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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](http://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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## INSIDERS

Wednesday, April 8, 2026

7:30pm | Mixon Hall

**Olga Dubossarskaya Kaler**, violin

**Ilya Kaler**, violin

**Lynne Ramsey**, viola

**Daniel Kaler** (BM '20), cello

*Kulas Foundation Visiting Artist*

**Ilya Itin**, piano

Eugène Ysaÿe  
(1858–1931)

Sonata for Solo Violin in G Major, Op. 27,  
No. 5

L'Aurore

Danse rustique

**Olga Dubossarskaya Kaler**, violin

Claude Debussy  
(1862–1918)

Violin Sonata, L. 140

Allegro vivo

Intermède: Fantasque et léger

Finale: Très animé

Eugène Ysaÿe

Caprice d'après l'étude en forme de valse  
de Saint-Saëns

**Olga Dubossarskaya Kaler**, violin

**Ilya Itin**, piano

*Intermission*

Johannes Brahms  
(1833–1897)

Piano Quintet in F minor, Op. 34

Allegro non troppo

Andante, un poco Adagio

Scherzo: Allegro – Trio

Finale: Poco sostenuto – Allegro non  
troppo

**Ilya Kaler**, violin

**Olga Dubossarskaya Kaler**, violin

**Lynne Ramsey**, viola

**Daniel Kaler**, cello

**Ilya Itin**, piano

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Praised by critics for her “deep, soulful sound” and “powerful, enchanting renditions,” **Olga Dubossarskaya Kaler** has toured three continents as a soloist, chamber musician, and artist-teacher, balancing her performing and teaching careers with equal success. She joined the CIM violin faculty in 2017, following her 15-year tenure at DePaul University School of Music in Chicago.

Kaler’s original composition for solo violin, *Recitativo and Toccata*, was published in 2020 by the Soundwave Music Company, along with her edition of the Solo Violin Sonata by Boris Dubossarsky, her father, a celebrated Moldavian composer. Both works are included in her 2022 Centaur Records CD release, *Seven Ways to Say Farewell*. Four out of seven pieces are world premiere recordings.

Kaler’s scale system for violin and for viola, entitled *Scale System for Reluctant Scale Enthusiasts*, and her method book, *An Effective Method for Teaching and Studying Violin Technique*, met with enthusiastic reception from string players and pedagogues worldwide. Both works are available on Amazon and in an electronic version through Ovation Press.

Kaler holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the Northwestern University Bienen School of Music and her previous degrees are from the New England Conservatory, Moscow State Conservatory, and Stolyarsky Special Music School for Gifted Children in Odessa, Ukraine. Among her violin competition awards are Special Prize at the Rodolfo Lipizer International Violin Competition, first prize at the Northwestern Competition, as well as first prize at Thaviu-Isaak Competition.

For more information, visit [olgadkaler.com](http://olgadkaler.com).

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**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. 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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**Lynne Ramsey** was first assistant principal violist of The Cleveland Orchestra since 1989, and held the Charles and Janet Kimball Chair. She received Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees from The Juilliard School. Her teachers included Karen Tuttle, Ramon Scavelli, and David Dawson. She has also been principal violist of the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra. She has appeared as soloist with the Cleveland, Saint Paul Chamber, and Air Force String orchestras, as well as the North Carolina, Baltimore, and Arlington symphonies.

Ramsey was invited to perform the Walton Viola Concerto with the Beijing Philharmonic in China in December 1985 and was the first foreigner to perform in Beijing's new concert hall. She has performed chamber music concerts throughout the US and previously taught at Oberlin Conservatory and the Aspen Music Festival. She was appointed to the CIM faculty in 2001.

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Joining the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra in 2022 and 2024, respectively, cellist **Daniel Kaler** has been a top prizewinner at the Medici International Music Competition, BACH International Music Competition, Maurice Ravel Competition, and Muse International Competition, among others. In recent years, he has performed with the Asheville Symphony Orchestra, West Virginia Symphony Orchestra, Bogotá Philharmonic Orchestra, Boca del Río Philharmonic Orchestra, Chautauqua Music School Festival Orchestra, and Cleveland Institute of Music Orchestra.

Kaler attended and gave performances at many summer programs and festivals, such as the Chautauqua Music Festival, Keshet Eilon Summer Mastercourse, Sarasota Music Festival, Heifetz International Music Institute, Bowdoin International Music Festival, North Shore Chamber Music Festival, Music In The Loft, Young Steinway Concert Series, and Chicago Cultural Center. He has appeared on WFMT's *Introductions*, WCLV, as well as WCPN's *Applause Performances*.

