



MPH Global: Guest Faculty Artist Full Bios

Kristian Baverstam, *Clarinet Master Class, Clarinet Gym and Private Instruction*

Hailed as "outstanding" by the *Boston Musical Intelligencer*, clarinetist Kristian Baverstam performs regularly in the United States and abroad. Baverstam is principal clarinet of the Boston Civic Symphony as well as clarinetist at the Newport Music Festival. He was recently featured as soloist with the Boston Civic Symphony, performing "Viktor's Tale" by [John Williams](#), which garnered him praise as "an excellent soloist." Baverstam also performs with other Boston-area orchestras, including the Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra of Boston; the Bach, Beethoven and Brahms Society; Plymouth Philharmonic; Metropolitan Chorale; and Symphony Nova.

Since 2016, Baverstam has been on multiple tours of Japan and South Korea, performing as soloist and chamber musician with his brother, cellist Sebastian Baverstam. Baverstam is launching his debut album with pianist Ilya Kazantsev later this year, to be released on Bostonia Records.

Baverstam has been a member of the clarinet faculty at the New England Conservatory Preparatory School and School of Continuing Education since 2008. From 2008 to 2016 he was director of winds and brass at NEC's Festival Youth Orchestra. He serves as clarinet faculty at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and is a founding member of the Tufts Youth Philharmonic at Tufts University.

Baverstam was awarded fellowships to the Texas Music Festival, where he performed with the festival orchestra at the Moores Opera House in Houston. Baverstam holds a Bachelor of Arts from Boston College and a Master of Music from the [Boston Conservatory](#).

Andrew Bergevin, *Violin Masterclass and Private Instruction*

Andrew Bergevin has been a lecturer of violin at SUNY Geneseo since 2015, where he teaches a full studio of undergraduate violinists, coaches chamber music, teaches music history, and enjoys performing in the faculty ensemble-in-residence at SUNY Geneseo, the Geneseo Piano Trio. Prior to coming to Geneseo, Andrew was an adjunct violin professor at Cornell University, Ithaca College, and Le Moyne College.

An active orchestral musician, Andrew served as acting assistant principal second violin of the Virginia Symphony Orchestra, which he joined for the 2012-13 season at the invitation of the orchestra's music director, JoAnn Falletta. He was also a core member of the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra from 2009 until its closing in 2011. In the past, Andrew has been assistant concertmaster of the Binghamton Philharmonic and a member of the Cayuga Chamber Orchestra.

As a soloist, Andrew has performed with the Ithaca College Symphony Orchestra, as winner of the Ithaca College Concerto Competition; the SUNY Geneseo Symphony Orchestra; the Binghamton Community Orchestra; and the Binghamton Youth Symphony.

Andrew holds a Bachelor of Music in Violin Performance (*magna cum laude*) and a Master of Music in Suzuki Pedagogy from Ithaca College. His principal teachers include Susan Waterbury, to whom he served as graduate teaching assistant at IC, and Sally Thomas, with whom he studied at Meadowmount and the Mannes School of Music. Andrew also completed long-term Suzuki teacher training with Sanford Reuning.

He has performed in masterclasses for many important violin soloists and pedagogues over the years, including Aaron Rosand, James Ehnes, Leila Josefowicz, and Ida Kavafian.

Kelly Covert, *Flute Workshop and Flute Gym*

Kelly Covert, second flute/piccolo, has been with Symphoria since the 2013-14 season. A graduate of the University of Georgia and Ithaca College in flute performance, she has performed with the Buffalo Philharmonic, Cayuga Chamber Orchestra, Binghamton Philharmonic, and Ensemble X, as well as in solo and chamber music concerts across the country. She is a core performer with the Syracuse Society for New Music. Ms. Covert has taught flute at Syracuse University, Ithaca College, SUNY Oswego, and Hamilton College. She is currently marketing & development associate for Symphoria.

In addition to being a musician, Kelly is also a life coach and hosts the [In Her Voice podcast](#). She loves to read, take long walks in the woods, and snuggle with her adorable beagle, Piper.

Kelly loves living in Baldwinsville, NY, with her husband, Kelly, and two sons, Ryan and Noah.

