

# Virtuosity Defined:

## Musical Creativity and Artistic Expression Beyond Flying Fingers

Saturday, November 23, 7:30 pm

Sunday, November 24, 3:00 pm

Christ Lutheran Church

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**Santa Cruz Chamber Players 2019-2020**

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## 2019-2020 Season

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Call (831) 425-3149 or visit our web site: [www.scchamberplayers.org](http://www.scchamberplayers.org)

**Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 4174, Santa Cruz, CA 95063-4174

Santa Cruz Chamber Players is a nonprofit organization. Our goals are to provide a local forum for musicians and concertgoers and to promote live chamber music. Our season is supported by ticket sales and donations from many individuals and businesses. Thank you!



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The Santa Cruz Chamber Players season is supported by a grant from Arts Council Santa Cruz County. Thank you!

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*Donations and season ticket orders received as of September 30th, 2019*

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# Virtuosity Defined: Musical Creativity and Artistic Expression Betond the Flying Fingers

Saturday, November 23, 7:30 pm and Sunday, November 24, 3:00 pm

## PROGRAM

*Terzetto in D Major, M. S. 69*

Nicolò Paganini (1782-1840)

Allegro con brio

Minuetto

Andante larghetto

Rondo

*In Transit (2017)*

Ursula Kwong-Brown (b. 1987)

commissioned by Black Cedar

## INTERMISSION

*Trio Sonata in C Minor from The Musical Offering, BWV 1079*

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Largo

Allegro

Andante

Allegro

*Tres Colores (2018)*

Javier Contreras

commissioned by The Black Cedar Trio

### **The Black Cedar Trio**

*“...Explores a path less trod ...”*

Kris Palmer, flute

Steven Lin, guitar

Isaac Pastor-Chermak, cello

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## 🎻 Notes About The Program 🎻

Throughout the nineteenth century, the classical guitar in Europe played a significant role in music written for small chamber ensembles of one form or another. Approximately one-third to one-half of all surviving facsimile guitar scores written by European composers in this time period featured the guitar not as a soloist, but as an ensemble voice with a variety of combinations of violin, viola, cello, flute, or piano. *Terzetto*, M.S. 69 is one of the most beautiful examples of this instrumentation.

Italian composer **Nicolò Paganini** was the most celebrated violin virtuoso of his time, and he left his mark as one of the pillars of modern violin technique. His *Terzetto*, M.S. 69 for Violin, Cello, and Guitar is one of the most beautiful examples of his chamber music works that include the guitar. He treats the three instruments equally in a compositional style that straddles the formal clarity of the departing Classical era and the impassioned expressiveness of the emerging Romantic era. As is typical of Paganini, he endows the violin line with the brilliance and virtuosity that was reflective of his own legendary capabilities on the instrument. Sadly though, this trio and others for the violin, cello, and guitar are not frequently performed due to the plethora of great string quartets and piano trios from which string chamber musicians can choose. Thus, these trios fall into the hands of flutists covering the violin line, adding a new tonal palate of a woodwind, plucked string, and bowed string instrument combination.

The title *Terzetto* comes from the Romantic-era *Terz Guitar* (as in *terz*, the German word for third). This was a smaller-sized classical guitar tuned a minor third higher than a regular guitar, and it was used for chamber ensembles as opposed to solo performances, since its higher range and brighter timbre projected more strongly.



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**Ursula Kwong-Brown** is a composer, multimedia artist, research scientist, and political activist based in New York City. Described as “atmospheric and accomplished” by *The New York Times*, her work has been frequently performed in the United States, Europe, and Asia in diverse venues including Carnegie Hall, le Poisson Rouge, Miller Theatre, the Manhattan Movement & Arts Center, the National Portrait Gallery and the Victoria & Albert Museum in London. Her numerous honors include ASCAP and NACUSA awards, a two-year Berkeley Symphony Composer Fellowship supported by the New Music USA Music Alive program, and a San Francisco Friends of Chamber Music Commissioning Grant with the Black Cedar Trio.

Ursula received her Bachelor of Arts from Columbia University in 2010, graduating with honors in Music and Biology. In 2018, she received her Ph.D. in Music Composition and New Media from the University of California, Berkeley. Currently, Ursula is composing and collaborating with musicians around the world while teaching music at Molloy College on Long Island and doing independent research in Dr. Darcy Kelley’s laboratory at Columbia University. She has received funding from the Columbia Presidential Scholars in Neuroscience and Society Program and the Sloan Foundation to develop a musical instrument that is controlled with an EMG wristband developed by CTRL-labs.

