

**MKA After School Music Program 2024–2025**

# PRIVATE LESSONS



Dear Parents,

Registration is now open for private music instruction offered through the MKA After School Music Program. Private lessons are strongly recommended for all students enrolled in the MKA Strings or Band Programs. We hire the highest caliber private instructors to cater to your needs. This program offers flexibility in terms of scheduling and coordinates the curriculum to enhance the student's experience in Orchestra and Band. This continuity is vital to the well-rounded development of our music students.

All of this is at the same cost you would pay for lessons in a music store with an instructor possibly lacking the proper credentials and qualifications. Our music faculty is affiliated with such institutions as Carnegie Hall, New York University, The Juilliard School, New York Philharmonic, and APEX Ensemble to name a few.

This year we are offering private instruction on Violin, Piano\*, Viola, Cello, Bass, and Trumpet.

Sincerely,



Dimitri Hadjipetkov  
Director After School Music Program, Tri-Campus  
Strings

\*Limited availability

For more information and enrollment please contact Dimitri Hadjipetkov at: [strings@mka.org](mailto:strings@mka.org).

## Dimitri Hadjipetkov, Director/Violin



Dimitri Hadjipetkov has established himself as one of the most prominent representatives of the young generation of Bulgarian violinists. He has appeared with various orchestras and has given numerous

recitals in the United States, Germany, France, Spain, Monaco, Czech Republic, and Bulgaria. Dimitri began studying violin at the age of five. Four years later he won second place in the National Competition, "Svetoslav Obretenoff," in his native country, Bulgaria. After receiving the third prize at the International Violin Competition "Kotzian" at the young age of sixteen, he was personally invited to join the studio of Professor Peter Hristoskoff at the Sofia Academy of Music.

In May of 1997 he was featured in a New York recital entitled "Mentors & Protégés" organized by the New York Philharmonic and hosted by June LeBell from WQXR 96.3FM- the former classical music station of the New York Times. As a recipient of a full graduate scholarship at New York University, Dimitri Hadjipetkov completed his master degree in the violin studio of Professor Mark Steinberg, member of the Brentano String Quartet, Lincoln Center Chamber Music Society, and a faculty member at NYU, Princeton, and Yale. Dimitri has served on the violin faculty at NYU and as a member of the New Jersey State Opera Orchestra in residence at NJPAC from 1999 until 2008. Currently, Dimitri is a member of the Apex Ensemble/ Montclair Orchestra where alongside with principal players from the Metropolitan Opera and the New York Philharmonic, he also serves as a mentor. Dimitri performs on an early J.B. Vuillaume violin from 1828-1830. His critically acclaimed albums of Schubert's virtuoso works for violin and piano and his newest recording of Beethoven and Schumann violin sonatas are available worldwide on iTunes, GooglePlay, Spotify, and amazon.com.



## Elena Cologna, Piano



Elena Cologna started playing the piano at the age of four and gave her first solo recital at age six. She went on to graduate from the "Dobrin Petkov" High School of Music in her hometown Plovdiv, Bulgaria. Mrs. Cologna holds

a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in Music in Piano Performance from the Conservatory of Music at Brooklyn College, CUNY where she was featured in the Emmy-nominated documentary "Study with the Best" produced by CUNY TV. As a soloist, she has performed with the Tanglewood Institute Young Artists Orchestra, the Brooklyn College Orchestra, and at the Beethoven Institute at Mannes College of Music.

Mrs. Cologna served as a Bulgarian Virtuosi Artist from 2002 to 2012. She performed at Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall, Steinway Hall, Klavierhaus, National Arts Club, CAMI Hall, as well as throughout the U.S., Europe, and the USVI. Her performances have been broadcast by CUNY TV-Channel 75, WNYE TV-Channel 25, Bulgarian National Television and Radio, WNYC, and New York Public Radio. She recorded the "Bacillus Bulgaricus" and the "Enchanted Rhythms" CDs for the MSR Classics label with the support of the Charles Schwartz Foundation.



## Asen Doykin, Piano, Jazz, Improvisation, Music Production, & Film Scoring (virtual)



Asen Doykin has been part of the New York performing, music production, composing, and academic scene for the past twenty years. He has played at some of the City's best known performance

venues and jazz clubs including, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, The Steinway Hall, The Blue Note, Birdland, The Kitano, Smalls Jazz Club, and Joe's Pub.

Asen has released three albums as a leader and has composed, arranged, and produced numerous full length albums and music film, television, radio, and theater. His music has been featured at the Cannes Film Festival, HBO, BBC, WBGO, NPR, Queens Public Television, Jazz Radio Berlin, and the Bulgarian National TV and Radio Channels. Asen has recorded and performed with some of the most eminent contemporary musicians on the New York jazz, pop, and world scene. He has worked with Pino Paladino, Joe Locke, Bennie Maupin, Ada Rovatti, Jacques Schwarz-Bart, Francisco Mela, Eli Degibri, Myron Walden, Rodney Green, Kendrick Scott, Vincent Ector, Theodosii Spassov, among many others.

## Maria Gilmartin, Piano



Maria studied piano performance at the Manhattan School of Music and choral conducting at Westminster in Princeton. Prior to teaching at MKA, Maria taught in the Montclair public school system.

She has directed

numerous choirs such as the William Paterson University Summer Choir, madrigal choirs, jazz choirs, concert choirs, and has directed many musicals throughout the State. In the public schools, she was the recipient of the PTA's Heart of Gold Award for outstanding contributions and was nominated for the Montclair Public Schools Weston Award for Excellence in Teaching.