Melissa Gardiner, *Trombone Workshop, Jazz Gym, and Trombone Gym*

Trombonist **Melissa Gardiner** has performed with several legendary musicians including Aretha Franklin, The Temptations, Geri Allen, Wycliffe Gordon, Arturo O'Farrill's Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra, Dave Matthews Band, and Vulfpeck. As a bandleader, she has released three albums: *Transitions* (2011), *Second Line Syracuse* (2016), and *Empowered* (2019), which features prominent jazz women Tia Fuller (Beyoncé) and Ingrid Jensen. Gardiner has won several awards as a bandleader, including two Syracuse Area Music Awards (SAMMYS) for Best Jazz Album, and first place at the International Jazz Competition in Bucharest, Romania. In addition to an active performance career, Gardiner has teaching credentials at Syracuse University, Le Moyne College, and Cornell University. In the past two years she was inducted into the Liverpool High School Fine Arts Hall of Fame and into the SAMMY Hall of Fame as Educator of the Year. Gardiner received her BFA from University of Michigan and MM from The Juilliard School. She is a BAC artist and plays a BAC Custom Trombone. www.melissamaymusic.com

Dana Huyge, *Private Viola and Violin Instruction*

Dana Huyge is a proud alumnus of MPH, Class of 2005, and is pleased to be participating in this endeavor to further enhance the educational offerings at his alma mater. His past appointments as a strings teacher include appointments at Hartwick College and SUNY Geneseo, and as the director of the Suzuki program at Immaculate Conception Elementary School in Fayetteville. He also has been involved with the Symphoria Youth Orchestras from their conception and is still active as a chamber music coach.

Dana's teaching focuses on producing students who play free from mental stress and physical pain, and who approach problem solving with musical creativity. A longtime Suzuki student and teacher, Dana prides himself on nurturing the natural creativity and curiosity of his students.

As a performer, Dana has performed with virtually every orchestra in Upstate New York and is a longtime member of both Symphoria and the Grammy-Award winning Albany Symphony Orchestra. He has appeared on many recordings of modern music with the Albany Symphony, including their 2020 Grammy-nominated disc of concertos by Christopher Theofanidis. He is also the former principal violist of the Binghamton Philharmonic Orchestra. With these ensembles, Dana has performed every major work a young violist might expect to encounter. Dana has earned degrees in music performance and literature from the University of Michigan, where he studied with Yizhak Schotten, and the Eastman School of Music, where he studied with George Taylor.

Carrie Manolakos, Vocal Masterclass, Vocal Intensive Seminar, and Private Instruction

Carrie Manolakos is best known for her roles on stage, including Sophie Sheridan in Broadway's *Mamma Mia!* and Elphaba in the touring company of *Wicked*. Other original roles include Natalie in *Love Actually Live* (Los Angeles) and Lizzie Borden in the premiere and original cast recording of the rock opera *Lizzie*. She most recently finished her first musical movie *Lights on the Radio Tower*, in which she played the role of Molly.

Carrie is widely known for her haunting live interpretation of Radiohead's "Creep," which became an international phenomenon with over four million YouTube views, filmed and recorded at the 2012 debut album release of *Echo*.

She is a storyteller in every sense of the word, whether she's on a Broadway stage, performing solo in a concert hall, or singing in films such as *The Greatest Showman*, *Incredibles 2*, *Croods: A New Age*, and more. She has toured with Hugh Jackman, as Eponine to his Jean Valjean, and was invited by Phish to sing in their New Year's Extravaganza at Madison Square Garden.

Carrie is also a songwriter, and spring of 2019 welcomed her second solo record, *The 44th Chord* and her song "The Lows" was just recently featured on Z100 NYC for the "Top 9 at 9" alongside Ariana Grande, Katy Perry, Celine Dion, and Madonna. Her debut record, *Echo*, placed at #44 on the iTunes pop charts.

Named *Elle Magazine's* "30 Under 30 Essential Names to Know," she was voted #1 by readers. *Gawker* called her cover of Radiohead's "Creep," "upsettingly good". She was featured in *Entertainment Weekly* for doing one of the top 12 best Radiohead covers of all time, with artists such as Frank Ocean, John Mayer, Weezer, Regina Spektor, Vampire Weekend, and others. She was also featured in the *New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *Huffington Post*, and *The Daily Beast*, as well as on MTV, and msnNOW.

