

Violinist Benjamin Kreith has premiered solo works at the Strasbourg and Marseille Festivals, given recitals in New York, Rome and Madrid, and played as a guest artist with the Ying and Muir Quartets. For several years he was a member of the Cascade Quartet and concertmaster of the Great Falls (MT) Symphony. Outside the concert hall, Ben has rafted through Grand Canyon, paddling and performing string quartets in the side canyons, caverns, and beaches along the Colorado River. A founding member of the Ensemble CGAC in Santiago de Compostela, Spain, Ben also participates in the Bay Area new music collective sfSound. His recordings include solo works on the *Accord/Universal* and *Stradivarius* labels. Later this year, his English translation of Ramón del Valle-Inclán's novel, *Flower of Sanctity*, will be published in Great Britain. He has taught at the Escola de Música de Barcelona and served as artist-in-residence at UC Davis. Ben holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the New England Conservatory, a Master of Music degree from the University of Toronto, and studied principally with Lorand Fenyves, Jorja Fleezanis and Malcolm Lowe.

Rick Shinozaki's joyful curiosity shines through all of his music making. Principal Second Violin of both Symphony Silicon Valley and the Mendocino Music Festival Orchestra, his solo performances have included the world premiere of Viennese composer Zdzislaw Wysocki's "Concerto for Two Violins and Orchestra" under Kent Nagano and the Berkeley Symphony. Rick is known for his intimate collaborations with composers William Jay Sydeman, Durwynne Hsieh and Mark Fish, commissioning, performing and editing their work. With pianist Irene Jacobson, the Shinozaki-Jacobson Duo has delighted audiences with an eclectic repertoire and interpretations cited as "scintillating" and "in perfect harmony," including an album release of Alberto Ginastera's "Pampeana #1" for the Latin American Chamber Music Society. Rick is a protégé of Serban Rusu of Tiburon, CA; he also studied extensively with legendary pedagogue Josef Gingold and Yuval Yaron at Indiana University, from which he holds a Master of Music degree. Outside of performing, Rick is devoted to music editing and providing Del Sol's social media with comic relief.

Founding violist of the Del Sol String Quartet, Charlton Lee has toured North America, Europe and Asia as a soloist and chamber musician. He is sought after as an educator, chamber music coach and jurist, with teaching experience at San Francisco State University, San Francisco School of the Arts, Steamboat Springs and Oaxaca music festivals, and he coaches regularly for Chamber Musicians of Northern California and the Symphony of the Redwoods. He created and performed music for the award-winning short film, "Red, White, Blue, and Yellow," and also has collaborated with various dance companies, including Stephen Pelton, Ben Levy, and Garrett/Moulton. Charlton received a Bachelor's Degree in Applied Mathematics and Physics from the University of California, Berkeley and a Master's Degree in Music from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Consequently, he may be the only person to have published articles in both *Physics Review Letters* and *Strings Magazine*. He also is a 20th generation disciple of the martial art Chen Taiji and an avid chef.

Hailed by the *New York Times* for her "beautifully rounded sound," Kathryn Bates has a passionate commitment to exploring the boundaries of tradition and innovation in all genres of performance. She has worked with various new music ensembles, including the Pittsburgh New

Music Ensemble and Ensemble Parallèle, and co-founded the New Spectrum Ensemble. Her tenure as cellist of the New Fromm Players at the Tanglewood Music Center from 2008-2010 included the Elliott Carter 100th Birthday celebration, as well as solo performances called “the revelation of the concert” (*Sequenza 21*) and “electrifying” (*Boston Globe*). A native of historic Concord, Massachusetts, Kathryn graduated from Rice University’s Shepherd School of Music, under the direction of Norman Fischer, and holds a Master’s degree in Chamber Music from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, where she studied with Mark Kosower and Jean-Michel Fonteneau. As a nature lover, Kathryn spends time away from the cello outside on trails, either running, hiking or backpacking.