



CLEVELAND
INSTITUTE OF MUSIC

2025-26
SEASON

CONCERT SERIES



About the Cleveland Institute of Music

The Cleveland Institute of Music empowers the world's most talented classical music students to fulfill their dreams and potential. Its alumni command hallowed stages across the globe as soloists, opera leads, chamber musicians, and ensemble members; compose meaningful, award-winning music; produce Grammy Award-winning recordings; and are highly sought-after teaching artists, administrators, and thought leaders. CIM's faculty likewise hail from around the country and across the world, giving students "The CIM Advantage" as they embark on professional careers. The school's increasingly diverse collegiate and pre-college student bodies benefit from access to world-renowned visiting artists and abundant performance and outreach opportunities, and from the rich curriculum offered by CIM's partner, Case Western Reserve University. A leader among its peers, CIM is the largest presenter of free performances, masterclasses, and community concerts in the Midwest, hosting hundreds of events each year on campus and at locations regionwide, including Severance Music Center. Explore cim.edu to learn more.



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CIM students are positioned for success, developing 21st-century skills to thrive musically and in life. This is possible because of the **CIM Advantage**, where students' artistic potential is unlocked in our nurturing environment, and hours of work and training are transformed into first-rate performances on professional stages and in the community.

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CLEVELAND
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INSIDERS

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

7:30pm | Mixon Hall

Ilya Kaler, violin

Daniel Shapiro, piano

Wolfgang Amadeus
Mozart
(1756–1791)

Violin Sonata in A Major, K. 305
Allegro di molto
Tema con Variazioni

Sergei Prokofiev
(1891–1953)

Violin Sonata No. 1 in F minor, Op. 80
Andante assai
Allegro brusco
Andante
Allegrissimo – Andante assai

Richard Strauss
(1864–1949)

Violin Sonata in E-flat Major, Op. 18
Allegro, ma non troppo
Improvisation: Andante cantabile
Finale: Andante – Allegro

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Ilya Kaler is the only violinist to win the gold medal at the Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow (1986), Sibelius Competition in Helsinki (1985), and Paganini Competition in Genoa (1981). Kaler is considered one of the most outstanding personalities of the violin today whose career ranges from that of a soloist and recording artist to chamber musician and professor.

Kaler has earned rave reviews for his solo appearances with many distinguished orchestras throughout the world, including the Leningrad, Moscow, and Dresden philharmonic orchestras; Montreal Symphony Orchestra; Danish and Berlin radio orchestras; Moscow and Zurich chamber orchestras; as well as many of the major American orchestras including Seattle and Detroit symphony orchestras, to name a few. Kaler has collaborated with a number of outstanding conductors including Valery Gergiev, Dmitry Kitaenko, Mariss Jansons, and Jerzy Semkow, performing extensively on five continents.

Kaler released multiple highly acclaimed recordings for the Naxos Records label. He has also released a solo violin CD under the Ongaku label and recorded extensive recital repertoire for Melodiya Records in Russia.

As a member of the Tempest Trio with cellist Amit Peled and pianist Alon Goldstein, Kaler enjoys a very busy touring career and performs in the most prestigious venues to the highest critical acclaim. The trio has recently released their debut CD on the Naxos label, featuring a complete set of piano trios by Dvořák.

One of the most sought-after teachers in the world, Kaler joined the CIM violin faculty beginning in the fall of 2018. Kaler previously held professor of violin positions at DePaul University School of Music, Eastman School of Music, and Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. Summer teaching and performing engagements include the Chautauqua Music Festival, Heifetz International Music Institute, International Violin Master course at the Keshet Eilon Music Center, Bowdoin International Music Festival, and Montreal Chamber Music Festival. Kaler is also frequently invited as a judge to the world's most prestigious violin competitions, including the International Tchaikovsky Competition, Sibelius International Violin Competition, Henri Marteau International Competition (Germany), and International Music Competition (Harbin, China).

Kaler received his education at the Moscow Central Music School under Zinaida Gilels and at the Moscow State Conservatory under Leonid Kogan and Victor Tretyakov. Following his formal education, influence and inspiration came from his long-time mentor, violinist and teacher Abram Shtern.

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Daniel Shapiro has developed widespread recognition as a leading interpreter of Schubert, Beethoven, Mozart, Schumann, and Brahms; and as a teacher and coach at CIM. He has given critically acclaimed performances across the United States, in Brazil, Europe, Korea, and China. Recently he performed his third complete cycle of the 32 Beethoven piano sonatas; videos of the performances can be found on YouTube. His DVDs of all of Schubert's major piano sonatas and his CD of Beethoven's *Diabelli Variations* have received enthusiastic reviews.

During his tenure at CIM, he has become known as an inspiring teacher who helps students achieve profound understanding and develop vivid interpretations of the great masterworks. His students have won important competitions and obtained teaching posts at prestigious universities and schools of music.

As a chamber musician, Shapiro has had the great fortune of collaborating with some of the world's leading musicians, including Jaime Laredo, Shmuel Ashkenasi, Joseph Silverstein, Cho-Liang Lin, Sergiu Schwartz, and Franklin Cohen. He has performed regularly with members of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony, and The Cleveland Orchestra. He has released chamber music CDs on the Harmonia Mundi and ASV labels. His Beethoven sonata collaborations with violinist Jaime Laredo can also be found on YouTube.

His musicianship has been enhanced and deepened by extensive collaboration with singers: listening to and working with them has been a source of tremendous inspiration. He studied art song with Gwendolyn Koldofsky and opera with Natalie Limonick, and was an opera and art song coach at UCLA.

His musical scope also includes conducting: he has worked with Daniel Lewis, Victor Yampolsky, Fritz Zweig, and Gustav Meier. He made his conducting debut at 16 at Tanglewood, and he conducted Mozart's *Don Giovanni* with the Akron Lyric Opera.

A native of southern California, Shapiro began the study of piano at the age of 6. His teachers have included Leon Fleisher, John Perry, Russell Sherman, Joanna Graudan, and Reginald Stewart. He studied at the University of Southern California and at the Peabody Conservatory, where he received his doctorate.

More information can be found at danielshapiro pianist.com.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, March 25

7:30pm | Mixon Hall

CIM Virtuosi

Todd Phillips, leader

Erin Yun, oboe, student artist

MOZART Oboe Concerto in C Major, K. 314

GRIEG Holberg Suite, Op. 40

COPLAND Appalachian Spring

Friday, March 27

7pm | Kulas Hall

Sunday, March 29

3pm | Kulas Hall

CIM Opera Theater

JJ Hudson, director

Harry Davidson, conductor

CIM Orchestra

HUMPERDINCK *Hansel and Gretel*

Tickets: \$35-\$45

CIM Opera Theater is supported by a grant from the John P. Murphy Foundation and a generous gift from Michael Frank and the late Pat Snyder.

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