

Thao Pham, Violin/Viola



Thao Pham is a violinist/violist with 13+ years of musical experience. While obtaining her culinary arts degree at Tarrant County College, she joined the TCC Southeast Orchestra. This led to her involvement in several more ensembles: Northeast Orchestra, Texas Chamber Music Project, and Keene Camerata. In addition to performing in various summer musicals, Thao has performed as a featured soloist in numerous concerts and teaches privately for piano and strings. She also teaches masterclasses for the middle school orchestra members in the Mansfield School District. She won the Arlington Arts League scholarship twice with performances on both violin and viola in 2016 and 2017. Thao is continuing her education in music performance and studies violin with Ivo Ivanov of the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra. In May 2017, Thao was a founding member of the Mansfield Philharmonic where she currently serves as concertmaster and president.

José Fonseca, Violin



José Gabriel Fonseca began studying violin at eight years of age in his native Cuba. He studied in Havana at the National School of Art until the age of 18. While there, he played first violin with the National School of Art Symphony, and later with the Superior Institute of Art Symphony. In 2010, he was selected to participate in the summer course for outstanding students of violin at the Paulita Concepción Conservatory. He taught violin at the Manuel Saumell Conservatory in Havana.

He has performed in the Youth Orchestra Jose Marti as concertmaster, played multiple concerts in the Marti Cultural Society, the Latin American School of Medical Sciences, and the Basilica of San Francisco de Asis in the residence of the Ambassador of Ecuador, among others.

In 2013, José was invited to go to Ecuador as a cultural exchange student. During his three-year stay, he was a professor at the National Conservatory of Ecuador and the Franz Liszt Conservatory. He played violin with the National Symphony of Ecuador, and taught music to special needs children at the SINAMUNE Foundation in Quito.

In 2016, he moved to the United States and now resides in Irving, Texas. Since coming to Texas, José has played with the Park Cities Baptist Church Orchestra, and currently leads the music program at the RED Church in Irving.

Derek Smilowski, Flute



Derek Smilowski is a native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and a graduate of Mansfield University of Pennsylvania in 2014. Mr. Smilowski has bachelors degrees in both Music Education (Pre - K - 12), and Instrumental Performance with a concentration in flute. Mr. Smilowski spent a year teaching general music (K-8) at the Bethune School in the School District of Philadelphia. Currently, he is the proud head director of bands of the Eastern Hills High School Band pyramid in the Fort Worth Independent School District (FWISD) serving approximately 600 band students across four campuses (6-12). As a performing musician, Mr. Smilowski is the Piccolo player for the Mansfield Wind Symphony as well as the Principal Flutist of the Mansfield Philharmonic. As an educator, he has served as the lead on the curriculum design team for the high school band programs programs of FWISD and as a resource for new teachers working in urban schools for the first time. Mr. Smilowski is a lover of band and orchestral music and his main goal is to inspire his student musicians to always strive for the highest, and to be better today than they were yesterday.

Daniel Perez, Flute



Before attending the University of North Texas, Mr. **Daniel Perez** performed with the Sound of America Honor Band & Chorus as the Principal Flute. A featured soloist on Piccolo, The Sound of America Honor Band & Chorus Traveled across Europe performing in Austria, Germany, France, Luxemburg, Italy, and Switzerland. He then proceeded to continue his music career by attending the University of North Texas studying under Dr. Mary Karen Clardy receiving his Bachelor of Arts in Music. During Mr. Perez's time at UNT, he performed with the UNT Symphonic Band and various chamber groups. Mr. Perez has also competed in Phi Mu Alpha National Chamber Contest in 2012 placing 3rd as a Flute Duo, and Placing 2nd in "The Art of Chamber Music" Online Competition with his Sextet in 2016.

Mr. Perez has played with various groups such as the Dallas Civic Wind Ensemble sitting principle flute, Second Flute in the North East Texas Symphony Orchestra, and Piccolo in the New Life Symphony Orchestra. He currently is the Second Flute in the Mansfield Philharmonic and performs with the Plano Community Band as well. As much as he loves to perform, Mr. Perez is pursuing a career in music business as a flute specialist for the Carolyn Nussbaum Music Company.

Joel Goodman, Trumpet



Joel Goodman is an active performer and educator in the DFW area. He received his Bachelor's degree in music performance from Southeastern Oklahoma State University and did his Master's work at the University of North Texas. He has performed with various groups, including lead with the Greater North Texas Jazz Ensemble, and was second trumpet for the Sherman Symphony Orchestra, as well as a featured soloist with the SOSU Wind Ensemble. Currently, he teaches private lessons and masterclasses to aspiring jazz and classical trumpet players. He is a substitute performer for the Northeast Orchestra, the Texas Chamber Music Project, and the brass band, Smokin' Aces. He can also be found pestering his family with musician talk and chilling with his beloved dachshund, Jarvis

Jeffery Ou, Piano



The career of Taiwanese-American pianist, conductor, singer and television personality **Jeffery Ou** (b. 1991) has taken him across 5 US states and 3 countries. In Europe, Jeffery holds Diplomas in Art Song and Opera from the Sankt Goar International Music Academy in Germany, and is an alumnus of the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria. He was also invited in summer of 2016 to enroll in the Cornish-American Song Institute (CASI) in England. In the United States, he is a graduate of the world-renowned College of Music at the University of North Texas, where he was an Emerald Eagle Distinguished Scholar and completed both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Piano Performance, under the guidance of Dr. Steven Harlos and Gustavo Romero.

