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2021 Virtual Content

The AMFS Alumni Committee is hard at work developing virtual content exclusively for alumni this summer. We will be announcing the details soon!

Alumni News



Justin Benavidez's debut solo album, *Emblems*, won Silver Medals in the Classical Album and Instrumental Solo Album categories of the Global Music Awards. The International Tuba Euphonium Association Journal described it as "an impressive and highly entertaining record" on which Benavidez "shreds with enthusiasm, exuberance, and precision."

In addition, Benavidez signed a contract with Oxford University Press to author a guide of the most significant solo works in the tuba repertoire.

Listen to *Emblems: American Music for Solo Tuba and Piano* [here](#).

Darrel Hale has been appointed Associate Professor of Bassoon at the

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University of North Texas.

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In May 2021, Darrel premiered a new concerto for bassoon and orchestra by Mara Gibson entitled 'Escher Keys' under the baton of ACA alum, **Scott Terrell**.



Eric Chen, violin, is a semi-finalist in the Senior division of the Menuhin Competition, one of the world's leading international competitions for young violinists.

"Performing at the Menuhin Competition has always been a long-held ambition of mine, and getting to be a part of the Competition will be a major milestone in my growth as both a musician and a person."

The entire First Rounds are available to view [here](#).

Keep in Touch

Share your news! Keep us updated on your latest projects, accomplishments, jobs, and more. Click [here](#) to fill out the form.

Meet the Committee

Each month, we will be introducing our AMFS Alumni Committee members. We are delighted to have such a successful and diverse group of individuals represent AMFS alumni and students.

Abby Dreher

Viola and Violin, AMFS '17-'18

Abby Dreher is a professional violist and violinist living in Aspen, Colorado. She has attended the Aspen Summer Music Festival, Banff Centre, and the Bowdoin International Music Festival as an orchestral musician and

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chamber musician with her quartet, Hexum. She has held positions with the Colorado Springs Philharmonic, Palm Beach Symphony, and the Miami Symphony. She also recorded with jazz artists in Miami. Abby has taught for the nationally recognized Illinois State University String Project, the Dreyfoos School of the Arts in West Palm Beach, as well as the North-Broward Pre-Juilliard Program.



She has presented lectures, performances, and research at the American String Teachers Association Conference, as well as the American Viola Society Conference in LA. Her work was accepted for presenting at the International Viola Congress in New Zealand. Abby is currently teaching for the Aspen Community School and teaches for the Aspen Music Festival Beginning Strings Program, as well as working on recording projects.

Daniel Pesca

Composition and Piano, AMFS '08-'12

Daniel Pesca is a composer, pianist, and improviser whose interpretations of the piano literature stand out for their creativity and dynamism. A fervent champion of contemporary music, Daniel is a member of several ensembles noted for their innovative approach to the development of new work, including the Grossman Ensemble and the Zohn Collective. Daniel has performed the premieres of over 100 pieces, many composed specifically for him. Formerly artist-in-residence at the University of Chicago, Daniel is now assistant professor at University of Maryland, Baltimore County.



Chance Eakin

Baritone, AMFS '13

Dr. Chance Eakin, baritone, is a 2013 alumnus of the Aspen Opera Theater

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Center, where he studied with Stephen Smith. In his singing career, Chance made appearances with the Florida Grand Opera and Opera Saratoga, among others.

Outside of his operatic pursuits, Chance is a senior software engineer with Red Ventures, focused in the FinTech and mortgages space. He has open source contributions across a variety of projects, including react-spring and the Yew Web Assembly framework. Chance is recognized as Arctic Code Vault Contributor.



Chance holds degrees from the University of Texas at Austin, the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, and Baylor University. He resides in Austin, Texas with his wife and enjoys woodworking and fly fishing.

Christopher Robinson **Violin, AMFS '17**

From Louisville, Kentucky, Christopher Robinson is a violinist, educator, and founder of VIA Academy. As a violinist, Christopher is a recent alumnus of the New World Symphony where he regularly served as principal and concertmaster. He has performed with the Nashville and Jacksonville Symphonies, as well as in chamber collaborations with members of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. Christopher is also a passionate educator and mentor for young musicians across the United States. In 2020, Christopher founded VIA Academy, a free summer music program for aspiring young musicians from remote and underrepresented communities in classical music.



VIA Academy's curriculum focuses on mentoring students towards the many ways to a passion-filled career in music and reached 161 students from 37 states, Puerto Rico, and Canada in its inaugural year. Christopher has also taught in programs at Carnegie Hall's NYO/NYO2 Summer Programs, Miami Music Project, Nashville Symphony's Accelerando Program, Atlanta Symphony's Talent

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Job Board

Music Director

Littleton Symphony Orchestra: Littleton, CO

View job description [here](#).

To apply, email application materials to Nancy Oberg, Search Committee Chair, at nancyoberg42@gmail.com.

Youth Orchestra Artistic Director/Conductor

Napa Valley Youth Symphony: Napa, California

View job description [here](#).

To apply, submit application materials by **SUNDAY, MAY 23** to NVYS Executive Director, Shelley Surh at ssurh@nvysso.org.

Artistic Planning Manager

The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra: St Paul, Minnesota

View job description [here](#).

To apply, submit application materials through Paylocity (link above).

Institutional Giving Associate

The Cleveland Orchestra: Cleveland, OH

View job description [here](#).

To apply, submit application materials [here](#).

Administrative Assistant – Managerial

Opus 3 Artists: New York, New York

View job description [here](#).


To apply, submit application materials to careers@opus3artists.com.

If you would like to post a job opening, please email Chandler Martin at cmartin@aspenmusic.org by the first of every month. The job listing will be included in the upcoming newsletter. Find the full instructions for submitting a position [here](#).

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