

ALINA VOICU, PIANO LESSONS

Born and trained in Romania, Dr. Voicu moved to the U.S. in 1993. She received her Master of Music degree in 1995 under the direction of pianist Jerome Rose, at Bowling Green State University in Ohio, and her Doctorate in Piano Performance in 2000 under the direction of Professor Amanda Penick, at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa.

Dr. Voicu has performed extensively as a soloist and in chamber music concerts in Romania, Austria, Hungary, Italy, Switzerland, China, and the United States. She has won several competitions and awards, including several 1st prizes at national competitions in Romania; the Public Prize at the 1990 Vittorio Gui International Chamber Music Competition in Florence, Italy; the Edna Ocker Best Accompanist Award at the 1994 Corpus Christi International Music Competition in Corpus Christi, Texas; the 1995 Chautauqua Music Festival Concerto Competition in Chautauqua, New York; and the 1996 Southern Division of the MTNA Young Chang Collegiate Piano Competition in Louisville, Kentucky. Since moving to Birmingham in 1998, she has also performed multiple times on various series sponsored by the Alabama Symphony Orchestra.

For 15 years, Dr. Voicu served as Director of Instrumental Music at Indian Springs School, a private college preparatory school in Indian Springs, Alabama. While there, she founded and directed the Indian Springs Piano Competition, a contest aimed to encourage and stimulate the development of advanced Alabamian high-school pianists. She also served as President for the Birmingham Music Teachers Association and as Vice-President for the Alabama Music Teachers Association. Currently, Dr. Voicu runs a large private piano studio. She also serves as President of Music4Romania, a non-profit organization that aims to enhance the lives of children in schools and orphanages in Romania through musical and other cultural experiences and to enrich the international cultural landscape through events that promote Romanian and American music and cross-cultural understanding.

Dr. Voicu and her husband, Alabama Symphony Concertmaster Daniel Szasz, are the proud parents of Alex and Angela.

DANIEL SZASZ, VIOLIN LESSONS FOR ADVANCED STUDENTS

Active as a concert soloist, chamber musician, and recitalist, Daniel Szasz has been the concertmaster of the Alabama Symphony Orchestra since 1997. A versatile musician, interested in performing both standard and less familiar repertoire, Mr. Szasz has been consistently praised for his "expressive, rich and warm sound" as well as for his "strong, confident, and assertive playing." His performances have been described as "breathtaking" and "exquisite" and have generated great enthusiasm among his audiences and in the press.

Born in Romania, in the Transylvanian city of Sibiu, Mr. Szasz began playing the violin at age six under the supervision of his father, a former principal trumpet player with the Sibiu State Philharmonic Orchestra. At the age of eight he played his first solo recital, and at thirteen he performed his first concerto with a professional orchestra. His teachers in Romania included Mihai Wunderlich, Victoria Nicolae, and his mentor, violinist Andras Agoston. While a student at the Gheorghe Dima Music Academy in Cluj, at only nineteen, Mr. Szasz landed a position with one of the top orchestras in Romania, the Cluj State Philharmonic Orchestra, with which he toured Europe extensively, recorded, and performed as a soloist on many occasions. Following studies with Alberto Lysy at the prestigious International Menuhin Music Academy in Gstaad, Switzerland, Szasz moved to the U.S. and continued his violin studies with Vasile Beluska, Yair Kless, Gerald Jarvis, and Patrick Rafferty. He also studied chamber music with members of the Franz Schubert Quartet, Audubon Quartet, and Fine Arts Quartet.

Mr. Szasz has won numerous awards in national competitions in Romania as well as international competitions in Italy and the U.S., including the "Public Prize" at the prestigious Vittorio Gui International Chamber Music Competition in Florence, Italy, playing with his wife, pianist Alina Voicu. Over the years, Mr. Szasz participated in several music festivals, including the Graz Music Festival in Austria; the Sopron Music Festival in Hungary; and the Blossom, Chautauqua, and New Hampshire Music Festivals in the U.S. In the summer of 2006, Mr. Szasz won the position of concertmaster for the [Lake Placid Sinfonietta](#), an annual summer music festival orchestra in Lake Placid, New York. Some of Mr. Szasz's most notable collaborations over the years included solo appearances and chamber concerts with violinists Jaime Laredo, Andras Agoston; pianist Yakov Kasman; cellist Alban Gerhardt; mandolinist Chris Thile, and bandoneonist Raul Jaurena.

