

# MUSICIAN BIOGRAPHIES



## **ELIEZER GUTMAN**

Romanian-born and raised in Israel, Eliezer Gutman has been a member of the Delaware Symphony Orchestra since 1994 and is currently concertmaster with the Kennett Symphony of Chester County, the Allentown Symphony Orchestra, and Opera Delaware. He also performs with various local orchestras, including the Reading Symphony Orchestra. Eliezer has performed solo recitals in France, England, Spain, Israel, and the United States. He was concertmaster of the Israel Technion-Institute Symphony Orchestra, Kibbutzim Symphony Orchestra, the Haifa Israel Symphony Orchestra, and the Ensemble-Carmel-Israel Chamber Orchestra.

Eliezer earned a Bachelor of Industry and Management degree from the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology and a Master of Music degree from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. He studied under David Arben, Philadelphia Orchestra concertmaster, and Avigdor Zamir, Associate Concertmaster of the Dutch orchestra The Concertgebouw. Eliezer finds his greatest joy spending time with his two children, Elad and Ayelet.

"Simply stated: I love what I do." . . . . Eliezer Gutman



## JAMESON PLATTE

Cellist Jameson D. Platte maintains an active career both as a performer and a teacher. He is currently a member of the critically acclaimed Duo 92 with pianist/composer Matthew Quayle, the Omega Trio, principal cellist of The Plainfield Symphony, Bachanalia Virtuosi, Garden State Philharmonic, and Acting Principal of the Allentown Symphony. As faculty at Skidmore College, he teaches cello and chamber music. Mr. Platte works extensively as a clinician, guest conductor and cello coach, performs as a soloist, and maintains a large private studio. He is in constant demand as a guest principal cellist throughout the northeast. A frequent recitalist in New York City, he has been featured in Carnegie Hall, Merkin Hall, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Lincoln Center, and the 92nd St. Y, among others. His recitals have been heard throughout North America, South America, Europe, Asia, and Australia. Mr. Platte is Artist/Faculty at the Atlantic Music Festival.

Mr. Platte attended the Brevard Music Festival as a teaching assistant where he won the concerto contest. He also attended the Blossom Chamber Music Festival where he played principal cello under Leonard Slatkin. Mr. Platte has been a member of the Tuscaloosa Symphony (under Louis Lane), the Alabama Symphony, and the Huntsville Symphony. He has recently been a featured soloist with the Allentown Symphony, Glens Falls Symphony, Maplewood Society of Musical Arts Orchestra, Central Jersey Symphony, Monmouth Symphony, Plainfield Symphony, Bachanalia Virtuosi, and the Stokes Forest Festival Orchestra, among others. Recent international residencies have included performances in China, Korea, Germany, Italy, and the United Arab Emirates. His recordings of contemporary music may be heard under the Koch International, Seedmusic, Naxos, and Albany labels. Mr. Platte's principal teacher was Carlton McCreery; he has also pursued studies with such teachers as Lynn Harrell, Mstislav Rostropovich, Harvey Shapiro, Heinrich Schiff, and Anner Bylsma.

Mr. Platte plays on cellos by Hannibal Fagnola (1925) and Andrea Amati (1572) as well as bows by François Xavier Tourte, John Dodd, Arcus, and Dominique Peccatte.

*"What made the performance of this wonderful work was the absolutely spell-binding playing of cellist Jameson Platte. The composer provided a terrific platform for a cello virtuoso, and Platte excelled."* — VOX VIEWS & REVIEWS

*"Mr. Platte's soulful rendition was a lesson in rich cello sound and expressiveness. His sound poured forth to the furthest seat of the balcony"* — THE CHRONICLE

*"Mr. Platte's pedigree as a cellist was on full display. He gave the (Bach) the rhythmic fluidity of Pablo Casals, tempered with restrained elegance and grace. Bravo."* — TIMES UNION

*"An extraordinarily soulful and passionate performance by cellist Jameson Platte."*  
— THE MORNING CALL



## **ALLISON KIGER**

Flutist Allison Kiger has been the Assistant Principal Flute with the Allentown Symphony for over 12 years. She has also performed in the Lehigh Valley with the Pennsylvania Sinfonia and the Concord Chamber Singers and regularly with the South Florida Symphony, and as Principal Flute of the Garden State Philharmonic, and also occasionally with the Binghamton Philharmonic, Albany Symphony, Chelsea Symphony, Springfield Symphony (MA) and the New Jersey Symphony. She also played over 100 concerts with the late Jens Nygaard in the Jupiter Symphony. Allison has degrees in flute performance from Indiana University, McGill University, and the Royal Academy of Music, and was the Winner of the San Diego Flute Guild Young Artist Competition. Currently, she is Flute Soloist and Curator of the New Composers Program at the Bar Harbor Music Festival in Maine.

