

FACULTY RECITAL

***Works for
Multiple Violas***

**Shmuel Katz and Jessica
Meyer**, viola faculty

With special guest

JT Kane, Dean of Instrumental
Studies and Orchestral Performance

Featuring MSM Studio Students

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2025 | 7:30 PM
GORDON K. AND HARRIET GREENFIELD HALL

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PROGRAM

HENRY PURCELL
(1659–1695)

(Arr. Katz)

When I am Laid in Earth from *Dido and Aeneas*

**Shmuel Katz, Jessica Meyer, JT Kane,
Alex Hansen, Nicholas Lopez, Anna Huang,
Olympia Nelson, and Hannah Thill**, viola

JESSICA MEYER
(b. 1974)

Hello (for Viola Choir)

**Jessica Meyer, Shmuel Katz, JT Kane,
Olympia Nelson, Hannah Thill, Alex Hansen,
Nicholas Lopez, and Anna Huang**, viola

W.A. MOZART
(1756–1791)

(Arr. Katz)

Two Andantes

from Piano Sonata K. 330

Melis Türker, Bryan Li, and Shmuel Katz, viola
from Piano Sonata K. 333
Anna Huang, Kyuwon Yoo, and Shmuel Katz, viola

J.S. BACH/NODAIRA
(1685–1750)

Chaconne (for Viola Quartet)

**JT Kane, Shmuel Katz, Hannah Thill, and
Kyuwon Yoo, viola**

Intermission

NOKOTHULA NGWEYAMA
(b. 1976)

Climbing to Dragon's Mountain (for Viola Quartet)

**Shmuel Katz, Jessica Meyer, Bryan Li, and
Hannah Thill, viola**

BENJAMIN DALE
(1885–1943)

Introduction and Andante, Op. 5 (for Viola Sextet)

**Shmuel Katz, Bryan Li, Jessica Meyer,
Melis Türker, Alex Hansen, and Anna Huang, viola**

JESSICA MEYER
(b. 1974)

A Fire to be Kindled (for Viola Octet)

**Jessica Meyer, Shmuel Katz, JT Kane,
Olympia Nelson, Hannah Thill, Alex Hansen,
Nicholas Lopez, and Anna Huang, viola**

HANNAH THILL
(b. 2004)

A Thing With Feathers (for Viola Octet)
(World Premiere)

**Jessica Meyer, Shmuel Katz, JT Kane,
Olympia Nelson, Hannah Thill, Alex Hansen,
Nicholas Lopez, and Anna Huang, viola**

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Shmuel Katz, violist

Mr. Katz is the Associate Principal Violist of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. He was previously an associate member with the company for over a decade. Shmuel serves as Principal Violist of the Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra and the American Ballet Theatre Orchestra. He has also served as the Assistant Principal Violist of the New York City Ballet Orchestra, Principal Violist of the Pennsylvania Ballet, member and guest Principal Violist of the New York City Opera, and member of the Orchestra of St. Luke's. He also appeared as Concertmaster and Soloist with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra in Carnegie Hall, and has toured with the orchestra across Europe, Asia and North America. Shmuel has also performed as a guest violist in the sections of the London Philharmonic Orchestra, the English Chamber Orchestra, the Philadelphia Orchestra, and the New York Philharmonic.

Mr. Katz is on the viola faculty of Manhattan School of Music for both the College and Orchestral Performance Programs, in addition to leading the Orchestral Repertoire classes. He previously taught on the viola faculty of SUNY Purchase and New York University. Mr. Katz has given masterclasses at TON at Bard college and at the North Carolina School of the Arts.

Shmuel is an active recording artist. He has recorded for the EMI, Deutsche Grammophon and Ondine labels with the Philadelphia Orchestra, New York Philharmonic and Orpheus Chamber Orchestra. His studio work in New York includes albums of Sting, Bruce Springsteen, and Lou Reed as well as more than 20 movie soundtracks.

Mr. Katz enjoys playing in a variety of chamber music concert and recitals throughout the year. He performs regularly with Maestro Yannick Nézet-Séguin as part of the Met Orchestra Chamber Ensemble Series at Carnegie Hall, as well as with the Concertante, Richardson and American Chamber Players, St. Luke's Chamber Ensemble and the Israeli Chamber Project. He has collaborated in chamber music performances with Pinchas Zukerman, Itzhak Perlman, Yefim Bronfman, Michael Tree, Ralph Kirchbaum, Vadim Gluzman, Leif Ove Andsnes, the American String Quartet, and Tabea Zimmerman. He has also collaborated in chamber ensembles with opera singers such as Tamara Mumford, Eric Owens, Ryan Speedo Green, and Joyce DiDonato. As a recitalist, Mr. Katz has performed in Weill Recital hall, David Geffen Hall, the Jerusalem Music Centre, National Library in Ottawa, Canada and more.

Also in demand as an arranger, Mr. Katz has had his viola arrangements performed by the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra members in New York City, as well as by principal musicians in the Royal Swedish Orchestra and renowned chamber musicians in England.

He received his Bachelors and Masters degrees from Manhattan School of Music where he studied violin and viola with Pinchas Zukerman, Michael Tree and Patinka Kopec. Before leaving for New York, he studied in Israel with Haim Taub, Ora Shiran and Yair Kless. He also performed in masterclasses given by Isaac Stern, Itzhak Perlman, Dorothy DeLay, Josef Gingold, Joseph Silverstein, Arnold Steinhardt, and Alexander Schneider.

Mr. Katz performs regularly on his Iizuka violas, one of which was previously owned by his former teacher and mentor, Michael Tree of the Guarneri Quartet. He is also a Thomastik Infeld Artist Ambassador.

