

The University of Pittsburgh Department of Music Presents

# Cello for Charity

Alicia Loui, Cellist and Organizer

with guest artists

Will Chow, Talia Mekinulov, Paula Tuttle, cello

Josh Lou, Charles May, violin

Tina Faigen, David Harrison, piano

Monday, April 4, 2022, 8 p.m.

Bellefield Hall Auditorium

[music.pitt.edu](http://music.pitt.edu)

## ***A few words from Alicia***

Ever since I began learning the cello at the age of 5, music has impacted my life profoundly, from serving as a creative outlet to a foundation for self-discipline and work ethic. More importantly, I can channel my passion for music to serve others through performances for patients and nursing home residents. Playing the cello has opened up many doors to engage with and make a difference in my community. Last fall, I began volunteering at a Latino after-school program. It was rewarding to spend time with the kids, but realizing that some do not have opportunities to fully engage with and reap the benefits of arts and music, I wanted to do more. And so, Cello for Charity was born.

My concert is raising money for ArtistYear, an organization dedicated to addressing inequities in music and arts education to ensure that every low-income K-12 student in America has the opportunity to reap the socio-emotional and academic benefits associated with music and arts learning. Research shows that children engaged in the arts develop critical thinking skills, self-discipline, and civic engagement, which are key facets of an engaged citizenry and thriving society. The positive effects of arts-rich experiences are especially promising for low-income student populations. However, socioeconomically disadvantaged students are far less likely to experience quality arts instruction than affluent peers, and inequities in arts education disproportionately affect students of color and English Language Learners. Regardless of socioeconomic status, arts education should be accessible for all children.

*To learn more about Artist Year, visit [artistyear.org](http://artistyear.org)*

## Cello for Charity

Alicia Loui, Cellist and Organizer  
Monday, April 4, 2022, 8 p.m.  
Bellefield Hall Auditorium

*Suite No. 1 in G Major* for 2 cellos J.S. Bach (1685-1750)  
Cello II part by Daniel Morganstern

Alicia Loui and Paula Tuttle, cello

"City of Stars" from *La La Land* Justin Hurwitz  
arr. Massimiliano Martinelli and Fulvia Mancini

Alicia Loui and Talia Mekinulov, cello

*Passacaglia* for Violin and Cello G.F. Handel (1685-1759)  
from Handel's Suite No. 7 in G minor J. Halvorsen (1864-1953)

Alicia Loui, cello and Josh Lou, violin

*Finlandia* for 3 cellos Jean Sibelius (1865-1957)  
arr. Simon J.C. Cummings

Talia Mekinulov (cello 1), Alicia Loui (cello 2), Paula Tuttle (cello 3)

*The Swan* for 3 cellos Camille Saint-Saens (1835-1921)  
arr. Simon J.C. Cummings

Alicia Loui (cello 1), Talia Mekinulov (cello 2), Paula Tuttle (cello 3)

*Sonata in A minor "Arpeggione,"* D. 821 Franz Schubert (1797-1828)  
I. Allegro Moderato

Will Chow, cello and Tina Faigen, piano

*Salamanca*

Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas

Paula Tuttle, cello and Charles May, violin

"Nimrod" from *Enigma Variations*, Op. 36 Edward Elgar (1857-1934)  
for 4 cellos arr. Daniel Kelly

Will Chow (cello 1), Alicia Loui (cello 2),  
Talia Mekinulov (cello 3), Paula Tuttle (cello 4)

*Viva la Vida*

Coldplay  
arr. Charlie Powers

Will Chow (cello 1), Talia Mekinulov (cello 2),  
Paula Tuttle (cello 3), Alicia Loui (cello 4)

*Allegro Appassionato*, Op. 43

Camille Saint-Saens (1835-1921)

Alicia Loui, cello, and David Harrison, piano

## ***About the Musicians***

**Will Chow** was appointed to the cello section of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra in 2016 and was featured as soloist with the PSO when he made his concerto debut, performing Tchaikovsky's Rocooco Variations. He also performed the Kodály Sonata for PSO's "center stage" series on WQED-FM. In the past, he appeared as soloist with the Nova Vista Symphony and the Peninsula Youth Orchestra and has been heard on NPR's From the Top and on WHYY-TV. As a recitalist, Chow has performed internationally in venues spanning from Singapore to the Netherlands. He served as principal cellist of the Curtis Chamber Orchestra on Curtis on Tour, and principal cellist of the Curtis 20/21 ensemble on Cedile Chicago Label's Grammy-nominated album, Two x Four. An avid chamber musician, Chow has collaborated with notable artists such as Mitsuko Uchida, Ida Kavafian, Joseph Lin, Donald Weilerstein, and Roberto Diaz. He has appeared at festivals including Marlboro Music, Ravinia's Steans Music Institute, Music from Angelfire, the Perlman Music Program, Aspen Music Festival and School, and Music@Menlo Chamber Music Institute. Prior to joining the cello section of the PSO, Will Chow studied at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia under the tutelage of Carter Brey and Peter Wiley.

