

GCSU Department of Music

**Guest Artist and Faculty Concert**

# **Chamber Masterpieces**

**Guest Artist Jennifer Drake, viola**

**Guest Artist Ismail Akbar, cello**

**Bryan E. Hall, violin**

**David H. Johnson, violin**

**Lev Ryabinin, piano**

**Thursday, March 28, 2024, 7:30 p.m.**

**Max Noah Recital Hall**

And Live Streamed on [facebook.com/GCMusicDepartment](https://facebook.com/GCMusicDepartment)



## Program

String Quartet in C minor, Op. 18, no. 4 (1801)

Ludwig van Beethoven

I. Allegro, ma non tanto

(1770–1827)

II. Scherzo. Andante scherzoso quasi Allegretto

III. Minuet. Allegretto

IV. Allegro

*Short 5-minute Intermission*

Piano Quintet no 2 in A major, Op. 81 (1887)

Antonín Dvořák

I. Allegro ma non tanto (A major)

(1841–1904)

II. Dumka. Andante con moto

III. Scherzo (Furiant). Molto vivace — Poco tranquillo

IV. Finale. Allegro

Bryan Emmon Hall, David Harned Johnson, violins

Jennifer Drake, viola

Ismail Akbar, cello

Lev Ryabinin, piano

**Upcoming Events:** Follow us on [Facebook.com/GCMusicDepartment](https://www.facebook.com/GCMusicDepartment) or [music.gcsu.edu](https://music.gcsu.edu)

<b>Guest Artist and Faculty Recital</b> <b>Schubert's "Die schöne Müllerin"</b> Jonathan Yarrington, tenor Owen Lovell, piano Tuesday, April 2, 7:30 p.m. Max Noah Recital Hall and Live Streamed on FB	<b>Newell Scholar Lecture-Recital</b> <b>"Cultural Diplomacy and Music"</b> Dr. Evren Kutlay, piano With GCSU Orchestra and Max Noah Singers Select Ensemble Thursday, April 4, 7:30 p.m. Max Noah Recital Hall and Live Streamed on FB	<b>GCSH Choral Ensembles</b> <b>"Choral Billboard Top Hits"</b> Jennifer Flory and Dana Gorzelayan-Mostak, directors Saturday, April 6, 7:30 p.m. First Baptist Church and Live Streamed on FB
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## Biographies

### **Akbar, Ismail**

Born in Atlanta, Georgia, **Ismail Akbar** received his Bachelor of Music degree in cello performance from Oberlin Conservatory of Music and Masters of Music from Mercer University studying with Christopher Rex and Julie Albers. Akbar has performed as soloist and chamber musician throughout Panama, Bahamas, Russia and Italy. In fall of 2012 Akbar won the Concerto Competition at the University of South Carolina with the Dvorak Cello Concerto. While performing as section cellist with the Oberlin Orchestra, he performed in Carnegie Hall under the baton of Robert Spano performing works by Mozart, Jennifer Higdon and Bartok. During the summer, he has been to Brevard Music Center, Interlochen Arts Academy, Encore School for Strings and Aspen Music Festival.

As a graduate of the prestigious Talent Development Program, Akbar was given the opportunity to perform with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Robert Spano playing the Boccherini Cello Concerto. He has held substitute positions as principal and assistant principal cellist of Symphony Orchestra Augusta, Verdi Chamber Symphony, North Georgia Chamber Symphony, Ludwig Symphony Orchestra and South Carolina Philharmonic. On a different note, he has recorded and performed extensively with Outkast, Take 6, Neil Sedaka, James Torme, Trans-Siberian Orchestra, Monica, Edie Levert, Van Hunt, Jori, Frank McComb, Dionne Farris, Joi Gilliam and Wycliffe Gordon.

### **Drake, Jennifer**

Inspired by the power of music to connect people, ideas and communities, **Jennifer Drake** is a conductor, violist, teacher, clinician, and camp director. The most enthusiastic musician you will ever meet, Jennifer is known for her versatility, humor, and energy. Jennifer has been a transformative force for the arts in Boise since 1999. She is the Music Director of the Serenata Orchestra, the Boise Philharmonic Youth Orchestras. The Boise Phil Youth Orchestra recently expanded to include a third orchestra to keep pace with the fast-growing Treasure Valley area. The Serenata Orchestra is known for its innovative, inspirational thematic programming that engages and involves the audience and community in new ways. Jennifer is also the founder and driving force behind Idaho Viola Camp. She is also the co-artistic director for the Idaho Orchestra Institute. Both camps provide students with unique outdoor experiences, in addition to high quality musical engagement.

Jennifer is a highly sought after teacher and clinician. Her students range in age from 10 to 80, and enjoy success in a variety of musical endeavors, including performing in ensembles, earning college scholarships, consistent high rankings in contests, all while maintaining the love and enjoyment of making music. As a clinician, Jen is known for her infectious energy and ability to engage with ensembles of all levels. Recent clinics have been held in Oregon, Indiana, South Carolina, Washington, Texas, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, and Idaho. In 2023, she conducted the Texas, South Carolina and Minnesota All State Orchestras. In 2024, Jennifer conducted the Minnesota and Alabama All State Orchestras, the Montana AA Orchestra, as well as the Boise Philharmonic School and Family Concerts. She is also a clinician for the 2024 Music for All festival in Indianapolis, Indiana. In 2025, Jennifer will conduct the New Mexico All State Orchestra.