In 2004, in collaboration with [the Sibiu Philharmonic Orchestra](#), Mr. Szasz initiated the establishment of the "Romanian-American Music Days" in Sibiu, Romania, an annual summer music festival that promotes American music and supports active professional interactions between Romanian and American musicians. Since 2011, Mr. Szasz has also become extremely involved with Music4Romania (www.music4romania.org), a non-profit organization aimed to help orphanages and schools in Romania while promoting Romanian and American music and culture in the U.S. and internationally.

Mr. Szasz's 2014-2015 performances include solo engagements with the Cluj State Philharmonic Orchestra and the Sibiu State Philharmonic Orchestra in Romania, the Lake Placid Sinfonietta in Lake Placid, New York, the Brevard Symphony in Melbourne, Florida, the Alabama Symphony Orchestra in Masterworks and Concertmaster & Friends series, as well as other chamber music performances in Europe and the U.S.

WARREN SAMPLES, CELLO LESSONS

Principal Cellist of the Alabama Symphony Orchestra since 1986, Mr. Samples was born and raised in south-central Pennsylvania. With three generations of serious amateur musicians in his background it hardly seems surprising he has pursued a career in music. His involvement

started at age six with the trumpet. At seven he switched to the violin and, finally, as a ten year old, he settled on the cello. Within two years he gave his first solo appearance on a youth concert with the Lancaster Symphony.

Mr. Samples' teachers have included Peter Kucirko and Marcel Farago, and he concluded his studies at the New School of Music in Philadelphia where he was a student of Orlando Cole. He took his first orchestral position at the age of twenty as a member of the Hong Kong Philharmonic and later joined the Caracas Philharmonic, arguably the finest orchestra in South America at the time, and was made principal cello of that orchestra after one season.

Mr. Samples was invited to become principal cello of the Alabama Symphony Orchestra in the fall of 1986 and immediately established his importance to the musical community with a Master Series performance of the cello solo in the slow movement of Brahms' Second Piano Concerto, which was hailed as "a memorable debut...gorgeous". Later, his bold performance of the solo cadenzas in William Kraft's *Interplay* played an important role in the decision to record that work with the Alabama Symphony Orchestra. That release, on Nonesuch Records, was the commercial recording debut of the ASO.

He has appeared twice as soloist with the Alabama Symphony Orchestra under Paul Polivnick and has also appeared as soloist with the Kennett Square Symphony and the Reading Symphony, in Pennsylvania.

BARBARA KIMBER HARRINGTON, FLUTE LESSONS

In addition to serving on the faculty of Samford University, Ms. Harrington has held teaching positions at the University of Montevallo, Alabama School of Fine Arts, University of Evansville, and Innsbruck Music Festival in St. Louis. She maintains a large, selective teaching studio in Birmingham, from which students consistently place into All-County, District, and State Bands, as well as All-State Orchestra, Alabama Youth Symphony, and Alabama Symphony Youth Orchestra. She has worked as flute sectional instructor and clinician at many secondary schools in the greater Birmingham area and has presented chamber music concerts in many local elementary schools.

For 10 years before becoming a full-time educator, Ms. Harrington had a successful orchestral career, holding Principal Flute positions with the Orlando Philharmonic, Evansville (IN) Philharmonic, and Owensboro (KY) Symphony, and section positions with the Saint Louis, Alabama, and Brevard (FL) Symphonies. She has worked as a guest musician with many other orchestras, including the Indianapolis Symphony, the Nashville Symphony, and the Florida Orchestra. While a member of the Saint Louis Symphony, Ms. Harrington appeared at Carnegie Hall on tour, and was heard on several radio broadcasts. On scholarship, she has participated in the Aspen, Domaine Forget (Quebec, CA), and Grand Teton music festivals.