**Tina Faigen**, concert pianist, recording artist, teacher, and published music-writer/editor, holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Oberlin College and both Master and Doctorate degrees from University of Miami where she studied with renowned pianist Ivan Davis. A recipient of many prizes and awards, some highlights include the Pittsburgh "Y" Recital Series, over 30 performances of the Tchaikovsky 3rd Piano Concerto with Edward Villella's Miami City Ballet, and a debut tour of Italy with Orchestra Sinfonica Abruzzese. An active chamber musician, she frequently collaborates with premiere musicians. As a founding member of Zaffiro Trio (piano, clarinet, cello) the trio performs regularly in both professional and outreach settings. Faigen's CD recordings of Robert Schultz's works "Visions of Dunbar" and "Tina Faigen Plays Piano Transcriptions" have received rave reviews. Faigen and Schultz co-authored the acclaimed Accelerando Piano Technique Series, along with numerous other editions of educational piano music. She has maintained an active teaching studio since the age of 14 and is on the piano faculty at University of Pittsburgh as well as at Carnegie Mellon University

Music Preparatory School. Also a violinist, Faigen serves as Principal 2nd for the Edgewood Symphony Orchestra.

**David Harrison**, pianist, feels blessed to have had the opportunity to perform with and for some of the greatest artists of his generation. Besides performing as a solo recitalist, he has also performed as a chamber musician, been featured as an orchestral soloist, and collaborated as an orchestra member. A former student of Ralph Zitterbart, he is dedicated to sharing the music that has touched him with a wide audience through live performance, teaching, and recording.

**Joshua Lou** is a sophomore at Carnegie Mellon University. He is studying physics with a minor in engineering. Josh was also part of the All University Chamber Orchestra at Carnegie Mellon University. He grew up in Connecticut where he was a part of the Connecticut Youth Symphony Orchestra and I Giovani Solisti Chamber Orchestra. When he's not studying or playing violin, he enjoys doing flips, playing chess, and eating good food.

**Alicia Loui** is a junior at the University of Pittsburgh majoring in biology with minors in chemistry and music. Outside of class, Alicia enjoys volunteering with hospice patients and elementary school kids and serving in Asian Christian Fellowship. She leads the Healing Harmonies club and does research in the Salman lab. Alicia also loves to run and looks forward to racing the Pittsburgh half marathon. Before coming to Pitt, Alicia studied cello at the Eastman School of Music and is a prize winner of the Jo Amish Young Artist Competition and the Mark Bradley Young Artist Competition. Alicia also soloed with the Rochester Philharmonic Youth Orchestra as a winner of the concerto competition. At Pitt, Alicia studies cello with Paula Tuttle. She received the Gluck Award and was chosen to perform for the Chancellor's circle. She is excited for her upcoming performance of the Dvorak cello concerto with Pitt's orchestra!

**Charles May**, violinist, began studying traditional classical violin at age eight while growing up among a family of folk musicians. His rich and vibrant musical background led to a fusion of classical and folk music as he performs both as a solo strolling violinist and an orchestral musician. Charles found a calling in composing and

recording his own music, and to date has composed 200 original fiddle tunes and songs, published two volumes of these works and recorded four CDs. He loves sharing his music with audiences around the Pittsburgh area and continues to explore the styles of Scottish, Irish, Folk Classical and popular music in his Opus all while maintaining a career as a technologist in the financial service industry.

**Talia Mekinulov** is a cellist in the University of Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and studied cello for over 15 years with BPO cellist Feng Hew. She is an alumna of Greater Buffalo Youth Orchestra. Talia was also a former cello instructor. She is currently a senior studying Chemical Engineering with a minor in Chemistry at the University of Pittsburgh. She also participates in a Jewish group on campus, Chabad and is a member of the National Honor Fraternity, Phi Sigma Pi. In her free time, Talia enjoys listening to music, hanging out with friends, and working out.

**Paula Tuttle** has traveled and performed throughout the United States, Europe and Asia as orchestral musician, soloist and chamber music artist. A member of the Pittsburgh Opera and Ballet Orchestras, she also is the solo cellist for PBS's My Music Orchestra, Latshaw Pops Orchestra and the Diamante Orchestra. She teaches cello at University of Pittsburgh, Chatham University and Carnegie Mellon University. Ms. Tuttle studied at Eastman School of Music, Carnegie Mellon University and New England Conservatory.

**Visit the Cello for Charity gofundme page**



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