

2019 Fall Workshop Faculty



Cellist **Marla Majett** has devoted her life to making music accessible to children of all ages & backgrounds. She has performed with her students in venues from Spivey Hall to Carnegie Hall. Raised in a musical family which includes three generations of award winning jazz musicians, Marla began her musical studies when she was five years old through the Suzuki Piano Method. Her childhood cello teacher was Dr. Elizabeth Cantrell. Ms. Majett earned a bachelor degree in music from Furman University under the guidance of cellist Dr.

Richard Maag and studied Suzuki pedagogy with Dr. Tanya Carey, Barbara Wampner and Pam Devenport. She enjoys working with young people in chamber groups and teaches annually with the At First Sight Chamber Music Camp in Collegedale, Tennessee. As the owner of Majett Cello Studio, Ms. Majett maintains a cello studio with over 35 students. Her studio stays active with recitals, workshops and public performances.

Ms. Majett performs in classical music groups around the country such as the Colour of Music Virtuosi Orchestra which features musicians of African descent and has appeared on stage with various artists including DJ Spooky, John Legend, Maxwell, Dianne Reeves, Common and Michael Bearden. Ms. Majett was a founding member of the Suzuki Association of Georgia (SAGA) and served as vice president and editor of the newsletter for several terms. She is currently on the SAGA board as the cello chairperson.



Tara Yaney is the principal flute player of the Johnstown Symphony Orchestra and the third flute and piccolo player of the Westmoreland Symphony Orchestra. She has also performed with Opera Steamboat, the Youngstown Symphony Orchestra, the Canton Symphony Orchestra, the Altoona Symphony Orchestra, Quantum Theatre, the Bach Choir of Pittsburgh, the International Chamber Ensemble in Rome, Italy, the Ohio Light Opera Orchestra, and numerous pit orchestras in the Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., Baltimore, and Pittsburgh areas. She performs regularly as a soloist and as half of Duo Cieli, a flute and guitar duo with guitarist John Marcinizyn. She directs the Junior Wind Ensemble of the Pittsburgh Youth Concert Orchestra. She has been teaching flute, piccolo, Native American flute and clarinet lessons for over 25 years.



Marilyn Andersen holds the BM degree from Wheaton College and the MM degree from Indiana University. She has taught the Suzuki method for piano in the Wheaton College Community School of the Arts since 1975 and now teaches 15-18 students. She has had many students who have studied with her for 12 to 14 years and some have gone on to conservatory study in their college years. In 1986 Ms. Andersen traveled to Matsumoto, Japan, to study under and observe the teaching of Dr. Haruko Kataoka and Dr. Shinichi Suzuki. Ms. Andersen is a registered teacher trainer of the Suzuki method for piano and has done teaching training at Suzuki Summer Institutes.



Sarah Smale attended the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire where she received a BA with honors, continuing postgraduate work at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. Her musical studies eventually took her to the Hartt School where she studied with, and was assistant to, the Emerson String Quartet, obtaining her MA in viola performance. Ms. Smale has won several awards, including the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire string quartet scholarship and the Herbert Lumby Viola prize. Her

experience includes numerous concerts and seminars with talented quartets and orchestras including: Takacs Quartet, European Chamber Orchestra, Russian National Ballet and the Emerson Quartet. Ms. Smale has also played with numerous choral societies as principal viola, recorded television work for the BBC, and recorded extensively for Radio Suisse. She also performs with L'Orchestre des Jardins Musicaux in Switzerland, where she is guest principal viola. Sarah is currently the Associate Director at the Suzuki Music Schools in Westport, CT where she teaches violin and viola, and Director of the White Mountain Suzuki Institute at Ogontz Camp, NH. She is a frequent guest teacher at educational workshops and Suzuki Institutes around the country.



Gil Teixeira is a prolific artist and educator that sees Sound as the unifying core of his many practices. A native of Portugal, Gil grew up studying classical guitar with some of the great masters of the instrument. He holds a Bachelor degree in Guitar Performance. Alongside his classical studies, Gil started the post-rock band La La La Ressonance, a group that pushed the artistic boundaries of what a band is and does, mostly due to their bold cross-artistic experiments. In 2012, Gil moved to London to pursue a Masters in Music at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama, where he developed a keen interest in the

exploration of technology in collaborative music making contexts and started working on CEEMI. His artistic practice also shifted from playing music into a more experimental and abstract exploration of Sound more in tune with Soundart and Multimedia Installation. Gil has taught guitar, led workshops, and performed all over Europe and the U.S. He moved to Pittsburgh PA in January of 2015. He got his Suzuki guitar training with William Kossler at the Greater Pittsburgh Suzuki Institute.



Guitarist **Brannon Lyons** received his Bachelor of Music degree from Seton Hill College, where he studied classical guitar with James Ross and John Marcinizyn and later with James Boyce at Duquesne University. Brannon is an active member of the Suzuki Association of the Americas and the owner of Lyons Guitar and String Lesson Studio in Mt. Lebanon, PA. He also serves as the president of the Pittsburgh Classical Guitar Society (PCGS) and directs the PCGS community guitar orchestra. He is registered Suzuki Guitar instructor (Books 1 -7 and Guitar Practicum) and continues guitar/pedagogy studies with well-known guitarist and teacher Mir Ali. Brannon also served as adjudicator at the Rantucci Guitar Festival in Buffalo, NY. He performs regularly in the area and is listed in the Pittsburgh Artist Registry.