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## **MICHAEL TOTH**

Michael Toth, principal pianist for the Allentown Symphony, moved to Allentown in 1988 and has been performing to high acclaim throughout the Lehigh Valley ever since. Educated at the Eastman School of Music, the University of Notre Dame, the University of Houston, and Lehigh University, Michael has a Master's degree in Music and in Electrical Engineering as well. With a passion for both engineering and music, Michael has found many ways to combine the two interests. Currently he does software development for Allen Organ of Macungie, PA. Along with playing in the Allentown Symphony for the past 20 years, he also plays with the Allentown Band and the Crosswinds Trio.



## HOLLY ROADFELDT

Few musicians balance the new opposite the old quite like American pianist Holly Roadfeldt.

Described as wielding a “perfect pairing of technical prowess and innate sensitivity” (American Record Guide), Roadfeldt is one of contemporary music’s most prolific ambassadors, having performed over 150 world premieres by more than four dozen composers. Artistically, she obsesses over ensuring audiences connect to the music they hear, blending virtuosity with insight in her popular lecture recitals. For her efforts, music critics across the United States, Canada, Italy, U.K., and Spain have taken notice, including Gramophone’s Donald Rosenberg, who praises Holly as “a vivid pianist” with “beautiful playing”.

Roadfeldt’s three-year artistic flagship, “The Preludes Project”, saw her premiere 65 preludes alongside curated works within the standard repertoire in a 17-state tour, where she would refine her alchemy of present and past. Attracting attention across the industry, The Preludes Project CD subsequently released on PARMA Recordings as Holly’s debut album. Her collaboration with multi-GRAMMY® award winning producer Andreas Meyer would prove to be the first of many—he also produced Roadfeldt’s recent album *Autumn Winds* (2020).

Much of Roadfeldt’s recent pedagogical and artistic philosophy can be credited to Lisa, a 13-year old student who wondered why they “were only studying music written by men.” Compelled to make changes in her approach to music, Holly has since prioritized including composers across the gender spectrum in her pedagogy, and has commissioned composers such as Rasa Daukus, Mara Gibson, Michelle McQuade Dewhirst, Kala Pierson, Jessica Rudman, Julia Seeholzer, Stephanie Ann Boyd, and many others. With Lisa in mind, Roadfeldt hopes to encourage young female students to walk fearlessly down the road of self-expression and creativity.

Roadfeldt continues to perform in myriad contexts across Canada, Europe, Asia, and over 30 U.S. states. As a chamber musician, Holly has performed with members of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, the New York Philharmonic, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and the Montreal Symphony, as well as with concert artists Alexa Still, Bonita Boyd, and Marcia Baldwin. Among Holly’s favorite collaborators was the revered Montréal-based dance troupe Compagnie Marie Chouinard, with whom she played Chopin’s complete catalog of Preludes.

Roadfeldt is the Director of Keyboard Studies at Lafayette College. She formerly held the title of Artist Faculty with Distinction at The Music School of Delaware, and previously served as faculty at the University of Delaware, Susquehanna University, Muhlenberg College, Gettysburg College, the University of Colorado-Boulder, and Indiana University.

An Ohio native, Holly now makes her home in Easton, Pennsylvania where she lives with her husband, Kirk O’Riordan. To view her full discography, scheduled performances, and other information, visit [hollyroadfeldt.com](http://hollyroadfeldt.com).



## **GREG FUNFGELD**

Greg Funfgeld, Artistic Director & Conductor, is now in his 39th season as artistic director and conductor of The Bach Choir of Bethlehem. He has expanded the programs of The Bach Choir beyond the annual Bach Festival to become a year-round season of 40 concerts and educational programs with an audience of more than 22,000. Mr. Funfgeld led The Choir on two major concert tours, to Germany in 1995 including the Herkulesaal at Munich's Royal Residence and the Thomaskirche, Bach's church in Leipzig, and to the United Kingdom in 2003 including a performance for the BBC Proms in London's Royal Albert Hall.

Under Mr. Funfgeld's leadership, The Choir has released 14 recordings, most recently Bach's Cantata BWV 21 and Handel's Ode for St. Cecelia's Day (2018), A Child's Christmas in Bethlehem (2013), and Saint John Passion (2012) on the Analekta label, and co-produced two films—the PBS documentary, Make a Joyful Noise, and the internationally distributed Classical Kids' DVD, Mr. Bach Comes to Call.

Mr. Funfgeld is a 1976 graduate of Westminster Choir College, where he studied under Dr. Joseph Flummerfelt. In 1986, he received the Alumni Merit Award for excellence in musical performance. In 2007, Mr. Funfgeld was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Lehigh University in recognition of his musical accomplishments locally, nationally, and internationally. In April 2018, Mr. Funfgeld was awarded a Doctor of Humane Letters from Moravian College by President Bryan L. Grigsby, who noted that his "contributions to music on the local, national and global stage are well documented and his impact will be felt for years to come through the recordings captured during his exemplary tenure as Artistic Director and Conductor."