Kaler began his initial studies with Donna Davis and Gilda Barston. He continued his private studies with Hans Jørgen Jensen of the Northwestern University Bienen School of Music and Stephen Balderston of the DePaul University School of Music. He received his Bachelor of Music in cello performance from CIM and Master of Music

in cello performance from Rice University's Shepherd School of Music, having studied with Mark Kosower and Brinton Smith, respectively.

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Audiences throughout the world revere **Ilya Itin's** unique artistry. Playing to sold out houses in Japan and in the US, he is known for his extraordinary range, power, quality of sound, and command of the piano. His Princeton recital was singled out by the *Philadelphia Inquirer* as a "top ten musical moment of the year" and *The New York Times* critic described him as "...a brilliantly insightful pianist who offered a superb recital." Since capturing the gold medal, BBC Audience Award, and Contemporary Music Prize at the 1996 Leeds International Piano Competition, Itin has performed throughout the world bringing his powerful musical imagination and mastery to wide ranging repertoire. "I'd go to hear him play the phonebook," remarked BBC TV critic Ian Burnside.

Itin has performed with many of the world's great conductors, including Sir Simon Rattle, Neemi Jarvi, Christoph von Dohnányi, Yakov Kreizberg, Vassily Sinaisky, Valery Polyansky, and Mikhail Pletnev, performing as soloist with orchestras, including The Cleveland Orchestra, St. Petersburg Philharmonic, Tokyo Symphony, National Symphony, London Philharmonic, China National Symphony, Symphony Orchestra of India, Mexico City Philharmonic, and Rochester Philharmonic.

Much lauded for his chamber music collaborations with colleagues and friends in the US, Europe, and Asia, he recently performed Beethoven's "Archduke" Trio in New York with the Jupiter Chamber Players followed by a recital of the complete Brahms sonatas in Tokyo with violinist Fuminori Maro Shinozaki. He has made numerous recordings of chamber music, including Beethoven's "Spring" Sonata, Brahms' Viola Sonata, Martinů's Double Violin Sonata, and Piazzolla's *Spring/Autumn in Buenos Aires*, with Igor Gruppman (violin) and Vesna Gruppman (viola/violin). Itin has also recorded a full recital with legendary violinist Ida Haendel at the Miami International Piano Festival.

Born in Yekaterinburg, Russia, his piano studies began at the Sverdlovsk School for the Gifted with Natalia Litvinova. He went on to graduate from the Moscow Conservatory with the highest honors in 1990 working with legendary teacher Lev Naumov. Itin won his first

major piano competition while at the Conservatory, taking second place in the 1990 Russian National Rachmaninov Competition. Soon after, he won top honors in the William Kapell Competition, followed by first prize and the Special Chopin Prize at the Casadesus Competition (Cleveland Competition), and the Best Performance of a Work of Mozart, Best Prokofiev Performance, and third prize at the Gina Bachauer Competition.

Itin is on the teaching faculty of the Cleveland Institute of Music. He has also taught in the piano departments of The Juilliard School, Peabody Conservatory, the Graduate Program at CUNY, and Musashino Music Academy in Tokyo, Japan.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Tuesday, April 14**

7:30pm | *Mixon Hall*

**Inna Faliks**, piano

*Kulas Foundation Visiting Artist*

“Adventurous and passionate” (*The New Yorker*) Ukrainian-born pianist Inna Faliks has established herself as one of the most communicative and poetic artists of her generation. She has made a name for herself through commanding performances of standard piano repertoire, as well as genre-bending, interdisciplinary projects, and inquisitive work with contemporary composers.

### **Thursday, April 16**

7:30pm | *Mixon Hall*

**Tommy Mesa**, cello

*Kulas Foundation Visiting Artist*

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

*Kulas Foundation Visiting Artist*

Trailblazing artists Tommy Mesa and Michelle Cann renew their collaboration in a program that reimagines the chamber music canon for the 21st century. This unique concert pairs works by modern composers like Andrea Casarrubios and Kevin Day with Debussy and Rachmaninoff, brought to life by the invigorating talents of two outstanding musicians.

### **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

TATE *Woodland Songs* (2025)

MAHLER *Symphony No. 1 in D Major*, “Titan”

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