



Violist, **Gregory Falkenstein** formerly served nine seasons as a member of The Phoenix Symphony, Arizona's largest performing arts organization. He joined the orchestra as Section Viola in 1999 and went on to be appointed Assistant Principal Viola in 2006. He received tenure in each position. Gregory also served ten seasons as Principal Viola for the Breckenridge Music Festival, (CO). He was featured as a soloist with the festival orchestra on three occasions, including a 2001 performance of Krzysztof Penderecki's Viola Concerto and a 2003 performance of Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante with violinist Jason Horowitz of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Prior to his tenure in Phoenix, Gregory established his initial connection to South Florida during his three-year fellowship at the New World Symphony in Miami Beach, where he practiced furiously, honed his audition skills, and performed under the baton of the institution's founder Michael Tilson Thomas, as well as under Robert Spano, Marek Janowski, Jahja Ling, Gerard Schwarz, Donald Runnicles, and other distinguished conductors. Gregory has performed with the viola sections of the Atlanta Symphony, Artis Naples, and numerous regional orchestras in New England, the mid-Atlantic and the Midwest. Gregory earned his Bachelor of Music degree at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, as a student of John Graham, and his Master of Music degree at Indiana University Bloomington, as a student of Atar Arad. Gregory was born and raised in York, Pennsylvania. He is a product of the outstanding public schools in York and he is forever grateful to his public educators for placing a viola in his hands for the first time in the third grade at age 9. Absent his hometown's initial investment in his talents, Gregory would not be present on the stage today.



Violinist **Orlando Forte** was born in Cuba. He graduated with honors from the National School of Art in Havana in 1980, receiving a full scholarship to the Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Moscow in 1981. Later he completed the Master of Fine Arts in Conservatory of Odessa Ukraine. He studied under Asela Figueroa, Evelio Tieves, Armando Toledo, Olga Soboleva and Alexander Stanko. He toured with the Philharmonic Orchestra of Odessa throughout Ukraine and Russia. He was Concertmaster and Director of the Chamber Orchestra of Havana. Mr. Forte performed in the festival of contemporary music in Nice, France in 1988 under the direction of Maestro Leo Brower. During 1991 to 1994 he was a violin and chamber music professor at the school of Music of the Universidad Autónoma de Zacatecas, Mexico, and director of the school's chamber orchestra. Mr. Forte played as a guest violinist with the Orquesta Sinfónica de Minería, Mexico, directed by the Maestro Herrera de la Fuente. He is Assoc. Concertmaster of the Symphony of the Americas, was a member of the Boca Pops Orchestra and Florida Grand Opera Orchestra for 15 years. He is the Concertmaster of the Florida Chamber Orchestra in Miami, and a valued member of Orchestra Miami and the Miami City Ballet orchestra. He is also the musical director of the Crosstown String Quartet and as a member of the string section of the Miami Symphonic Services, has participated in many activities for the recording industry, recording for Michael Jackson, Julio Iglesias, Plácido Domingo, Luciano Pavarotti, Alejandro Saenz, Enrique Chia, Bebu Silveti, Jose Molina and many musical recordings for movies.



Oboe and English horn soloist **Dr. Kendra Hawley** has performed internationally as a chamber, opera, ballet, theater and orchestral musician. In addition to her work with Orchestra Miami, she is a member of Nu Deco Ensemble, Palm Beach Opera, Miami City Ballet, and South Florida Symphony among others. Kendra was previously Assistant Principal Oboe and English Horn Soloist with the Orquesta Filharmonica de Santiago, Chile. She is the Artistic Director of Tesseræ Collective, a chamber music collective dedicated to bringing chamber music to life in intimate, accessible and interactive experiences for all ages. Summer music festival appearances include Silicon Valley Music Festival, National Repertory Orchestra, Amherst Early Music Festival, Eastern Music Festival, and the Opera, Theatre, and Music Festival of Lucca, Italy. She attended Interlochen Arts Academy, Arizona State University, University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, Lynn University, and Stonybrook University. Her primary teachers include Pedro Díaz, Joseph Robinson, Mark Ostoich, Martin Schuring, Daniel Stolper and Petrea Warneck. A dedicated educator, Dr. Hawley is Adjunct Oboe Professor at Palm Beach Atlantic University, and Palm Beach State College, and maintains several Artist in Residence positions across South Florida as well as a competitive private studio.