## Suji Kim, Cello



Cellist Suji Kim, winner of the Concerto Competition at Montclair State University, is a recipient of numerous awards including Outstanding Music Performance Award, Chair's

Special Recognition Award, and the Montclair State University Alumni Association Scholarship Award. She is currently a member of the Montclair String Quartet, the Alacorde Piano Trio, Montclair Piano Trio, The Little Opera Company of NJ, North Jersey Concert Opera, The Baroque Orchestra of North Jersey, Plainfield Symphony, New Brunswick Chamber Orchestra, and The Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra. In 2006, the Montclair String Quartet won the First Prize of The Music and Earth International Competition in Bulgaria.







## Nancie Lederer, Violin



Nancie Lederer is a graduate of Manhattan School of Music where she was awarded a scholarship to study violin with Glenn Dicterow, former concertmaster of the NY Philharmonic. As an orchestral and chamber musician, she has

given concerts throughout Europe, Asia, the Caribbean, and the United States and has performed at Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, Radio City Music Hall, New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Paper Mill Playhouse and the Hollywood Bowl. Ms. Lederer has taught at the Spence School, the Lucy Moses School, and at the Bloomingdale School of Music, all in NYC. She has conducted the Essex County Overture Strings and was a co-founder of the 4 Strings! Summer Chamber Music Academy. Ms. Lederer has served as a string coach for the Inter-School Orchestral Program in NYC, the Summer Trios Festival in Pennsylvania, and the Vermont Music and Arts Center. She is currently co-director of the Maplewood Chamber Music Workshop and maintains a private teaching studio in West Caldwell, NJ.

As an active teacher, she is on the faculty at Judith G. Wharton Music Center, New Jersey Workshop of Art and the Paramus Community School. Ms. Kim received her Bachelor of Music in Cello Performance at Kei-Myung University in Dae-Gu, Korea, her Master of Music in Cello Performance at Temple University, and Master of Arts & Professional Study degree at Montclair State University. She recently finished her Artistic Diploma Program at Montclair State University. She studied with Robert Betty at University of Missouri Kansas City, Jeffrey Solow at Temple University, Chaim Zemach at Metropolitan Opera Orchestra & Montclair State University, and Nicholas Tzavaras, a member of the Shanghai String Quartet.



## Dennis Masuzzo, Bass/Electric Bass



Dennis Masuzzo (BM, MM Juilliard) was a member of the Paper Mill Playhouse from 1991 until 2017 where he performed on double bass and electric bass guitar. Mr. Masuzzo was also the guitarist for the Broadway run of The

Pirates of Penzance and for the Juilliard Contemporary Ensemble. His connection to MKA goes back many years, and his method book, *Playing the Double Bass Tuned in Fifths: CGDA*, is now in its 3rd printing.



## Paul Murphy, Trumpet



Paul Murphy has worked frequently as a musician and educator at The Juilliard School, Carnegie Hall, the New York Philharmonic, and on Broadway. He has performed with the Radio City Music

Hall Orchestra, the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, the Orchestra of St. Luke's, the Knights, the International Contemporary Ensemble, and the Paragon Ragtime Orchestra, and he was a co-founder and Artistic Director of the chamber music collective Decoda—the only independent chamber collective to be recognized as an affiliate ensemble of Carnegie Hall. Passionate about drawing others deeply into the art of music, he served for over a decade on the teaching artist faculty of the New York Philharmonic and was recently recognized as one of the inaugural recipients of the Yale Distinguished Teaching Artist Award. In the summer he teaches at the Kinhaven Music School in Vermont.







### Marija Zorjan-Madison, Piano (virtual)



Marija Zorjan-Madison, born in Belgrade, Serbia began piano at the age of six. In Belgrade, she attended the Music Academy (Belgrade University of Arts) and continued her studies at the City

College of New York. While in her native country, Mrs. Zorjan-Madison did solo performances in the Belgrade University of Arts. During her studies in the U.S., she received The Sidney Zolot Award for Excellence in piano performance, the Lisl Barnett Memorial Award for the talent in piano performance, and The Mark Brunswick Award in music composition. She performed in the Donnell Library Center (NY Public Library), Alderton House, City College, the CUNY Graduate Center, Brooklyn College, and Queens College, where she completed her master degree in piano performance. Marija taught at New York's City College from 1998-2004 as an adjunct. She was also an accompanist for conductor Dr. John Motley with the City College Choir during the same time period. Between 2001 and 2015, she played on a weekly basis in The Olympic Towers Atrium in NYC, and she has been employed as the piano instructor at Montclair Kimberley Academy since 1999.

### Rachel O'Connor, Viola/Violin



Growing up on the south shore of Boston, MA, Rachel O'Connor began her musical journey on the violin at the age of five. At the beginning of high school, she started learning the viola in addition to the

violin and performed with the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras on viola for four years. She double-majored in violin performance and mathematics at Gordon College for her undergraduate degree, where she was privileged to travel to Ukraine, Hong Kong and South Korea for string chamber music outreach tours. Rachel then received her master's degree in viola performance at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. At UMass, she was part of the String Quartet Program, where she received a teaching assistantship. For the past two years, Rachel was the violist of the Rose Quartet, the graduate string quartet in residence at Montclair State University, where she graduated with her Artist Diploma this past May. Rachel's teachers have included Kathryn Lockwood, Elizabeth Chang, Ronald Gorevic, Dr. Sarita Kwok, Dr. Susan Kim, Megumi Lewis, and George Vallatini. She has attended several summer festivals such as Madeline Island, Apple Hill, Aria International Summer Academy, and more. In addition to teaching at Montclair Kimberley Academy, Rachel works with the Paterson Music Project, as well as freelancing in New Jersey and New York. Outside of music, she enjoys going on walks, playing card games, shopping at thrift stores, and going to amusement parks!