Jennifer has been a conductor for Opera Idaho, leading the 2019 performance of "As One" and the 2023 performance of "An American Dream". She will be working with Gemma Arts in 2024 as they launch The New Voice Festival. She is the principal violist for the Boise Baroque Chamber Orchestra, as well as a section violist for the Boise Philharmonic. Jennifer has enjoyed an international chamber music career, performing at the 33rd International Viola Congress in Reykjavik, Iceland and the International Bass Clarinet Convention in Rotterdam, Holland. She has performed in Denmark, Romania, Holland, Spain, Austria, Italy and throughout the United States.

Recent awards and honors include receiving an Alexa Rose Foundation grant, being named a winner of the 2018 International Conducting Workshop and Competition, and receiving a fellowship with the Allentown Symphony for the 2017-18 season.

She has also been the cover girl for HerLife magazine. When she is not living the obviously glamorous lifestyle that being a conductor and cover girl must afford, she is calling the vet for her dogs Fergus and Cameron, thinking of how to avoid grocery shopping, being a very mediocre CrossFitter and planning trips with her husband, Chad Marvin, in their 1985 Volkswagen Vanagon Camper. Jen and Chad climbed Mount Kilimanjaro in January 2016. She has also completed a 70.3 Ironman as well as RAGBRAI, the bike ride across Iowa.

### **Hall, Bryan Emmon**

Hailed by Cincinnati City Beat as “extraordinarily evocative” for his performances and reviewed by the Salisbury Post as playing with “great beauty and extraordinary brilliance,” for his performance of *Sibelius Violin Concerto*, **Dr. Bryan Emmon Hall** has performed extensively in the United States and abroad as a chamber, orchestra, violinist, violist, and conductor. Bryan Hall is the recent winner of the prestigious 31<sup>st</sup> International Conductors Workshop and Competition held in Atlanta, Georgia in 2023. Bryan has performed in such venues as the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., the Palace of Fine Arts in San Francisco, and the Forbidden City Concert Hall in Beijing, China. He has also appeared as a soloist with over 30 orchestras such as the Fairbanks Symphony Orchestra, Shasta Symphony Orchestra, Balcones Symphony, Salisbury Symphony Orchestra, Winston-Salem Piedmont Triad Symphony Orchestra, Austin Civic Orchestra, Central Texas Orchestra, Piedmont Wind Symphony, Juneau String Ensemble, Cincinnati Accent Festival Orchestra, and many others.

Dr. Hall is a very passionate teacher who began teaching privately while still in high school. In Cincinnati, he taught violin and school orchestra for numerous elementary, middle, and high schools in the area where he started over 200 new violin students. He currently supervises a violin program in Milledgeville Early Learning Center that starts around 250 students a year, taught by Georgia College string students. Dr. Hall served on the faculty of The University of Alaska Fairbanks as Associate Professor of Upper Strings. He was Concertmaster of the Fairbanks Symphony Orchestra, conductor of the Northern Lights Symphony Orchestra, and conductor of the Fairbanks Youth Symphony Orchestra. He was visiting Concertmaster of the Juneau Symphony Orchestra 2018-2019. His articles are published in publications like *String Magazine*. Bryan Hall is currently the Assistant Professor of Upper Strings and Orchestra Conductor at Georgia College and State University. He frequently performs in the violin sections of the Atlanta, North Carolina, Charleston, and Charlotte Symphony Orchestras.

### **Johnson, David Harned**


**Dr. David Johnson** is a composer and violinist currently teaching at Georgia College and State University in Milledgeville, Georgia. He has taught at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, Texas, the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington and Mercer University's Townsend School of Music in Macon, Georgia, where he was chair of theory and composition as well as concertmaster of the Macon Symphony Orchestra.

Born and raised in California's High Desert, he completed a Bachelor of Music degree in violin performance and composition at the Thornton School of Music at the University of Southern California. At Yale, he earned an MM in composition, and went on to receive a DM in composition from Indiana University.

Some of David's recent commissions have included an oboe piece for the 36th annual conference of the International Double Reed Society, a concert overture celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Macon Symphony, and a piano trio for the Rothko Trio. Recently, his *Overture XX* was performed by the University of Arizona Philharmonic, the Lake Union Civic Orchestra in Seattle, Wash

### **Ryabinin, Lev**

**Dr. Lev Ryabinin** graduated with distinction from the Kharkov Institute of Arts, Ukraine, continued his education at the Samuel Rubin Academy of Music at Tel-Aviv University and received his Master's Degree in Piano Performance from Roosevelt University in Chicago. Dr. Ryabinin earned his Doctor of Musical Arts in Piano Performance and Pedagogy from the University of Iowa, where he held a three-year teaching assistantship. Dr. Ryabinin won First Prize in the Tel-Aviv Academy Competition and was a finalist in the Kankakee Piano Concerto Competition. Dr. Ryabinin has worked as a collaborative pianist/accompanist for Interlochen Center for the Arts, Chicago Opera Theater, Roosevelt University, the University of Iowa, and numerous music theatre productions. He has also presented recitals in Germany, Ukraine, Israel, Spain and the United States. Dr. Ryabinin currently serves as staff accompanist and piano instructor at Georgia College.

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