Richard Hancock is currently Acting Principal Clarinetist of the Atlantic Classical Orchestra, Principal Clarinetist of Orchestra Miami, the Opus One Orchestra (Miami City Ballet) and The Symphonia of Boca Raton. Recently, Richard was featured as concerto soloist with Orchestra Miami & also with renowned conductor, Gerard Schwarz & The Symphonia of Boca Raton. Richard also served as Principal Clarinetist of The Florida Philharmonic Orchestra for 20 years, including concerto appearances and opera performances with Florida Grand Opera. Before coming to South Florida, he played in many orchestras in the U.S. and abroad, including Principal Clarinet in Mexico City, & extra clarinet in the Dallas & Chicago Symphony Orchestras for recordings and tours. Richard also enjoys playing touring Broadway shows, performing “Wicked”, “My Fair Lady”, “West Side Story”, “Mary Poppins”, “The King and I” & “Evita”. Aside from music, Richard and his family are very involved in the rescue of retired racing greyhounds.



Gabrielle Hsu is a freelance bassoonist and contrabassoonist based in Miami, regularly performing with orchestras throughout South Florida. She is also passionate about expanding the solo and chamber repertoire of the bassoon and has premiered a number of new works, including *Scenes from My Mother's Story* for oboe, clarinet, bassoon, saxophone, piano and percussion by Aaron Hendrix, *Fantasy for Bassoon and Marimba* by Ben Montgomery and *Unknown Circuitry* for bassoon and contrabassoon by Eric Delgado. Other recent engagements include the Endless Mountain Music Festival in Mansfield, PA, the Florida International University Music Festival, and the Mostly Modern Festival in Saratoga Springs, NY, where she had the privilege of giving one of the first live performances of Kaghondi wamwa Mwanga's *A Nightmare* (2020) for bassoon and ankle bells. Gabrielle is a native of Seattle, Washington and received a Bachelor of Music from Arizona State University and a Master of Music and Artist Diploma from the Frost School of Music at the University of Miami, where she performed as a fellow in the Henry Mancini Institute. Her primary teachers are Gabriel Beavers, Albie Micklich, and Francine Peterson.



Miami-raised French Hornist **Sharon Janezic** left during her high school years to pursue her passion of music at the Interlochen Arts Academy, where she graduated high school. Ms. Janezic returned to Florida to pursue her musical studies and earned her Bachelor's degree in music performance from the Conservatory of Music at Lynn University. Ms. Janezic has been the horn instructor at the Pine Crest School in Boca Raton, FL since 2004. From 2005-2007 she served as French horn faculty at New World School of the Arts where she went to high school before Interlochen. Ms. Janezic currently holds a faculty position as the Band Program Director of Pine Crest School. Ms. Janezic continues to serve as a guest clinician in many Palm Beach County Schools. Ms. Janezic has a rich freelance life as a horn player as assistant principal/utility horn in the Southwest Florida Symphony in Ft Myers, Florida, second horn in Orchestra Miami, fourth horn in the Miami City Ballet, and recently was appointed third horn in the Symphony of the Americas. Ms. Janezic has shared the stage with many talents such as Kenny Rogers, Neil Sedaka, Judy Collins, Andrea Bocelli, Placido Domingo, and Anna Netrebko. Additionally, Ms. Janezic completed several tours around the world including China, Japan, Panama, & Mexico.



Praised by the Miami Herald for his “eloquent” and “cathartic” playing, **Aaron Merritt** enjoys a varied career of teaching and performing. He currently performs with Orchestra Miami, Miami's Nu-Deco Ensemble, the Palm Beach Opera, and the Naples Philharmonic. He was a fellow with the New World Symphony under Michael Tilson Thomas and was a member of the Florida Grand Opera Orchestra. He has performed across the United States, Austria and the Netherlands and he performs at the Colorado Music Festival in Boulder and the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music in Santa Cruz, California during the summer months. With his colleagues in the Sona String Quartet, Mr. Merritt has presented over one hundred educational concerts for underserved schools and communities in the Greater Miami area. He has taught at the New World School of the Arts and Miami Dade College, and his students have been laureates and participants at national and international competitions, including the Tchaikovsky (Moscow), Carlos Prieto (Mexico City) and the Sphinx (Detroit). Mr. Merritt studied at Indiana University (BM) and Rice University (MM). Principal teachers include Lynn Harrell, Emilio Colón and Helga Winold.





