

## Overview of the Aspen Music School

*Musicians of all ages learn from their instructors not only in the classroom, but also as they perform side-by-side with them in the Aspen Festival Orchestra and the Aspen Chamber Symphony.*

Since 1951, the Aspen Music School has offered the world's finest young music students the opportunity for study at the highest levels of professional development. The AMFS seeks to provide experiences and programs that nurture the complete musician, and allow students to augment their traditional conservatory curriculum. Aspen's unique programs and unparalleled setting provide a place for both young and experienced musicians to re-focus and reengage with the art form.

The eight-week program provides a diverse combination of classroom and practical experiences designed to encourage students to develop their talents and skills to the fullest. A broad curriculum includes individual lessons, master classes, concerts, and recitals.

625 young musicians attend the School from throughout the United States and the world. Almost 36 nations are represented, including Australia, China, Iceland, Mexico, Sweden, and Venezuela. The AMFS annually invites more than 145 music teachers and 70 guest artists from all corners of the globe to attend.

The master teacher/apprentice relationship, the foundation of music education, finds full expression at the School. As part of their training, Aspen students have the unusual opportunity to perform as fully participating orchestra members with some of the world's finest musicians, under the leadership of world-renowned conductors. Musicians of all ages learn from their instructors not only in the classroom, but also as they perform side-by-side with them in the Aspen Festival Orchestra and the Aspen Chamber Symphony. In addition, the School maintains two orchestras composed entirely of students—the Aspen Concert Orchestra, and the American Academy of Conducting at Aspen Orchestra.

Alumni of the AMFS fill important professional music positions around the world, performing in top-tier orchestras, opera houses, and on music school faculties. Sarah Chang, James Conlon, Lynn Harrell, Renée Fleming, Sharon Isbin, James Levine, Cho-Liang Lin, Robert McDuffie, Susan Mentzer, Itzhak Perlman, Leonard Slatkin, Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, and Dawn Upshaw are among those whose careers have roots at the Aspen Music Festival and School.