



SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Presents

## TCU New Music Ensemble Recital

Saturday, February 21, 2026

2:00 pm

Modern Art Museum

### Program

Etudes for Viola Solo

Mikhail Terian;  
Lillian Fuchs, and Natalia Baklanova

*Dr. Misha Galaganov, viola*

Mountain Meditations for bass trombone and piano  
(World Premiere)

Martin Blessinger

*Jeanette Velasco, trombone  
Cecilia Kao, piano*

Sakura in Hanseong for piano solo  
(World premiere)

Xiaokang Deng

*Xiaokang Deng, piano*

Gauguin, Op. 28 for double bass and harp

Eric Lebrun

*Paul Unger, double bass  
Kela Walton, harp*

Duo for violin and Cello  
*I. Meandering*

Jessie Montgomery

*June Kim, Violin*  
*Nancy Olivares, Cello*

Orbitalism (2025) for saxophone octet  
(World Premiere)

Till Meyn

*Luke McCartney, Soprano Saxophone*  
*Riley Feltch, Soprano Saxophone*

*Ashley Tyson, Alto Saxophone*  
*Andrew Bui, Alto Saxophone*

*Wyland Diehl, Tenor Saxophone*  
*Jett Schnackenberg, Tenor Saxophone*

*Taylor Hardegree, Baritone Saxophone*  
*Jerry Olazaran, Baritone Saxophone*

Performers:



Xiaokang Deng is a composer based in Fort Worth, Texas. He is currently pursuing his DMA Composition degree at Texas Christian University. He plays the piano and is published by Carl Fischer Music, RWS Music, Tempo Press, and TUX People's Music. His music has been performed at the Midwest Clinic, and has been selected multiple times for the J.W. Pepper Editor's Choice list. He also loves creating commercial music and has been releasing piano solo and electronic music on Spotify.

Xiao's greatest inspirations are two Japanese composers – Joe Hisaishi and Ryuichi Sakamoto. Like them, he wants to create beautiful emotional music that deeply touch people's heart. He would love to go into film scoring in the future, and he looks forward to collaborating with aspiring directors who share his vision of making this world a better world through the power of art.



Taiwanese pianist Cecilia Lo-Chien Kao is a dynamic performer that is in demand as a chamber musician. She has collaborated with several distinguished artists including Lynn Harrell, Stefan Jackiw, Robert McDuffie, Bion Tsang, Gerardo Ribeiro, David Coucheron, and Jennifer Stumm, members of the Tokyo, Emerson, Juilliard String Quartets, among many others.

Kao is an Associate Professor of Professional Practice in Collaborative Piano at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth. She is also the co-founder and artistic director of the Scheherazade Music Festival in Manhattan, Kansas, and the Coordinator of Collaborative Piano at the prestigious Meadowmount School of Music in Westport, New York. She has been a collaborative pianist at Columbus State University and Mercer University in Georgia, where she worked with students of the Robert McDuffie Center for Strings. She has appeared at Carnegie Weill Hall and can be heard with cellist Bion Tsang on his CD *The Blue Rock Sessions*. She was also a member of the Boulder Altitude Directive, a modern music ensemble dedicated to commissioning and performing new music, during their inaugural season. Cecilia has received fellowships for both the Aspen School of Music and the Music Academy of the West. She also was a chamber music artist at the Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival in Florida.

Kao holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Collaborative Piano from the University of Colorado Boulder and a Master of Music degree in Collaborative Piano from the University of Texas at Austin, where she studied with the pioneer pedagogue, Anne Epperson. Prior to her move to the U.S., she was one of the first pianists to receive the Master of Arts degree in Collaborative Piano from National Taiwan Normal University in Taipei, where she also received her bachelor's degree in Piano Performance. Her principal teachers include Anne Epperson, Margaret McDonald, Alexandra Nguyen, Elizabeth Pridgen, Chi-Chen Wu, and Shu-Cheng Lin. Cecilia Lo-Chien Kao is a Yamaha Artist



Dr. Misha Galaganov, Professor of Viola at TCU and Principal Viola of the Dallas Chamber Symphony, has performed in solo and chamber music concerts in Americas, Europe, and Asia. He was the first violist to perform all 12 *Fantasies for Bass Viol* by Telemann in a live concert and the first one to record them.

Galaganov has published articles for *STRAD*, has served as a reviewer for *ASTA* magazine, and has given lectures and presentations at professional conferences. His albums, *Viola Fantasies* and *Charm, Passion, and Acrobatics* were received with enthusiastic critical acclaim. Galaganov's transcription of Telemann's *Fantasies for Viola da Gamba* will be published by Bärenreiter Verlag in 2026.

Teaching activities have taken Galaganov to major conservatories around the world. His former students now serve as principal players in orchestras, university teachers, soloists and chamber music performers. Galaganov plays on Mansuy a Paris viola and pure gut strings.



Nancy Olivares is a Mexican cellist from Monterrey, Nuevo León, and a three-time First Prize winner of the National Cello Competition of Mexico. She has served as principal cellist with leading youth and university orchestras in Mexico and the United States. In 2024, she was selected to participate in the National Orchestral Institute + Festival under Marin Alsop. Nancy holds a Master of Music degree from the University of Rhode Island and is currently pursuing an Artist Diploma at Texas Christian University under Dr. Juliette Herlin. She is an active performer in the Dallas–Fort Worth area, regularly appearing as a member of the cello section with regional orchestras.



Kela Walton enjoys a varied career as a freelance performer and faculty member at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth. Kela can be heard on Respighi: Roman Trilogy for the Naxos label, as well as several other orchestral recordings. She served as Interim Principal Harp with Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra during the 2017-18 season and toured internationally with the BPO in Poland. Kela has performed with orchestras throughout the U.S. including the Austin Symphony Orchestra, Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, San Antonio Symphony, South Carolina Philharmonic, Savannah Philharmonic, and Waco Symphony Orchestra. As a chamber musician, Kela enjoys premiering new works by award winning composers and was the harpist in residence with the Buffalo Chamber Players. An innovative educator and registered Suzuki instructor, Kela adjudicates throughout the U.S. and currently serves as the co-chair for the American Harp Society 2027 National Harp Ensemble Festival. She previously held harp faculty positions at Buffalo Suzuki Strings, Temple College, and Round Rock ISD. Kela has authored articles for Harp Column magazine and The American Harp Journal. Kela Walton holds a M.M. in Harp Performance and Pedagogy from the University of Houston Moores School of Music as well as a B.M. from the University of Texas at Austin.



Ashley Tyson was born and raised in Platteville, Wisconsin. She is currently pursuing a Major in Music Education at Texas Christian University with experience in performing and teaching. She has a strong background in saxophone performance, especially in concert band and jazz band settings.



June Kim is a Fort Worth–based violinist of South Korean heritage dedicated to contemporary performance and storytelling through music. She is currently pursuing an Artist Diploma at Texas Christian University, studying with Dr. Haerim Elizabeth Lee.