Elissa Lakofsky's professional career began with an appointment in the Chicago Civic Orchestra, the training orchestra of the Chicago Symphony. Since arriving in South Florida, Ms. Lakofsky has performed as Principal Flute in many of the highest profile Miami orchestras including Orchestra Miami, Boca Symphonia, the Florida Grand Opera, Miami City Ballet and the Florida Symphonic Pops. In addition to her orchestral career she has been privileged to work with opera artists such as Andrea Bocelli and Placido Domingo, various jazz artists such as Peter Nero and Latin artists Nestor Torres and Arturo Sandoval. Most recently, she performed in the orchestra for Broadway Across America in the musicals *The Wizard of Oz*, *Evita* and *Cinderella* during their U.S. tours. Ms. Lakofsky is a much sought-after clinician and instructor and currently teaches at both Florida International University and Florida Atlantic University. As a soloist, Ms. Lakofsky has performed with the Savannah Symphony, the Greater Miami Youth Symphony, FIU Wind Ensemble, Boca Symphonia and Bay View Orchestra. She can be heard with Nodus on Orlando Garcia's CD *Silencios Imaginados* (nominated for a Latin Grammy in 2010), *Fives for Five*, Florida Woodwind Quintet, 2007 and Mahler *First Symphony*, with the Florida Philharmonic Orchestra. She has toured and performed in Taos, New Mexico, Ravello, Italy and premiered the Stockhausen Opera *Samstag aus Licht* at La Scala in Milan, Italy. A graduate of two of the most prestigious woodwind schools, the University of Michigan (BM) and Northwestern University (MM), Ms. Lakofsky has also studied extensively with some of the world's most renowned flutists including Keith Underwood, William Bennett and Julius Baker. She has participated in many summer music festivals including the Aspen Music Festival, the Bach Aria Group and the Sarasota Music Festival. Ms. Lakofsky is a past winner of the National Flute Association Orchestral Competition.



A proud native of Bowling Green, Ohio, cellist **Philip Lakofsky** is an accomplished musician and educator. He earned his degrees from the Eastman School of Music and the University of Southern California. He served as a valued member of the cello section in the Florida Philharmonic for nearly 20 years. Currently, Philip is the music director at the Aventura City of Excellence School, where he channels his passion for music into nurturing the musical talents of young students. Additionally, he is a longtime member of the Miami City Ballet Orchestra at which he has totally lost count of the number of Nutcracker Ballets in which he has performed!

Philip is a strong supporter of Elaine Rinaldi and Orchestra Miami. When he is unable to perform with the ensemble, he often enjoys attending their concerts! He is married to flutist Elissa Lakofsky, has two daughters, three grandchildren and four cats!



Tenor **Gerardo José Ortega** received his Bachelor's in Vocal Performance from the University of Florida at New World School of the Arts. He is the Artistic Administrator of the Downtowner Concert Series and Director of Music at the First United Methodist Church of Miami. His most recent stage credits include performing "a fervent Lysander with a ringing tenor," (*South Florida Classical Review*), in Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with the Miami Music Festival, Danilo in Léhar's *The Merry Widow* with the Barry Opera Theatre, and "a charming and compelling Nemorino" (*El Nuevo Herald*) in Donizetti's *L'Elisir d'Amore* with NWSA. Gerardo's stage credits also include the title role of *Faust* with Coral Gables Opera, Fenton in Verdi's *Falstaff* and the Italian Singer in Strauss' *Der Rosenkavalier* with Harrower Opera, Parpignol in *La Bohème* and

Dombé in *Lakmé* with the Florida Grand Opera, and Tamino in *Die Zauberflöte* with the Riuniti Opera. Mr. Ortega's recent concert appearances include the New York Lyric Opera Competition Finalist's Concert at Carnegie Hall, the Tenor Soloist in Ramirez's *Misa Criolla* with the Civic Chorale of Greater Miami, Rossini's *Stabat Mater* with Barry Chamber Group, Claussen's *A New Creation* with the Maryville Orchestra, and Handel's *Messiah* with the New Presbyterian Concert Series. In 2022, Gerard debuted with the South Florida Symphony, and in November, sang the Tenor Soloist in Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* with the Taylor Music Group orchestra. Most recently, he performed the lead role of *Manolo* in the highly anticipated world premiere of the musical *Always Remember* by Marilyn Morales, a musical about the Cuban American experience and was featured as "The Voice of God" in Orchestra Miami's recent production of Kurt Weill's *The Road of Promise*.