In February of 2020, Manolakos made her Carnegie Hall debut with the New York Pops, singing the songs of her heroes and playing her original music with their full orchestra. -- For More information on Carrie as an actress, singer, and writer, visit carriemanolakos.com // Instagram: @carriemanolakos

Carrie is also founder and CEO of *Carrie U Voice Institute*, where she works with singers and artists of all levels to find their authenticity, power, and joy through their voice. She helps to focus, discipline, and balance artists on the physiology and psychology of having an instrument inside the body and all that goes

with it. There are group classes and opportunities for one-on-one private mentorships. For more information, visit carrieu.com // Instagram: @carrieuvoice

Jeffrey Pepper Rodgers, *Mixed-Level Acoustic Guitar, Get Started with Song Writing, and Creative Nonfiction Writing: Your Stories*

Jeffrey Pepper Rodgers has combined his twin passions for words and music into a multifaceted career as a musician, author, and teacher. He is a grand prize winner of the John Lennon Songwriting Contest, founding editor of *Acoustic Guitar* magazine, and author of numerous books on guitar and songwriting. A “renowned guitar teacher” (*Boston Globe*), Rodgers has been a staff instructor at Ashokan Acoustic Guitar Camp and Lamb’s Retreat for Songwriters, and for over a decade he has taught courses on songwriting and creative nonfiction writing at Syracuse University.

jeffreypepperrogers.com

Zachary Sweet, *Cello Masterclass, Mixed-Level Cello Group Class, and Private Instruction*

Zachary Sweet is a registered teacher trainer with the Suzuki Association of the Americas. He is currently an instructor of cello at Nazareth College, as well as Binghamton and Colgate Universities, and is on the faculties of Ithaca Talent Education and Music Together of Ithaca. Nationally, he is respected as a clinician having led workshops, masterclasses and institutes in Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Texas, Utah, Vermont, and Virginia.

Zachary performs extensively throughout the Tri-State area as soloist, chamber musician, and orchestral player. Currently, Zachary is principal of Colgate University Orchestra and Tri Cities Opera, and he performs regularly with the Society for New Music and mezzo-soprano Ivy Waltz. In October 2019, he presented the inaugural “small bites” recital for the Arkansas Philharmonic Orchestra.

He completed a masters degree in performance and literature at the Eastman School of Music in 2006; in that time he was also a fellow at the Aspen Music Festival. During his studies at Eastman, he became a member of the Eastman Chamber Society, acted as principal of Eastman Philharmonia, Eastman Chamber Orchestra, and Eastman Opera Orchestra, and studied chamber music with the Ying Quartet, Elinore Freer, Dr. Jean Barr, Richard Kilmer, and Dr. Kenneth Grant. His principal instructors have been Alan Harris, Kathy Kemp, and Carol Vizzini.

As an educator, Zachary has spent the past 13 years exploring music development in young children. In 2009, he completed a long-term training program in Talent Education at the School for Strings with Pamela Devenport. Since then he has continued training with Tanya Carey, Carey Cheney, Sally Gross, Carey Beth Hockett, and Rick Mooney.

In addition, Zachary is in demand as a Music Together instructor, leading classes for Mixed Ages, Babies, Big Kids and Pre-Schools. In January 2015, Zachary was awarded Music Together Certification Level II status, having demonstrated outstanding achievement in teaching, musicianship, program philosophy, and parent education. The award was granted by the Center for Music and Young Children in Princeton, NJ, Kenneth K. Guilmartin, Founder/Director.

Zachary plays the 2001 “Willow Cello” by Jim McKean and a 1999 bow by Ron Forrester.

Alba S. Torremocha, *Introduction to Conducting and Composing for Film*

The unique sound of award-winning composer, conductor, and multi-instrumentalist Alba S. Torremocha blends contemporary instrumental textures and effortless melodies to create vibrant and compelling musical atmospheres. At only 27 years of age, her concert pieces have been premiered around the world, and her soundtracks for film, TV, and video games keep receiving critical acclaim.

Coming from a highly refined background in classical composition and orchestration, she studied violin, composition and conducting in Europe. She graduated from the prestigious Musikene Conservatoire (Spain) as the valedictorian of her class and later graduated with honors from New York University with a master's in film scoring.

She has been honored by Rotary International with the prize “Main Protagonist of Tomorrow” along with the JOSCS Symphony Orchestra, and she's a recipient of the Billy Joel Scholarship and the Elmer Bernstein Award. In 2016, she won the residency of the NYU Symphony and her piece “Serendipia” was premiered at Symphony Space (NYC) under the baton of Constantine Kitsopoulos. Alba combines her work as a conductor and professor at NYU with various projects in the classical, film, game, and VR industry.