



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](https://cim.edu) to learn more.



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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## PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2026

7:30pm | Mixon Hall

**Tommy Mesa**, cello

*Kulas Foundation Visiting Artist*

**Michelle Cann** (BM '09, MM '10), piano

*Kulas Foundation Visiting Artist*

Claude Debussy  
(1862–1918)

Cello Sonata, L. 135  
Prologue: Lent, sostenuto e molto  
risoluto  
Sérénade: Modérément animé  
Final: Animé, léger et nerveux

Andrea Casarrubios  
(b. 1988)

Mensajes del agua (2019)

Kevin Day  
(b. 1996)

Cello Sonata No. 1 (2016)  
Allegro agitato  
Lento  
Giocoso

*Intermission*

Sergei Rachmaninoff  
(1873–1943)

Cello Sonata in G minor, Op. 19  
Lento – Allegro moderato  
Allegro scherzando  
Andante  
Allegro mosso

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Cuban-American cellist Dr. **Tommy Mesa** has established himself as one of the most charismatic, innovative, and engaging performers of his generation. The recipient of Avery Fisher Artist Program's 2025 Avery Fisher Career Grant and the Sphinx Organization's 2023 Medal of Excellence, its highest honor, Mesa has appeared as soloist at the Supreme Court of the United States on four occasions and with major orchestras including the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl, The Cleveland Orchestra, The Philadelphia Orchestra, and the symphony orchestras of Indianapolis, Madison, New Jersey, San Antonio, and Santa Barbara, among others. Mesa gave the world premiere of Jessie Montgomery's cello concerto *Divided* in 2022 and has been the exclusive soloist since, performing at major halls across the United States and Brazil including Miami's New World Center, Nashville's Schermerhorn Center, and Carnegie Hall. His orchestral recording debut of the work was released in 2023 on Deutsche Grammophon. Mesa began his position on the cello faculty at the Manhattan School of Music in Fall 2025.

Orchestral and ensemble highlights of the 2025-26 season include performances with the Greenville Symphony, Hartford Symphony, and San Antonio Philharmonic, giving the New York premiere of Sofia Gubaidulina's *Canticle of the Sun with Voices of Ascension*, and renewed collaborations with the Grammy-winning The Crossing Choir. In the recital sphere, Mesa performs with pianists Olga Kern, Michelle Cann, and Ilya Yakushev, including performance debuts at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, the Bender JCC of Greater Washington, Cleveland Institute of Music, New Orleans Friends of Music, and Virginia Arts Festival, among others.

In recent seasons, Mesa served as Artist-in-Residence with the Tucson Symphony and debuted with orchestras including the Calgary Philharmonic, Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, and the Ann Arbor, Columbus, Delaware, Greenwich, Quad City, and Rogue Valley Symphony Orchestras. Last season he also gave debuts at leading series including University of Vermont's Lane Series, the Phillips Collection, Key West Impromptu Classical Concerts, Chamber Music Pittsburgh, Linton Chamber Music in Cincinnati, and The Schubert Club in St. Paul. Other past performance features include recitals at The Academy of Arts and Letters, Bay Chamber Concerts, California Center for the Arts, Columbia University, Flagler Museum, The Heifetz Institute, International Beethoven Project, Kaufman Music Center,

Meadowmount School of Music, University of Miami's Signature Series, Newport Classical, Perlman Music Program Alumni Recital Series, Strad for Lunch Series, Virginia Arts Festival, and major universities across the United States.

Mesa recently celebrated several releases, including a recording of tango works for cello and bandoneon with performer-composer JP Jofre and an album of world-premiere recordings by Black and Latinx composers with pianist Michelle Cann which was featured in an exclusive showcase on NYC's classical station WQXR. Upcoming albums include collaborations with the iconic pianist Olga Kern and the multiple GRAMMY-award winning vocal ensemble, The Crossing Choir.

Mesa has an active season with recital performances on leading stages as well, including the launch of Mesa's tour with pianist Michelle Cann, Curtis Institute faculty and soloist. Mesa and Cann will perform at series including University of Vermont's Lane Series, Chamber Music Pittsburgh, Linton Chamber Music in Cincinnati, and The Schubert Club in St. Paul. Mesa also performs recitals with piano and organ this season at the Phillips Collection, Bargemusic, and Key West Impromptu Classical Concerts, among others. Past performance features include recitals at The Academy of Arts and Letters, Bay Chamber Concerts, California Center for the Arts, Columbia University, Flagler Museum, The Heifetz Institute, International Beethoven Project, Kaufman Music Center, Meadowmount School of Music, University of Miami's Signature Series, Newport Classical, Perlman Music Program Alumni Recital, Strad for Lunch Series, Virginia Arts Festival, and major universities across the United States.

Read more at [dininarts.com/tommy-mesa](http://dininarts.com/tommy-mesa).

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Lauded as "exquisite" by *The Philadelphia Inquirer* and "a pianist of sterling artistry" by *Gramophone*, Grammy Award winning pianist **Michelle Cann** is one of the most sought-after artists of her generation. Recent engagements include appearances with Chicago Symphony Orchestra, The Cleveland Orchestra, The Philadelphia Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, National Symphony Orchestra, and Orquestra Sinfônica Municipal de São Paulo. She is a recipient of the Sphinx Medal of Excellence and the Andrew Wolf Chamber Music Award, and she served as the inaugural Christel DeHaan Artistic Partner of the American Piano Awards.

Highlights of Cann's 2025-26 season include appearances with the Colorado Symphony, New Jersey Symphony, Kansas City Symphony, and Ireland's National Symphony Orchestra. She also performs the world premiere of a new piano concerto by Valerie Coleman with the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington, DC. Her recital appearances include Stanford Live, Music Toronto, Chamber Music Detroit, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Spivey Hall, and a recital tour in China.

Recognized as a leading interpreter of the piano music of Florence Price, Cann performed the New York City premiere of Price's Piano Concerto in One Movement with The Dream Unfinished Orchestra in 2016. Her recording of the concerto with the New York Youth Symphony won a Grammy Award in 2023 for Best Orchestral Performance. She won a Grammy Award in 2025 for *Beyond the Years: Unpublished Songs of Florence Price*, recorded with soprano Karen Slack, which features 19 unpublished songs composed by Price. Her acclaimed debut solo album *Revival*, featuring music by Price and Margaret Bonds, was released in 2023.

Cann holds bachelor's and master's degrees from the Cleveland Institute of Music and an Artist's Diploma from Curtis Institute of Music. She joined the Curtis piano faculty in 2020 as the inaugural Eleanor Sokoloff Chair in Piano Studies, and she is on the piano faculty of the Manhattan School of Music.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Friday, April 17**

7:30pm | Kulas Hall

**CIM Orchestra**

**Tito Muñoz**, conductor

**Davis Fischer**, baritone, student artist

**Kiana Lilly**, soprano, student artist

**Morgan Potts**, mezzo-soprano, student artist

**Hanyue Zhang**, soprano, student artist

**Jingdian Zhou**, tenor, student artist

Featuring music by Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate and Gustav Mahler.

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