Brian Neal is a multifaceted trumpet player who has been displaying his talent on the trumpet for decades. From principal trumpet with the Miami City Ballet Orchestra to premiere trumpet with the Dallas Brass, his career has taken him to Russia, Europe and across the US, where he has performed at diverse venues—from the grand concert halls of Los Angeles and New York to school gymnasiums from Miami to Utqiavik, Alaska.

A consummate soloist, he has been featured with the California Symphony, Monterey Ensemble, Florida Philharmonic, Orchestra Miami, Miami Wind Symphony, Leganes Orchestra, Spain, and most recently performed the Haydn Trumpet Concerto with the Youngstown Symphony Orchestra. He was invited to perform his composition, “Concertante #1” in Carnegie Hall and with the Escuela-Conservatorio Orquesta, Manuel Rodriguez Sales de Leganés, Spain. In 2022 Mr. Neal was awarded the Southeast regional Emmy for best performance and composition with a multi-national collaboration involving 4 countries in an online performance. He is an active member and soloist with the Sitka Brass, a large ensemble of brass players made up of players from many of the major orchestras around the country. Mr. Neal received his training at the Manhattan School of Music in New York City and the University of Miami. During summers, he was a fellow at many of the major music festivals such as Tanglewood, Waterloo, Fountainbleau Conservatory in France, and Norfolk Chamber Music Festival performing with the Meridian Arts Ensemble. The conductors he has worked with include Charles Dutoit, Yoel Levi, John Nelson, Seiji Ozawa, Simon Rattle, Stanislav Skorbachevsky, Michael Tilson Thomas, and Leon Fleischer. As a visionary, he has been founder and Director of Brass Miami, featured in the Miami Bach Society’s Tropical Baroque Festival for five consecutive years. Mr. Neal initiated Miami Dade College Honors Festival, an annual recruiting event for the college, inviting 300 of the most talented Miami Dade County music students to the campus for a three-day event culminating in a final concert. His solo recording “Reflections” was featured on NPR’s Pipe dreams, in addition to his solo presence on many Dallas Brass recordings. Mr. Neal was a soloist on Alejandro Sanz album *La Música No Se Toca*, which received a Latin Grammy. He is in his 20th season as director of the brass ensemble at the Sitka Fine Arts camp in Sitka AK. For the past 14 years he has served as Director of Instrumental Studies and Professor of Trumpet at the Kendall campus of Miami Dade College, one of the largest and most diverse institutions in the United States, and last but not least is the principal trumpet of Orchestra Miami.



Elaine Rinaldi, Founder and Artistic Director of Orchestra Miami, is a Miami native who has chosen to return home and reinvest in her community. Under her artistic supervision, Orchestra Miami has performed high quality classical music concerts to literally thousands of people through its annual “Beethoven on the Beach” Free Outdoor Concerts and introduced over 33,000 school children to classical music through its collaboration with the MDCPS Cultural Passport Program and In-School Performances. Under her tenure, Orchestra Miami has introduced countless numbers of children and their families to classical music through the Nicklaus Children’s Hospital Family Fun Concert series and has encouraged scores of Miamians to learn more about their city through the “Discover Miami Through Music” series. In addition to her work in Miami, Ms. Rinaldi

is an active guest conductor and master teacher as one of the nation’s top vocal coaches, focused on training the next generation of opera singers.



Stan Spinola grew up in Indianapolis, Indiana. He received his Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees from Indiana University as well as his Artist’s diploma and Doctorate in Musical Arts from the University of Miami. His teachers were Richard Todd, Myron Bloom and Francis Orval. While at UM he was a fellow of the Henry Mancini Institute and in 2013 was awarded “Outstanding Doctoral Student.” Upon graduation, Stan became an active freelancer in the South Florida area. Currently he is Principal Horn for Orchestra Miami, a member of the Miami City Ballet, Atlantic Classical Orchestra, Lancaster Festival Orchestra, and the Symphonia Boca Raton. He has performed with the Florida Grand Opera, Palm Beach Opera, Palm Beach Symphony, the Palm Beach Chamber Music Festival, the Sunflower Music Festival and the Actor’s Playhouse in Coral Gables. His solo horn can be heard on PBS specials *Jazz* and the *Philharmonic* and *Gloria Estefan, The Standards* and was also a member of ESPN’s *The U*. From 2010-2017, Stan was a member of the AIMS Festival Orchestra in Graz, Austria. Stan is a member of the AFM Local 655.

