hilary earned a B.M. from Boston University’s College of Fine Arts, and a M.M. from Mannes College, studying with Lucie Robert. For three seasons she served as concertmaster of the Mannes Opera Orchestra under the direction of Metropolitan Opera conductor Joseph Colaneri. Other orchestral experiences have taken her to Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center’s Alice Tully and Avery Fisher Halls, Symphony Hall in Boston, Sydney Opera House, the Rudofinum/Dvorak Hall in Prague, and Pesti Vigado in Budapest. Hilary also has appeared in chamber and solo recitals at the Morgan Library in New York City, New York Historical Society, New York Public Library, U.N. German Consulate General, Ukrainian Institute of America, Bargemusic, Nabi Gallery, and the Colony Club. Summer music festivals have included MusicAlp in Courchevel, France, Casalmaggiore in Italy, Bowdoin International Music Festival, Tanglewood Institute, and the Texas Music Festival where she served multiple seasons as concertmaster under the direction of conductors Christoph Campestri and Stefan Sanderling

Hilary is a member of the strings faculty at Turtle Bay Music School and Nightingale-Bamford School in New York City.

Violin 2

Born in Seoul, South Korea, Yeolim Nam began studying the violin at the age of eleven. She received her primary training from the prestigious Sun-Hwa Arts school in Korea, where she received many awards, including the Grand prize for the school’s chamber music competition. In 1996, Ms. Nam was selected to perform for renowned violinist, Sarah Chang and then was invited to accompany

Miss Chang on her concert tour throughout Germany. This experience was filmed as a documentary and aired by KBS TV Date, a Korean television show. An avid chamber musician, Ms. Nam has spent many summers at various chamber music festivals, including the Kneisel Hall Chamber Music Festival in Maine and International Stichting Masterclass Apeldoorn in the Netherlands.

She participated in a fundraiser concert "Mahler for the Children of AIDS" at the Carnegie hall, where she collaborated with musicians from across the nation, including members of the New York Philharmonic and the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. Other orchestras she has played with include, the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra, Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra, Harrisburgh Symphony Orchestra, New Haven Symphony Orchestra, Mannes College of Music Summer Opera Orchestra, New England Conservatory Philharmonia Orchestra, and the New England Conservatory Symphony Orchestra where she served extensively as concertmaster under Joseph Silverstein.

Ms. Nam holds a Master of Music degree from the New England Conservatory in Boston, Massachusetts, where she studied under Malcolm Lowe, the concertmaster of the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

Viola

Peter was born into a musical family, his father being a cellist, his mother a singer/composer/pianist, and his grandfather a drum teacher at the conservatory. He first began to play the violin at the age of six, then took up the viola and continued his studies at the Conservatory of Bratislava, Slovakia, from where he graduated in 2002. Peter then studied at the University of Performing Arts in Bratislava while traveling and performing with orchestras around the world. He then came to the U.S. in 2006 to study under the Artist Certificate Program at the College of Charleston under Jan Marie Joyce, principal violist of the Charleston Symphony Orchestra. Peter has been a member of the Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra, the baroque ensemble Musica Aeterna, the Capella Istropolitana chamber orchestra, the Junge Philharmonie Wien, the Donau Philharmonie Ulm and the Europa Philharmonie Magdeburg. He currently performs with the Charleston Symphony Orchestra and the Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra on a regular basis.

In 2009, Peter established the Charleston Virtuosi Ensemble, and after moving to New York City in 2012 he established the New York Virtuosi as well as the Washington Virtuosi. All three ensembles can be found playing private events and concert performances throughout the year. Peter has established himself as one of the most active booking agents in Charleston, New York City and Washington D.C., and he continues to play as a freelance musician.

Cello

Giving her first public performance the Newport Music Festival at age five, her international debut in St. Gallen International Festival in Switzerland at age nine and her orchestral debut at age twelve performing Haydn's C Major concert with the Leopold Chamber Orchestra of L'viv, Ukraine;

Ukrainian/Armenian/American cellist Marta Bagratuni has since firmly established a multi-faceted career path, as a soloist, chamber and orchestral musician, extensively performing music that spans from classical to rock to jazz. In 2012, Marta was presented by Musical Armenia in her Carnegie Hall debut at Weill Recital Hall, where her performance of her own arrangement of Komitas' "Groong" was praised by Armenian Weekly for a "deeply moving interpretation."

With a special affinity for intriguing projects that run the gamut of artistic expression, in 2013 Marta released her debut concept recording, "Pieces of the World" - a 300 year journey of music written for the cello spanning 13 composers from different countries, ending with a piece specifically written for the recording featuring singing and playing. Containing no liner notes and a pop-culture cover, "Pieces of the World" is a bold representation of classical music's new generation of artists. Funded exclusively via a grass-roots Kickstarter funding campaign, Marta's "Pieces of the World" project was chosen as a staff pick for classical music projects and projects made in Michigan, while pre-released tracks from the resulting recording have been featured on Michigan's 90.5 FM Classical Radio. "Pieces of the World" is now available on iTunes and the Blue Griffin Recording catalogue.

As a soloist, Marta Bagratuni has performed with such orchestras as the Lansing Symphony, Detroit Civic Symphony, Michigan State University Symphony Orchestra, Leopold Chamber Orchestra and Okemos Orchestra, to name a few.

Often lending herself as an orchestral player, Marta has served as principal of the Highline Chamber Orchestra, Michigan State University Symphony, University of Michigan Symphony, Aspen Festival Orchestra and has been a member of CityMusic Cleveland, the Lansing Symphony Orchestra, New York Women's Ensemble and iPalpiti.

In addition to "Pieces of the World", Marta has been featured on numerous recordings, including "Armenian Premieres" (Blue Griffin Recording) and "Watercolors" (Elm Street Recording).

With a rapidly expanding reputation, Ms. Bagratuni's artistry has led to extensive performances at many of today's renowned venues such as: Stern Hall, Weill Hall, Orchestra Hall (Detroit), the Kennedy Center, Wharton Center (East Lansing), Miller Auditorium (Kalamazoo), Hill Auditorium (Ann Arbor), Ichou Hall (Japan), Oprah Winfrey's Leadership Academy and ZK Matthew's Hall (South Africa), among many other known stages, both large and intimate.

Born into a musical family, Marta received full scholarship degrees from the

University of Michigan (high honors) and Michigan State University, regularly performing at Cello Plus Music Festival (East Lansing), Grazhda Center for Music and Art (Hunter, NY) and Charleston Music Fest (South Carolina). As a singer, Marta has performed with the Kalamazoo Symphony at Miller Auditorium, the Grazhda Center for Music and Art (Hunter, NY), the Old Town Jazz festival (Lansing, MI), Speyer Cathedral (Germany), Ukrainian Institute of Art (Chicago) and has been featured as a vocalist on "Pieces of the World" and "Armenian Premieres" (Blue Griffin Recording).