Jessica Meyer, Composer and violist

With playing that is “fierce and lyrical” and works that are “other-worldly” (*The Strad*) and “evocative” (*The New York Times*), Jessica Meyer is an award-winning composer and violist whose passionate musicianship radiates accessibility and emotional clarity. Meyer’s first composer/performer portrait album, *Ring Out* (Bright Shiny Things, 2019) debuted at #1 on the Billboard Traditional Classical Chart. Her second album *I long and seek after* is a collection of her vocal works that was recently released in March of 2024 on New Focus Recordings and was hailed by *Musical America* as “gorgeously scored.”

Since the start of her composition career in 2014, at age 40, Meyer’s compositions have viscerally explored the wide palette of colors available to each instrument while combining techniques inspired by her experiences as a contemporary and period instrumentalist. Her works have been performed in venues from the Kennedy Center to Carnegie Hall, by musicians of the Minnesota Orchestra and the New York Philharmonic, and by orchestras around the country. Her first Symphonic Band piece was commissioned and toured by “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band and was a finalist for the William D. Revelli Composition Contest. She received the Dale Warland Singers Commission Award from Chorus America in addition to multiple commissioning awards from both Chamber Music America and the New York State Council on the Arts.

Recent premieres included works for the Dorian Wind Quintet, Hausmann Quartet, Hub New Music, her viola concerto GAEA that she premiered alongside the Orchestra of the League of Composers at Miller Theatre in NYC, and a

work for MET Opera tenor Paul Appleby and the Claremont Trio. Upcoming premieres include a viola and piano work commissioned by Juilliard Pre-college, a new orchestral piece *Turbulent Flames* to be performed by a consortium of orchestras across the United States, and a commission for the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra to open their 2025-26 Carnegie Hall Season.

As a solo performer, Ms. Meyer uses a single simple loop pedal to create a virtuosic orchestral experience with her viola and voice. Drawing from wide-ranging influences which include Bach, Brahms, Delta blues, Flamenco, Indian Raga, and Appalachian fiddling, Meyer's music takes audience members on a journey through joy, anxiety, anger, bliss, torment, loneliness and passion. Her solo shows have been featured at iconic venues such as BAMcafé, Joe's Pub, and Symphony Space in NYC, the Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh, in Paris at Sunset Sunside, in addition to venues in Singapore, Switzerland, Vietnam, the Emirates and beyond. At home with many different styles of music and an ardent collaborator, Jessica can regularly be seen premiering her chamber works, performing on Baroque viola, improvising with jazz musicians, or collaborating with other composer-performers. Recently she headlined the 2024 Primrose International Viola Competition at the American Viola Society Festival with a recital of her own works.

Ms. Meyer is equally known for her inspirational work as an educator, where she empowers musicians with networking, communication, teaching, and entrepreneurial skills so they can be the best advocates for their own careers. Currently, she serves on the viola and chamber music faculty at Manhattan School of Music, training students on becoming the best version of their artistic selves while learning how to build a life in music.

JT Kane, Dean of Instrumental Studies and Orchestral Performance and violist

Violist JT Kane is Dean of Instrumental Studies and Orchestral Performance at Manhattan School of Music. In this role, he works with world-renowned faculty, distinguished conductors, and visiting guest artists to shape the artistic and educational experiences of MSM's student instrumentalists.

An accomplished performer and dedicated teacher, JT began his international career in Veracruz, Mexico where he helped create and establish the Instituto Superior de Música del Estado de Veracruz and served as Professor of Viola from 2001 to 2009. During that time he also was hired as the Professor of Viola at the Facultad de Música of the Universidad Veracruzana and was the acting assistant principal violist with the Orquesta Sinfónica de Xalapa under the direction of Carlos Miguel Prieto.

In the United States, he has played in orchestras such as the Chattanooga Symphony and Opera, Florida Grand Opera, Florida Philharmonic, Huntsville Symphony, Louisiana Philharmonic, Miami City Ballet, Naples Philharmonic, New World Symphony, Palm Beach Opera, Palm Beach Symphony, Sarasota Opera, Sarasota Orchestra, and many others. His teaching has extended from private studio instruction at the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga and Sewanee Summer Music Festival to masterclasses and orchestral training initiatives, helping young artists prepare for professional careers.

JT holds a Bachelor of Music in Viola Performance from the Harid Conservatory (now the Conservatory of Music at Lynn University) and a Master of Music in Viola Performance from the University of Miami's Frost School of Music, where he was the viola department teaching assistant.

ABOUT MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Founded as a community music school by Janet Daniels Schenck in 1918, today MSM is recognized for its 1,025 superbly talented undergraduate and graduate students who come from 54 countries and nearly all 50 states; its innovative curricula and world-renowned artist-teacher faculty that includes musicians from the New York Philharmonic, the Met Orchestra, and the top ranks of the jazz and Broadway communities; and a distinguished community of accomplished, award-winning alumni working at the highest levels of the musical, educational, cultural, and professional worlds.

The School is dedicated to the personal, artistic, and intellectual development of aspiring musicians, from its Precollege students through those pursuing doctoral studies. Offering classical, jazz, and musical theatre training, MSM grants a range of undergraduate and graduate degrees. True to MSM's origins as a music school for children, the Precollege Division is a professionally oriented Saturday music program dedicated to the musical and personal growth of talented young musicians ages 5 to 18. The School also serves some 2,000 New York City schoolchildren through its Arts-in-Education Program, and another 2,000 students through its critically acclaimed Distance Learning Program.

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Land Acknowledgment

We want to acknowledge that we gather as Manhattan School of Music on the traditional land of the Lenape and Wappinger past and present, and honor with gratitude the land itself and the people who have stewarded it throughout the generations. This calls us to commit to continuing to learn how to be better stewards of the land we inhabit as well.



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