

# Sphinx Virtuosi: Tracing Visions

Watson Chamber Music Hall  
Tuesday, October 5, 2021 • 7:30 p.m.

*Presented by*

**UNC School of the Arts**  
Brian Cole, Chancellor

**School of Music**  
Saxton Rose, Dean



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Ev'ry Voice (2020).....Xavier Foley  
(b. 1994)

from String Quartet No. 2 in A minor (1935).....Florence Price  
Andante Cantabile (1887 - 1953)

from Four Novelletten (1903).....Samuel Coleridge-Taylor  
Allegro moderato (1875 - 1912)  
Andante con moto

Banner for quartet and string orchestra.....Jessie Montgomery  
(2014; rev. 2017) (b. 1981)

## INTERMISSION

Seven (for solo cello) (2020) ..... Andrea Casarrubios  
(b. 1988)

Inocente (2018).....Ricardo Herz  
Mourinho (b. 1978)

from Concerto for Strings, Op. 33 (1965).....Alberto Ginastera  
Finale furioso (1916 - 1983)

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## **Violin I**

Patricia Quintero (*concertmaster*)  
Alex Gonzales  
Clayton Penrose-Whitmore  
Sandro Leal-Santiesteban

## **Violin II**

Meredith Riley (*principal*)  
Emilia Mettenbrink  
Lady Jess  
Maithéna Girault

## **Viola**

Celia Hatton (*principal*)  
Robert Switala  
Bill Neri  
Bradley Parrimore

## **Cello**

Thomas Mesa (*principal*)  
Erica Snowden-Rodriguez  
Quenton Blache  
Ismael Guerrero

## **Bass**

Benjamin Harris (*principal*)  
Jonathan Colbert

The national Sphinx Virtuosi Tour is made possible with the generous support of JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Robert F. Smith, with additional support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Sphinx Virtuosi are represented exclusively by MKI Artists;  
[www.mkiartists.com](http://www.mkiartists.com) | [music@mkiartists.com](mailto:music@mkiartists.com)

1-802-658-2592 | One Lawson Lane, Suite 320, Burlington, VT 05401

## BIOGRAPHIES

Since its founding in 2004, **SPHINX VIRTUOSI** has defined itself as the most diverse professional chamber orchestra in the country. The dynamism in this ensemble's approach to music making offers an experience of unmatched vibrancy for seasoned and new audiences alike. Comprised of 18 of the nation's top Black and Latinx classical soloists, these artists tour annually as cultural ambassadors to communities far and wide.

This unique self-conducted ensemble earned rave reviews from The New York Times, Washington Post, Chicago Sun Times and beyond. Allan Kozinn of the New York Times described their performance as "first-rate in every way...producing a more beautiful, precise and carefully shaped sound than some fully professional orchestras that come through Carnegie Hall in the course of the year." Since their Carnegie debut in 2004, Sphinx Virtuosi have returned to Carnegie Hall annually from 2006 performing to sold-out halls and earning outstanding reviews. At once a bridge between communities of color and the classical music establishment, Sphinx Virtuosi continue to garner critical acclaim during their annual national tours to many of the leading venues around the country. Inspired by Sphinx's overarching mission of transforming lives through the power of diversity in the arts, the Sphinx Virtuosi works to advance the social impact of music upon our greater society. Dedicated to new music, the ensemble has pioneered the discovery of gems by composers of color, with the aim of expanding the canon and amplifying new and important voices. Collaborations with composers like Michael Abels, Kareem Roustom, Jimmy Lopez, Gabriela Lena Frank, Jessie Montgomery, Daniel Bernard Roumain, Terence Blanchard and Xavier Foley are among many exciting highlights. Masterworks by Shostakovich, Bartok, Schubert, Jennifer Higdon, John Adams, Bach and Mozart are often woven into the carefully curated programs, which combine risk, exploration and homage. They have also collaborated with Denyce Graves, Sweet Honey in The Rock, Joshua Bell, Pinchas Zukerman, Chicago Children's Choir, Damien Sneed and others.

As individual artists, Sphinx Virtuosi have performed as soloists with America's major orchestras, including the New York Philharmonic, Cleveland, Detroit, Atlanta, Philadelphia, Seattle and Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestras. Members also hold professional orchestral positions, and several have been named Laureates of other prestigious

international competitions, including the Queen Elizabeth and Yehudi Menuhin. Roster members are graduates of the nation's top music schools, including Juilliard, Curtis and Cleveland Institutes of Music, Eastman School and beyond. The Sphinx Virtuosi's first recording was released on the White Pine label and features music of Mendelssohn, Sibelius, Gabriela Lena Frank and George Walker. Sphinx Virtuosi are passionate about empowering the next generation of artists and audiences, and as such, enjoy building interactive, bi-lingual (English/Spanish) programs and working with schools in underrepresented communities.

