

Guest Artist Biographies



Jeffrey Grogan is an internationally acclaimed conductor and teacher, dedicating more than 25 years to nurturing musical excellence among young musicians. Mr. Grogan has served as adjudicator, conductor, and clinician for many prestigious national and international events. In 2018 he was invited by the LA Philharmonic to conduct with Gustavo Dudamel and Michael Morgan at Disney Hall, a part of the National Take A Stand Festival. Other conducting engagements include: the Honor Orchestra of America sponsored by Music for All, the National Orchestra Cup at Lincoln Center; and the Honors Performance Series at Carnegie Hall. Recent international work includes conducting festivals at the

Sydney Opera House in Australia, the Harpa Concert Hall in Iceland, and venues in Bangkok, Thailand and Singapore. Mr. Grogan has also conducted numerous all-state orchestras and bands throughout the US, and in 2018, was named Master Educator by the Yamaha Corporation of America.

Grogan is currently Director of Orchestral Activities and Professor of Music at the Wanda L. Bass School of Music at Oklahoma City University and Artistic Director of the Oklahoma Youth Orchestras. Previously, Grogan served eleven seasons as Education and Community Engagement Conductor of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, and as Conductor and Artistic Director of the NJSO Youth Orchestras, the InterSchool Orchestras of New York and the New Jersey Youth Symphony.

Following his passion for performing and helping to create new music for orchestras, he has collaborated with many composers: Lowell Liebermann, Michael Colgrass, Eric Whitacre, Steven Stucky, Michael Daugherty, Amanda Harberg, Steven Bryant, Dana Wilson, David Sampson, Michael Markowski, and Scott McAllister – and has worked with soloists Richard Stolzman, Stefan Hoskuldsson, Julian Schwarz and the Canadian Brass. Grogan worked on several projects with violinist and composer Mark O'Connor, which included professional studio work in New York City. He also conducted a recording of O'Connor's *March of the Gypsy Fiddler* with the Ahn Trio and New Jersey Youth Symphony. This CD is recorded on the OMAC Records label and is played on classical music radio throughout the country.

Mr. Grogan is founding Artistic Director of two El Sistema inspired music programs in New Jersey: the Paterson Music Project (PMP) in Paterson and the NJSO CHAMPS in Newark. These two programs currently teach music to more than 500 students.

Prior to his work in New York and New Jersey, Grogan taught conducting and trained future music educators for over a decade at the University of Michigan, Ithaca College, and Baylor

University. He is also the former Associate Director of Bands and Marching Band Director at the University of Michigan and Baylor University. Grogan began his career teaching grades 6-12 in DeSoto, Texas Independent School District.



Violinist **David Colwell** enjoys a diverse career as a soloist, chamber musician, and teacher in the United States, Canada, Europe, South America, and the Middle East.

In demand at national and international festivals and universities, Colwell has given recitals and masterclasses at the Milan Conservatory, Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance, Eastman School of Music, Cornell University, McGill University, Swarthmore College, Ithaca College, California State University-Fullerton, the Deià International Music Festival (Spain) and the Palau March Summer Concert series in Palma de Mallorca (Spain) and at universities in Mexico City, Brasília, Natal and Rio de Janeiro.

Concerto engagements have included the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, Alberta Baroque Ensemble, Pennsylvania Sinfonia Orchestra and the Charlottesville Symphony Orchestra. An avid chamber musician, he has collaborated with such artists as Edgar Meyer, Timothy Eddy, Paul Katz, Barry Shiffman, Henk Guittart, Pekka Kuusisto, Scott St. John and Ralf Gothóni. Passionate about performing the music of our time, he has presented works by John Corigliano, Steven Stucky, Jennifer Higdon, Gabriela Lena Frank, Stephen Paulus, Christopher Theofanidis, Rob Deemer, Ted Coffey, Judith Shatin, Matthew Burtner, Nina C. Young and Hannah Lash.

As winner of the Johann Strauss Foundation Scholarship, he was afforded the opportunity to study at the Internationale Sommerakademie Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria with Igor Oistrakh, Jean-Jacques Kantorow and Igor Ozim. As well, he spent two summers studying at the prestigious Steans Institute for Young Artists at the Ravinia Festival in Chicago and made his main festival debut in 2005 at the Martin Theater. Colwell completed his undergraduate education in his native Canada at the University of Alberta where he studied with Martin Riseley. As a full scholarship student at Yale School of Music, he completed his graduate degrees under Peter Oundjian and Ani Kavafian. His other teachers have included William van der Sloot, Ranald Shean and Edmond Agopian.

A dedicated, holistic and innovative teacher, Colwell became a member of the performance faculty at the University of Virginia in 2006. From 2011 to 2018, he served on the faculty of State University of New York at Fredonia and attained the rank of Associate Professor in 2017. He joined the music faculty at the University of Kansas in 2018.



Originally from Novosibirsk, Russia, **Boris Vayner** has been enjoying a diverse career in music as a violist, educator and conductor. As a member of the Grammy nominated St. Petersburg String Quartet since 2005, he has been intensively touring throughout North America, South America, Europe and Asia. The highlights of his career include performances at Lincoln Center, Library of Congress, Amsterdam Concertgebouw, Manchester Bridgewater Hall, Dublin National Concert Hall, London King's Place, St. Petersburg Philharmonic Great Hall, and appearances at such festivals as Schleswig-Holstein (Germany), MIMO (Brazil), Buxton (England), Fishguard (Wales), Music Mountain, Newport, Rockport, and Mainly Mozart in San Diego, among others. Boris Vayner has collaborated with such internationally renowned artists as Leon Fleisher, Michael Tree, Peter Donohoe, David Shifrin, Misha Dichter, and Stephanie Chase. He has also been a member of the St. Petersburg Piano Quartet that debuted in New York in May 2014.

Boris Vayner has joined the faculty of the University of Kansas in August 2017. Prior to this, he served as an adjunct faculty and a member of the quartet-in-residence at the Wichita State University. He also served as a sabbatical replacement for the viola professor and the director of the Luther College Philharmonia at the Luther College, Decorah, for the spring semester 2013. Boris Vayner gave master classes at many educational institutions in the US and around the world, including San Francisco Conservatory, University of Toronto (Canada), UNAM (Mexico), Latvian National Academy, Astrakhan Conservatory (Russia), Stephen F. Austin State University, and Missouri State University. He has been on faculty at many international summer festivals, including St. Petersburg International Summer Academy, Newport Music Festival, Montecito Music Festival, Musica Mundi Festival, and Alion Baltic International Music Festival.

As a conductor, Boris Vayner has appeared with the Kansas City Civic Orchestra, Hays Symphony Orchestra, University of Missouri Kansas City student orchestra, Luther College Philharmonia, and Uspensky School of Music student orchestra (Uzbekistan). He was a founder and a director of the Suprima Chamber Orchestra comprised of students of the Wichita State University. He successfully led the orchestra to performances in Russia, in 2012, and at the Barge Music in New York, in 2014. For the performance in New York the Suprima Chamber Orchestra collaborated with the conducting and violin prodigy, Jonathan Okseniuk.

Besides performing music, Boris Vayner is an avid arranger; his arrangement of Bach Chaconne for string quartet was performed live on BBC 3 radio station in London, in July 2012. In 2018, he was commissioned an arrangement of Florence Price Piano Concerto for piano and string quartet that was premiered the same year.

Boris Vayner holds Bachelor degrees from Novosibirsk Music College and Novosibirsk State University (majoring in mathematics), and Master degrees in viola performance from the St. Petersburg Conservatory and the New England Conservatory. He received his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in orchestral conducting from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance.