

Member Biographies

Javier Arias

Javier Arias was born in Mexico City, where he started his musical training with his father, Emmanuel Arias y Luna. As a founding member of the Amernet String Quartet, Javier Arias has been the winner of the First Prize in the Fifth Banff International String Quartet Competition, First Prize in the Tokyo International Music Competition, with the Special Asahi Award, Grand Prize winner of the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition, and First Prize winner of the Yellow Springs National Chamber Music Competition.

He also has been the winner of the First Prize in the National Young Artists Competition and has appeared as soloist with the Mexico State Symphony Orchestra, the National Symphony Orchestra, the Orquesta de Camara de Bellas Artes and other orchestras in Mexico, Germany and Italy.

Mr. Arias received his Bachelor of Music Degree from the Juilliard School, where he was awarded the Lincoln Center Scholarship, the Loeb Memorial Scholarship and the Cohen Memorial Scholarship. He also holds an Artist Diploma from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. His teachers include Zara Nelsova, Salomon van den Berg, Carlos Prieto, Dennis Parker, and Anna Elizabeth Berlin.

Javier Arias was a participant in the Bach Seminar in Freiburg, Germany and at the Course of Phenomenology of Music at the University of Mainz in Germany, imparted by Sergiu Celibidache.

From 1996 to 2000 Javier Arias was part of the Faculty at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music where he taught chamber music. In 2000 he became an Artist-in-Residence at Northern Kentucky University, where he taught cello and chamber music. He founded the Norse Festival at Northern Kentucky University, of which he served as Artistic Director.

Javier Arias performs regularly throughout the U.S. and abroad and has appeared in summer music festivals such as Mostly Mozart, Ravinia Rising Stars Series, Interlochen, Tanglewood, Newport, Rockport, Graetna and San Miguel de Allende among others.

Mr. Arias has recorded for the Gasparo, New World and Centaur labels.

Since the fall of 2004 Mr. Arias is an Artist-in Residence at Florida International University, where he serves as Chair of Strings and teaches Cello and Chamber Music.

Michael Klotz

Born in 1978 in Rochester, NY, Michael Klotz made his solo debut with the Rochester Philharmonic at the age of 17. He has also appeared as soloist with the Miami Symphony, Eastman Philharmonia, Mannes Bach Festival Orchestra, Bowdoin Festival Orchestra, and World Youth Symphony in London, England. Of a recent performance of the Brandenburg concerto No. 6 with distinguished violist Roberto Diaz, the

Portland Press-Herald proclaimed, "this concert squelched all viola jokes, now and forever, due to the talents of Diaz and Klotz."

Passionately dedicated to chamber music, Michael Klotz joined the internationally renowned Amernet String Quartet in 2002. In addition Klotz has performed at some of New York's most important venues such as Alice Tully Hall, Weill Hall, Merkin Concert Hall, MOMA, Bargemusic, and the Kosciuzsko Foundation. Festival appearances include Newport, Caramoor, Great Lakes, Skaneateles, Beverly Hills, Music Mountain, Bowdoin, Sarasota, Music Academy of the West, and Miami Mainly Mozart. Michael has collaborated with artists such as the Ying Quartet, Shmuel Ashkenasi, Andres Diaz, Roberto Diaz, James Tocco, David Jolley, Joel Smirnoff, Clive Greensmith, Todd Palmer, Zvi Zeitlin, Fred Sherry, Toby Appel, Tsuyoshi Tsutsumi, Sergiu Schwartz, Anthony McGill, and members of the New York Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, MET Orchestra, and Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. In 2002, Michael was invited by Maestro Jaime Laredo to perform with distinguished alumni at the 30th anniversary concert of the New York String Orchestra Seminar in Carnegie Hall.