The Black Cedar Trio commissioned *In Transit* in 2017 with a grant from InterMusic SF. The work was inspired by BART, both the sounds of the train itself and the journeys of the over 60,000 people who use it daily. Kwong-Brown recorded the trains in motion at multiple BART stations. She enhanced the

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Chamber Players*  
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sounds at the U.C. Berkeley Center for New Music and Audio Technologies. She then wrote music for the acoustic instruments – including alto flute, bass flute, and piccolo – based on the tones from the audio recordings.



**Johann Sebastian Bach** was not widely known in Europe during his lifetime. He considered himself to be a conscientious craftsman merely doing his job to the best of his ability towards the service of his superiors, for the enjoyment of his fellow man, and to the glory of God. Yet two hundred years after his death, his music holds the highest position in the canon of European art music, and his name is venerated more than that of any other composer. Bach would have never envisioned such accolades since he led a life and career that were confined to a very limited geographical space within Northern Germany.

Upon his ascension to the throne in 1740, Frederick II, King of Prussia, appointed Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach, Johann Sebastian's eldest son, as Court Harpsichordist in Berlin. Johann Sebastian visited his son at court in 1747 in what would be his final trip from home, just a few years before his death. King Frederick, an amateur flutist and modest composer himself, presented the elder Bach with a melody of his own making, challenging Bach to immediately improvise a fugue for harpsichord built upon this unusual theme. Bach obliged, but he went a step further when he later presented the King with the complete *Musical Offering* based upon the king's rather strange melody.

*The Musical Offering* is a massive, multi-section work containing a three-part fugue, a six-part fugue, ten highly inventive canons, and this trio sonata for flute, violin and continuo. Bach deliberately branched away from his own Baroque contrapuntal style here, opting instead for the melodic, gallant style that his son Carl Philipp Emanuel favored as the wave of the future.



Chilean composer **Javier Contreras** is the winner of the Black Cedar Trio's 2018 Commission Competition. He was born in the Patagonian region, where he received his initial musical training from his father, Manuela Contreras. Javier crafted his skills as a performer with the legendary Chilean guitarist, Jose Antonio Escobar, but as a composer, he has remained largely self-taught. His compositions span multiple forms, with works for solo instruments, chamber music ensembles, large orchestras, and choral pieces. In addition to his award from the Black Cedar Trio, his compositions have earned first prize in the Boston Guitar Fest Composition Competition, first prize in Chicago's Lisker Music Foundation Composition Competition, first prize in the Liliana Perez Coroy National Classical Guitar Competition in Chile, plus top awards in Barcelona's Miguel Llovet Classical Guitar Competition and Austria's International Guitar Festival Rust. The Black Cedar Trio commissioned *Tres Colores* in 2018.



# CHALLENGE!

The Rebele family, long-time Santa Cruz non-profit supporters, have generously offered to match up to \$7500 in new or increased donations to the Santa Cruz Chamber Players.

We need your help in meeting this challenge!

The additional funds will allow the Chamber Players to provide outreach to our community, sharing the music with a wider audience; and ensure our continued support of our fine musicians and their wonderful concerts.

We are grateful to the Rebele family and to all our supporters!"



We are proud to honor the many talented performers and dedicated volunteers of Santa Cruz Chamber Players.

Thank you for bringing the magic of live music to our community.

Best wishes for a successful season!



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“Black Cedar forges a new repertoire with flair,” says *San Francisco Classical Voice*. The Black Cedar Trio’s accolades include multiple grants from the Zellerbach Family Foundation and InterMusic SF, an invitation to the National Flute Association Convention, and a critically acclaimed 2016 debut album, *A Path Less Trod*. “While the instrumentation is unconventional, it is surprisingly effective,” writes Stephen Smoliar of *The Rehearsal Studio*. The trio’s commissions include Javier Contreras’ *Tres Colores* (2018), Andre Gueziec’s *In the Spring* (2018), Ursula Kwong-Brown’s *In Transit* (2017), Mark Fish’ *The Devil Inside* (2016), *Miscellaneous Music* (2015) by Durwynne Hsieh and *Of Emblems* (2014) by Garrett Shatzer. Their annual Local Composers in Public Libraries is in its fourth year of bringing contemporary music to new audiences in San Francisco and Berkeley, and their Chamber Music Outreach at the Arc of the East Bay has brought classical music to persons with developmental disabilities since 2013. [www.blackcedartrio.com](http://www.blackcedartrio.com)





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**Kris Palmer** is a winner of the Carmel Chamber Music Society Competition, a second prize winner in the National Flute Association Young Artist Competition, and a Carnegie Hall Recital Debut winner with Artists International. She is a former member of the New Mexico Symphony, and she holds a Doctorate of Musical Arts from Rice University. The *New York Concert Review* calls her “clearly among the few current performers on any instrument to fully understand the nature of French Baroque music.” Kris is on the faculty of the Crowden Music Center in Berkeley, and she lectures throughout country on eighteenth-century performance practices. [www.krispalmer.com](http://www.krispalmer.com)



**Steven Lin** is a winner of both the Boston GuitarFest Competition and the East Carolina University Guitar Competition. A recording artist for VGo Recordings, Steve has released two albums, *Eliot Fisk Series Vol. 1*, and *Imagen*. *Classical Guitar* magazine calls Lin “a confident player with a powerful sound, quick hands, and a solid musical memory.” Steve holds a Masters degree from the Yale School of Music and is the Professor of Guitar at San Jose State University. [www.linguitar.com](http://www.linguitar.com)



**Isaac Pastor-Chermak** is Principal Cellist of Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony and Lake Tahoe Music Festival; Associate Principal Cellist of Stockton Symphony; Assistant Principal Cellist of Opera San Jose and Eisenstadt Classical Music Festival; and a member of Santa Barbara Symphony, Monterey Symphony, Santa Cruz Symphony, Dayton Philharmonic, Black Cedar Trio, and Ensemble 1828. Isaac earned a Bachelor of Arts, with honors, from U.C. Berkeley, and a Master of Music, with honors, from San Francisco Conservatory of Music. [www.isaacpastorchermak.com](http://www.isaacpastorchermak.com)



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# 2019-2020 CONCERTS

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Thursday September 21, 2019 • 7:30 pm  
**Ilya Kaler, violin & Alon Goldstein, piano**

Sunday, November 3, 2019 • 4 pm  
**Peter Toth, piano**

Sunday, December 8, 2019 • 4 pm  
**Oxana Yablonskaya, piano**

Friday, January 10, 2020 • 7:30 pm  
**Alessio Bax & Lucille Chung, piano duo**

Saturday, March 5, 2020 • 7:30 pm  
**Azuri String Quartet**

Saturday, April 18, 2020 • 7:30 pm  
**Gabriele Baldocci, piano**



Saturday, October 19, 7:30  
Sunday, October 20, 3:00  
**Blowing in the Wind**

Saturday, November 23, 7:30  
Sunday, November 24, 3:00  
**Virtuosity Defined**

Saturday, January 11, 7:30  
Sunday, January 12, 3:00  
**From the Old World to the New**

Saturday, February 29, 7:30  
Sunday, March 1, 3:00  
**Three Trios, Three Eras**

Saturday, March 21, 7:30  
Sunday, March 22, 3:00  
**Elegant Exuberance**

Saturday, May 9, 7:30  
Sunday, May 10, 3:00  
**The Hero's Journey**

## NEW MUSIC WORKS

Saturday, September 8, 2019 • 7:30 pm  
**Secret Lives of a Piano**

Saturday, February 8, 2020 • 7:30 pm  
**Night of the Living Composers**

Saturday, April 4, 2019 • 7:30 pm  
**The Music of Sound**



Saturday, December 21, 2019 • 8:00 pm  
Sunday, December 22, 2019 • 4:00 pm  
**Christmas with the Chorale**

