

Guest Artists



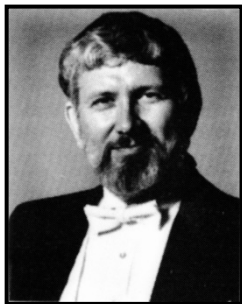
Cheng-Wei Hsieh
violin

Born in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, Cheng-Wei Hsieh is currently pursuing his doctoral degree at the University of Houston Moores School of Music, where he studies with Dr. Kirsten Yon. In addition to his classical training, he also plays baroque violin under the tutelage of Alan Austin. Mr. Hsieh serves as a Teaching Assistant for the string area at the University of Houston, teaching private lessons to undergraduate students and coaching chamber music. In addition to attending multiple summer festivals in the United States and England, Mr. Hsieh has enjoyed teaching and performing in the *Annual Encuentro de Cuerdas* for the past three years, a pedagogical outreach program based in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.



Xuefei Liu
piano

Praised as a “musician with wonderful communicative and expressive quality”, Xuefei Liu is a Chinese concert pianist. She performs solo recitals and chamber music concerts throughout the USA, China, and various countries in Europe. An active chamber musician, Xuefei Liu has worked with the Rolston String Quartet, National Music Festival Orchestra, and the Modigliani Quartet. Ms. Liu has had numerous award recognitions, including the first prize winner of the International Music competition for Best Liszt Performance, grand prix of the International Nice Cote d’Azur Piano Competition, and third place in the Concours International de piano de la Ville de Gagny. Xuefei Liu received her Bachelor of Music at the Eastern New Mexico University and her Master’s at the Manhattan School of Music. Xuefei Liu is now pursuing her Doctoral of Musical Arts degree in piano performance at the University of Houston with Dr. Tali Morgulis.



Dr. Charles A. Johnson, Conductor

Charles Anthony Johnson received his M.A. in composition and his Ph.D. in musicology from the University of California at Los Angeles. As a student he played violin and viola in the Stockton Symphony, University of Pacific, and UCLA orchestras, performing with Roger Wagner, Lukas Foss, Jan Popper and others, and was Assistant Conductor of the UCLA Orchestra.

From 1967 until 1978, Dr. Johnson was on the faculty of Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas, where he taught music history and theory and conducted the orchestra. While there, he also established and was a member of the faculty string quartet, and from 1974 to 1978 was conductor of the Bryan - College Station Chamber Orchestra.

Dr. Johnson was a violist with the Houston Ballet Orchestra from 1973 to 2013 and has also performed with such groups and artists as the American Ballet Theater, Joffrey Ballet, Ballet Nationale de Cuba, Royal Ballet, Royal Canadian Ballet, Eva Marton, Jose Carreras, and others. He is presently in his 38th season as Conductor and Music Director of the Clear Lake Symphony and was for six years the Conductor and Music Director of the Houston Civic Symphony. Dr. Johnson has been a guest conductor of the Houston Ballet and has conducted in Spain, Poland, and the Czech Republic. He has made recordings with the Bohuslav Martinu Symphony and the Nueremberg Symphoniker.