A native of New York State, Ms. Harrington holds performance degrees from New England Conservatory (B.M. 1994), Florida State University (M.M. 1998), and an M.A. in Music Education from UAB. She enjoys teaching music to all ages, from preschool to college. She has taught Music and Movement classes at Saint Luke's Day School and All Saints Preschool, and was the Music Specialist for Oak Mountain Intermediate School from 2007-9. Mrs. Harrington lives in Inverness with her husband and two children.

ZAK ENIKEEV, VIOLIN AND VIOLA LESSONS

Zak Enikeev is a finalist and prize winner of various international music competitions in his native Russia as well as in the United States. While studying in Russia, Mr. Enikeev was granted the prestigious Stipend of the Government of the Russian Federation. After receiving a full scholarship from the Juilliard School, Mr. Enikeev moved to the U.S., where he received his Bachelor of Music at Juilliard and his Master's Degree at Manhattan School of Music.

As a soloist, chamber musician, and recitalist, Mr. Enikeev has performed in the most prestigious concert halls of New York City, including Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall and Weill Recital Hall of Carnegie Hall. Since 2011, he has been Assistant Principal Viola of the Alabama Symphony Orchestra. Besides being on the SFMA faculty, Mr. Enikeev also teaches at Birmingham Southern College and Alabama School of Fine Arts.

DIANE MCNARON, VOICE LESSONS

Singer/Director Diane McNaron has appeared in cabaret, jazz, opera, recital, and oratorio throughout the US, Europe, and Australia. She has recorded two CDs, *Music in Flight* – endorsed by Doctors Without Borders (MSF) and featuring songs written while their composers were in flight from war and political oppression, and the Argentine chamber music album, *Rosas de Pulpa, Rosas de Cal -- the Music of Valdo Sciammarella*. McNaron produces two cabaret ensembles, Masters' Cabaret, which features European classic cabaret and the Politically Incorrect Cabaret, the only fully staged, continuing political satire troupe in the US. As a performer, she is frequently heard in Classic Jazz, Great American Song Book & Twentieth-Century Art Song and is an interpreter of the music of Kurt Weill. She has also served as stage director for over forty productions. McNaron has an M. M. from Florida State University, a Performer's Certificate from the American Institute of Musical Studies, Graz, Austria and has done post graduate work at the Indiana University School of Music. Her voice teachers have included Eleanor Steber and Gianna d'Angelo, and she studied stage direction with Ross Allen and Roger Brunyate. McNaron is a member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing and has received grants from the Alabama Council on the Arts and the Lowder Foundation.

MARSHA GUNTER, HARP LESSONS

Distinguished harpist and instructor Marsha Gunter has been bringing the elegant sounds of the harp to Alabama for over 25 years. Ms. Gunter began her harp studies in Bowling Green, Kentucky with Delores Chilsen Mielke. As a college student, she was the first harp major at Auburn University, under the guidance of Marjorie Tyre (former harpist with the New York Metropolitan Opera). After graduating from Auburn, Ms. Gunter studied with Marilyn Linhart of the New Orleans Symphony.

An active performer, Ms. Gunter plays a broad repertoire of classical, spiritual, romantic, and popular songs. She has performed with the Alabama Symphony, Birmingham Southern Opera, Town and Gown, and at City Stages, the Birmingham Museum of Art, the Civil Rights Institute, and at churches across the region. A former faculty of the Alabama School of Fine Arts, Ms. Gunter currently leads a successful private studio.

TIM SHAFFER, GUITAR LESSONS

Tim Shaffer has been making music of one sort or another since he was in 4th grade. He was a percussionist with the West Shore Youth Symphony and has played in a wide range of musical settings, from symphonies and orchestras to rock and bluegrass bands. Currently, Mr. Shaffer picks mandolin and guitar and sings lead and harmony vocals for The Beattitudes, playing bluegrass, folk, gospel, old-timey and even some Beatles. He works primarily with guitar students who are beginners or relatively new to the instrument, mixing technique and theory to help them learn play solo songs and also play with others.