Sunday, March 22, 2020 • 4:00 pm  
**Guest Choir: New Choir**

Saturday, May 23, 2020 • 8:00 pm  
Sunday, May 24, 2020 • 4:00 pm

**Johann Sebastian Bach and Franz Schubert**



## *Santa Cruz Baroque Festival*

Saturday, February 1, 2020 • 7:30 pm  
**In a Medieval Garden**

Sunday, February 23, 2020 • 3:00 pm  
**Renaissance Roots: American Flowerings**

Sunday, March 8, 2020 • 3:00 pm  
**Spanish Roots: Mexican Flowerings**

Sunday, April 5, 2020 • 3:00 pm  
**In an English Garden**

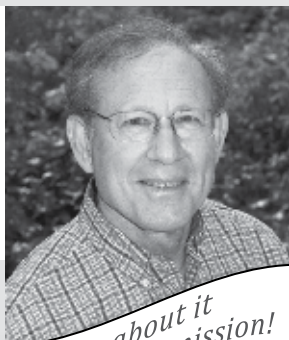
Saturday, April 25, 2020 • 7:30 pm  
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**Blowing in the Wind: Sweet and Spicy Music for Woodwinds, Piano, and Cello**

Saturday, October 19, 7:30 pm and Sunday, October 20, 3:00 pm

Music by Carl Maria Von Weber, Bohuslav Martinů, Heitor Villa-Lobos, and Paquito D' Rivera  
Aude Castagna, Concert Director and Cello; Lars Johannesson, Flute; Jeff Gallagher, Clarinet;  
Vlada Volkova-Moran, Piano

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**Virtuosity Defined: Musical Creativity and Artistic Expression Beyond the Flying Fingers**

Saturday, November 23, 7:30 pm and Sunday, November 24, 3:00 pm

Music by J. S. Bach, Niccolò Paganini, and Javier Contreras  
Black Cedar Trio: Kris Palmer, Concert Director and Flute; Steve Lin, Guitar;  
Isaac Pastor-Chermak, Cello

Christ Lutheran Church, 10707 Soquel Drive, Aptos

**From the Old World to the New: Schubert and 21st Century America**

Saturday, January 11, 7:30 pm and Sunday, January 12, 3:00 pm

Music by Schubert, Rebecca Clarke, Henry Mollicone, John Wineglass, and Emily Wong  
Kristin Garbeff, Concert Director and Cello; Cynthia Baehr-Williams, Violin; Chad Kaltinger, Viola; Kumiko  
Uyeda, Piano

Christ Lutheran Church, 10707 Soquel Drive, Aptos

**Three Trios, Three Eras**

Saturday, February 29, 7:30 pm and Sunday, March 1, 3:00 pm

Music by Beethoven, Anton Arensky, and Nikolai Kapustin  
Chia-Lin Yang, Concert Director and Piano; Elbert Tsai, Violin; Brady Anderson, Cello

Christ Lutheran Church, 10707 Soquel Drive, Aptos

**Elegant Exuberance**

Saturday, March 21, 7:30 pm and Sunday, March 22, 3:00 pm

Music by Grieg, Schubert, and Schumann  
Roy Malan, Concert Director and Violin; Susan Freier, Violin; Polly Malan, Viola; Stephen Harrison, Cello;  
Robin Sutherland, Piano

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**The Hero's Journey: Incantation, Trial, and Homecoming**

Saturday, May 9, 7:30 pm and Sunday, May 10, 3:00 pm

Music by Beethoven, Prokofiev, Stravinsky, Boulanger, Gottlieb, and Ben Dorfan  
Ben Dorfan, Concert Director and Piano; Jeff Gallagher, Clarinet and Narration; Lydia Joy Davis, Violin;  
Mike Dahlberg, Cello

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## Concert 3

# From the Old World to the New: Schubert and 21st Century America

Travel with us through time as we begin with Schubert in 19th century Europe and emerge in California in the 21st century. The program begins with Schubert's masterful *Piano Trio No. 1 in B-flat Major* then moves to the new world with *Morpheus*, Rebecca Clarke's impressionist-inspired work for viola and piano. From there we explore the beauty and tragedy of 21st century American composers, all of whom have ties to Santa Cruz and the SF Bay Area. Henry Mollicone's heaven-inspired work for violin and piano was written in remembrance of his dear friend. John Wineglass' piano trio explores new soundscapes with haunting melodies as it depicts the last days of Diana, Princess of Wales. Last on the program is Emily Wong's jazz-influenced tribute to the victims of September 11th.

**Saturday, January 11, 7:30 pm**  
**Sunday, January 12, 3:00 pm**

**Music by Schubert, Rebecca Clarke,  
Henry Mollicone, John Wineglass,  
and Emily Wong**

Kristin Garbeff,  
Concert Director and Cello

Cynthia Baehr-Williams, Violin

Chad Kaltinger, Viola  
Kumiko Uyeda, Piano



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