Showing a remarkable disposition for music as a very young child, Jeffery began formal studies in piano at age 6, and excelled competitively in no less than 20 events in Texas, Louisiana and Tennessee in his teen years, where his performances were described as "very mature playing..." (North Texas Youth Music Competition, 2004); "utterly gripping in intensity" (Dallas Symphonic Festival, 2007); "...stunning playing on many levels" (Baylor-Waco Piano Competition, 2008); "very exciting...has a lot of flair as a

performer and a real sense of visceral excitement" (Juanita Miller State Concerto Competition, 2009); "impressive...with much bravura and passion!" (Dallas Symphonic Festival, 2009); and "like a benediction" (Mu Phi Epsilon Concert Series, 2014).

In the summer of 2009, at the age of 18, Jeffery was launched onto the national stage when he participated in NBC's "America's Got Talent," then in its fourth season. He would advance to the Top 48 Quarterfinals and ultimately to the Top 20 Semifinals in Hollywood, performing for and becoming personally acquainted with celebrities including Piers Morgan, Sharon Osbourne, David Hasselhoff, Nick Cannon, Chris Brown and Ashley Tisdale. Back home, this accomplishment led Jeffery to receive the "Key to the City" award from the mayor of Balch Springs, Texas and the designation of "Jeffery Ou Day" from the mayor of his hometown of Carrollton (October 18, 2009), an invitation to appear on DIFFA 2010 (hosted by Queen Latifah), as well as extensive news coverage from Carrollton Leader, Dallas Chinese Times, Dallas Morning News, NBC, Neighborsgo, University of North Texas News Service, UNT's "Counterpoint" Magazine and CCTV (China).

In addition to piano, Jeffery has also played violin, viola, fortepiano and harpsichord (on the latter two, as a student of Bradley Bennight and Petra Somlai, at the University of North Texas). He is a member of the National Society of High School Scholars, Alpha Chi National College Scholarship Honor Society, Pi Kappa Lambda National Music Honor Society, and Golden Key International Honour Society.

In extremely high demand as a collaborative pianist and accompanist, Jeffery has worked with student musicians in well over 30 schools in various districts the past several years, and has twice been invited to perform in the Texas All-State Solo/Ensemble Contest in Austin, the McKinney ISD Honors Recitals and the Mu Phi Epsilon Concert Series in Dallas. He has also taught masterclasses at the prestigious Booker T. Washington High School for the Visual and Performing Arts in Dallas. He has been on staff as pianist at Lake Cities UMC in Lake Dallas since 2014, and from January 2016-May 2017 was staff pianist at Denton Wesley Foundation. Recent performances have featured Jeffery as concerto soloist in Bach, Beethoven and Shostakovich with the Shepton HS Symphony and Chamber Orchestras in Plano. In the fall of 2015, to commemorate the 260th birthday of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Jeffery embarked on an ambitious tour of presenting the complete cycle of solo piano sonatas in six recitals, a project that is currently halfway complete with 10 sonatas in 3 successful performances. The extensive, eclectic list of respected artists for whom he has performed includes pianists NING AN, JUYEON KANG, ROBERTO POLI, JEANEANE DOWIS, JONATHAN LOMASCOLA, BART VAN OORT, JULIUS DRAKE, HELMUT DEUTSCH, LELIA SADLIER, TRUNG SAM, CHARLENE HARB, PATRICIA MCKEWEN AMATO, Danish baritone BO SKOVHUS, German-Mexican tenor EMILIO PONS, German tenor FALKO HÖNISCH, American heldentenor DAVID SADLIER, casting director of Baden-Baden Festival ANDREAS GEIER, and senior vice president/director of IMG Artists MATTHEW HORNER among many others. His private instructors have included Wells Yi Wu (winner of the inaugural Esther Honens International Piano Competition in Calgary), Baya Kakouberi (Director of Blue Candlelight Music Series in Dallas), Dr. Steven Harlos (chair, Division of Keyboard Studies - UNT College of Music) and acclaimed Mexican-American concert pianist Gustavo Romero. February 2018 saw Jeffery's vocal performance debut in McKinney, singing the role of Sammy Fong in Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Flower Drum Song." He maintains a very active solo and collaborative performing career, and is highly sought after as a respected teacher and freelance artist throughout the North Texas metroplex and beyond.

Christopher Monasmith



Beginning his second year of teaching, **Christopher Monasmith** currently serves as the Assistant Band Director at Legacy High School. His primary responsibilities include teaching the non-varsity band, assisting with the marching band, and varsity band.

Before joining the faculty at Legacy, he served as an Assistant Band Director for Texas City High School. His duties included teaching beginner double reeds, co-directing the TCHS Symphonic Band, and assisting with the TCHS Marching Band, Mariachi, Jazz Band, and Wind Ensemble. He attended Baylor University, where he received his Bachelor's of Music Education degree. While at Baylor he had the opportunity to perform on oboe and english horn with the Baylor Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, Campus Orchestra, Symphony Orchestra, and various chamber music ensembles. Performing at the 2014 TMEA Clinic & Convention with the Baylor Symphony Orchestra was one of the many highlights of his time at Baylor. His primary teachers are Dr. Doris DeLoach, Dr. Eric Wilson, Dr. Isaiah Odajima, and Mr. Stephen Heyde.

Following graduation, Chris has continued to perform as an active oboist. He has had the privilege of being a member of the East Texas Chamber Winds, Houston Symphonic Band, Brazosport Symphony Orchestra, and Deerpark Community Concert Band among others. He currently plays for the Mansfield Wind Symphony and the Mansfield Philharmonic.