The **SPHINX ORGANIZATION** is the Detroit-based national organization dedicated to transforming lives through the power of diversity in the arts. Led by Afa S. Dworkin, its president and artistic director, Sphinx programs reach over 100,000 students, as well as live and broadcast audiences of over two million annually. Afa Dworkin's work as the organization's long time artistic director, and now president, has been recognized globally. She was named one of the 30 Most Influential People by Musical America, Detroit's "40 Under 40" by Crain's Detroit Business, in addition to being a frequent speaker on the importance of inclusion and music education at conferences nationwide and abroad, including the League of American Orchestras, Chamber Music America, Americans for the Arts, International Arts and Ideas Festival and beyond. Dworkin also serves as faculty for Roosevelt University's Master's Program in Performing Arts Administration.

The organization's founding and mission were informed by the life experiences of Aaron Dworkin, who, as a young Black violinist, was acutely aware of the lack of diversity both on stage and in the audience in concert halls. He founded Sphinx while an undergraduate student at the University of Michigan to address the stark underrepresentation of people of color in classical music. President Obama's first appointment to the National Council on the Arts, Dworkin is professor for art entrepreneurship and leadership at University of Michigan's School of Music, Theatre & Dance.

Sphinx works to create positive change in the arts field and in communities across the country through a variety of programs organized into four main principles: education and access, artist development, performing artists and arts leadership. Visit [SphinxMusic.org](http://SphinxMusic.org) for more information.

# UNCSA MANIFESTO

## We Believe

**Artists** enrich our culture, enlighten our society, lift our spirits, and feed our souls.

Integrative **arts education** from an early age sparks a lifetime of creative thinking, powerful self-expression, and innovative problem solving.

Rigorous **artistic training** empowers our students and graduates to engage our communities, advance local and global creative industries, and inspire the world.

**Arts organizations** improve the quality of life and place in big cities and small communities, transforming them from merely livable to truly lovable.

**UNC School of the Arts** nurtures the talent, hones the craft, and develops the unique voices of emerging artists. We realize the full potential of exceptionally creative and passionate students to do their best work and become their best selves.

## DEAN'S COUNCILS FOR UNCSA

The Dean's Councils support each of UNCSA's five arts schools - Dance, Design & Production, Drama, Filmmaking, and Music. Dean's Council members support the school of their choosing with an annual gift of \$5,000 or more, work closely with the Dean to advance that school's mission and fundraising priorities, and enjoy a deeper relationship with the Dean and students of the school. If you are interested in joining one of these groups of committed individuals, please contact Interim Vice Chancellor for Advancement Rich Whittington at 336-770-3330 or [whittingtonr@uncsa.edu](mailto:whittingtonr@uncsa.edu).

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### THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC

The School of Music gives talented young artists the opportunity to perfect their musical talent and prepare for life as professional musicians. Our training includes both private instruction and public performance experience, including more than 150 recitals and concerts presented each year. This performance experience, combined with career development opportunities and studies in music theory, literature and style, provides the ultimate training to help young musicians grow as both artists and professionals.

## UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

### **Jenny Best: An Artist's Journey to Change our Relationship with Food**

Sunday, October 17, 2021 • 2 p.m.  
Watson Chamber Music Hall

UNCSA welcomes 2021 alumni Artpreneur Award recipient Jenny Best, founder and CEO of the award-winning social enterprise, Solid Starts. This “town hall”-style event will be an informative and moving conversation about this former professional dancer’s personal journey from performing artist to entrepreneur, and her work to change our relationship with and understanding of food.

### **Paul Hanson Solo Recital: Bassoon with Electronics**

Thursday, October 21, 2021 • 7:30 p.m.  
Watson Chamber Music Hall

One of the world’s best-known jazz bassoonists, Paul Hanson has managed to create his own path while playing an instrument more often associated with classical music, building a well-rounded musical career as a recording and touring musician. His innovative use of electronics, his looping effects and his rhythmic approach have brought him to a unique place on the world stage. Currently bassoonist with the legendary Billy Cobham and his “Crosswinds” project, Hanson also performs solo shows and with the likes of Bela Fleck and Cirque du Soleil.

### **Verona Quartet**

Tuesday, October 26, 2021 • 7:30 p.m.  
Watson Chamber Music Hall

The Verona Quartet collaborates with UNCSA clarinet faculty-artist Oskar Espina Ruiz and UNCSA string students on a program ranging from classical to contemporary works. One of the most sought-after string quartets of its generation, Verona Quartet delights audiences at venues such as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center, Wigmore Hall and Melbourne Recital Hall. Acclaimed for its bold, interpretive strength and electrifying performances, the quartet is the 2020 recipient of Chamber Music America’s Cleveland Quartet Award.

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