Oh! Quand je dors (1840)

French source: [Victor Hugo](#)

Oh! quand je dors, viens auprès de ma couche,
Comme à Pétrarque apparaissait Laura,
Et qu'en passant ton haleine me touche ...
Soudain ma bouche
S'entr'ouvrira!

Sur mon front morne où peut-être s'achève
Un songe noir qui trop longtemps dura,
Que ton regard comme un astre se lève ...
Et soudain mon rêve
Rayonnera!

Puis sur ma lèvre où voltige une flamme,
Éclair d'amour que Dieu même épura,
Pose un baiser, et d'ange deviens femme ...

Soudain mon âme
S'éveillera!

C

French source: [Louis Aragon](#)

J'ai traversé les ponts de Cé
C'est là que tout a commence

Une chanson des temps passés
Parle d'un chevalier blessé

D'une rose sur la chaussée
Et d'un corsage délacé

Du château d'un duc insensé
Et des cygnes dans les fossés

De la prairie où vient danser
Une éternelle fiancée

Et j'ai bu comme un lait glacé
Le long lai des gloires faussées

La Loire emporte mes pensées
Avec les voitures versées

Et les armes désamorçées
Et les larmes mal effacées

Ô ma France ô ma délaissée
J'ai traversé les ponts de Cé

Ah, while I sleep (2018)

English translation © [Richard Stokes](#)

Ah, while I sleep, come close to where I lie,
As Laura once appeared to Petrarch,
And let your breath in passing touch me ...
At once my lips
Will part!

On my somber brow, where a dismal dream
That lasted too long now perhaps is ending,
Let your countenance rise like a star ...
At once my dream
Will shine!

Then on my lips, where a flame flickers—
A flash of love which God himself has purified—
Place a kiss and be transformed from angel into
woman...
At once my soul
Will wake!

C

English translation © [Richard Stokes](#)

I have crossed the bridges of Cé
It is there that everything began

A song of bygone days
Tells of a knight who injured lay

Of a rose upon the carriage-way
And a bodice with an unlaced stay

And the castle of an insane duke
And swans in castle moats

And of the meadow where
An eternal fiancée comes to dance

And I have drunk the long lay
Of false glories like icy milk

The Loire bears my thoughts away
With the overturned jeeps

And the unprimed arms
And the ill-dried tears

O my France O my forsaken one
I have crossed the bridges of Cé

Fêtes galantes

French source: [Louis Aragon](#)

*On voit des marquis sur des bicyclettes
On voit des marlous en cheval-jupon
On voit des morveux avec des voilettes
On voit les pompiers brûler les pompons*

*On voit des mots jetés à la voirie
On voit des mots élevés au pavois
On voit les pieds des enfants de Marie
On voit le dos des diseuses à voix*

*On voit des voitures à gazogène
On voit aussi des voitures à bras
On voit des lascars que les longs nez gênent
On voit des coïons de dix-huit carats*

*On voit ici ce que l'on voit ailleurs
On voit des demoiselles dévoyées
On voit des foyous On voit des voyeurs
On voit sous les ponts passer des noyés*

*On voit chômer les marchands de chaussures
On voit mourir d'ennui les mireurs d'oeufs
On voit péricliter les valeurs sûres
Et fuir la vie à la six-quatre-deux*

Gallant Parties

English translation © [Richard Stokes](#)

*You see fops on bicycles
You see pimps in kilts
You see whipper-snappers with veils
You see firemen burning their pompons*

*You see words hurled on the garbage heap
You see words praised to the skies
You see the feet or orphan children
You see the backs of cabaret singers*

*You see cars run on gazogene
You see handcarts too
You see sly fellows hindered by long noses
You see unmitigated idiots*

*You see here what you see everywhere
You see girls who are led astray
You see guttersnipes you see Peeping Toms
You see drowned corpses float beneath bridges*

*You see out-of-work shoemakers
You see egg-candlers bored to death
You see securities tumble
And life rushing pell-mell by*