Michael Klotz is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music where he was awarded the Performer's Certificate. In 2002 he became one of the few individuals to be awarded a double Masters Degree in violin and viola from The Juilliard School. Also a dedicated teacher, Michael is Artist-in-Residence at FIU where he teaches viola and chamber music. He is also a member of the artist faculty of the Bowdoin International Music Festival and the Beverly Hills International Music Festival. His students are attending prestigious conservatories such as The Curtis Institute, Indiana University, and Cleveland Institute of Music and are participating in leading festivals as well as winning major competitions. Michael performs on a 1619 Antonio and Hieronymus Amati viola, graciously on loan from Peter Kamnitzer of the LaSalle Quartet; one of Michael's mentors.

Marcia Littley de Arias

Marcia Littley, violinist, founding member of the quartet, received her Bachelor of Music Degree from the Juilliard School where she was a student of Naoko Tanaka and Dorothy DeLay.

As a member of the Amernet String Quartet, she was the winner of the First Prize in the Fifth Banff International String Quartet Competition, First Prize in the 1992 Tokyo International Music Competition, with the Special Asahi Award, Grand Prize winner of the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition, and First Prize winner of the Yellow Springs National Chamber Music Competition. She holds an Artist Diploma from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. Other teachers include James Ceasar, Jerrie Lucktenberg and Sally O'Reilly. She has appeared as soloist with orchestras in the United States and in Mexico, and has participated in music festivals such as Aspen, Ravinia, Interlochen, Tanglewood and the Isaac Stern Chamber Music Workshop at Carnegie Hall.

From 1996 to 2000, Ms. Littley de Arias taught chamber music at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. From 2000-2004 she was Artist-in-Residence at Northern Kentucky University. Currently, she is Artist-in-Residence at Florida International University, where she teaches violin and chamber music.

Misha Vitenson

Misha Vitenson, violinist, began his violin studies with his father, Yuri Vitenson, in his native city of Tashkent , Uzbekistan. In 1990, Misha immigrated to Israel and continued his studies with Chaim Taub. Misha's prizes and awards in Israel include annual America-Israel Cultural Foundation scholarships and the prestigious Braun Zingel Award, which he won in a competition held at the Rubin Music Academy in Jerusalem.

In 1996, Mr. Vitenson began studying with Sergiu Schwartz at the Harid Conservatory. Subsequently, he was awarded top prizes in international violin competitions, including “Premio Paganini” (Italy , 1998) and Pablo de Sarasate (Spain , 1997) and First Prize in the 1998 Citta d'Andria International Violin Competition (Italy). Mr. Vitenson is the winner of the 1999 Aspen Music Festival Concerto Competition and First Prizewinner at the 2000 National Society of Arts and Letters Violin Competition. He is also both a two-time winner of the Harid Conservatory Concerto Competition and a two-time recipient of the Harid Conservatory's Joseph Gingold Award for Excellence (1998 & 2000).Mr. Vitenson's recent engagements have included appearances as a soloist with all major orchestras in Israel, including the Israel Philharmonic under Zubin Mehta, and the Israel Chamber Orchestra; the Padova e Veneto Orchestra on tour in Brazil, the National Uzbekistan Orchestra, the Aspen Music Festival Symphonia Orchestra, the Harid Philharmonia and the Harid Chamber Strings. Mr. Vitenson has participated in recitals and chamber music concerts throughout Israel , the United States , Canada , South America and Europe. As a member of the Kinneret Piano Trio, Mr. Vitenson was invited to participate in the Isaac Stern Chamber Music Workshop at Carnegie Hall in 1995.

After receiving his Bachelor degree from Harid Conservatory School of Music at Lynn University , Misha Vitenson was a student of Joel Smirnoff at the Juilliard School , where he received a Master of Music Degree. There he appeared as a soloist with the Juilliard Orchestra in Avery Fisher Hall under the baton of Hugh Wolff. In the fall of 2002 Mr. Vitenson joined the Amernet String Quartet and the faculty at Northern Kentucky University as an Artist-in-Residence, teaching violin and chamber music. Currently, he is Artist-in Residence at Florida International University.