

CONSTELLATIONS
CHAMBER CONCERTS

Music and Human Connection



with
Vijay Gupta
violin & speaker

Danielle Cho
cello

Ellen Hwangbo
piano

Sunday, October 18, 2026, 3 PM
The Constellations Music Salon
8817 Belmart Road, Potomac, Maryland



Welcome to Constellations Chamber Concerts!

We are delighted to welcome you to the Constellations Music Salon for our third season of live concerts in Potomac! Thank you for being part of our musical community and for your continued support in making this intimate space a home for extraordinary chamber music. We look forward to another season of sharing the joy of music with you, where every performance brings us all a little closer together.

Program

Music & Human Connection

Sunday, October 18th, 2026, 3:00 PM

Sonata No. 3 in C Major for Solo Violin,
BWV 1005 (ca. 1720)

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

- I. Adagio
- II. Fuga
- III. Largo
- IV. Allegro assai

for what is holy (2026)

Oswald Huynh
(b. 1997)

Vijay Gupta, violin

Piano Trio No. 2 in C minor, Op. 66 (1845)

Felix Mendelssohn
(1809-1847)

- I. Allegro energico e con fuoco
- II. Andante espressivo
- III. Scherzo: Molto allegro quasi presto
- IV. Finale: Allegro appassionato

Vijay Gupta, violin
Danielle Cho, cello
Ellen Hwangbo, piano

with discussion throughout led by Vijay Gupta

Meet the Artists



Vijay Gupta is a violinist, speaker, and writer whose work weaves together music, neuroscience, and lived experience to explore how people learn, adapt, and find meaning under pressure.

His work speaks to students at moments of formation, entrepreneurs navigating uncertainty, artists grappling with vocation, and communities seeking repair and belonging. Across classrooms, concert halls, boardrooms, and public forums, Gupta is known for combining intellectual rigor with emotional clarity, offering not motivation alone, but practical ways of thinking about resilience, listening, leadership, and

purpose.

A recipient of the MacArthur Fellowship, Gupta is the founder and Artistic Director of Street Symphony, a nationally recognized nonprofit that brings music into shelters, clinics, county jails, state hospitals, and reentry programs across Los Angeles. Since 2011, Street Symphony has presented more than 1,500 performances and workshops, working alongside communities affected by homelessness, addiction, and incarceration. The organization's work is grounded in the belief that music is not a one-way act of service, but a reciprocal practice that builds dignity, trust, and mutual understanding.

Gupta's performing career began early. He made his solo debut at age eleven with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra under Zubin Mehta, studied at Juilliard's Pre-College Division, earned degrees in biology and violin performance, and completed his master's degree at the Yale School of Music. At nineteen, he became the youngest violinist ever to join the Los Angeles Philharmonic, where he performed for twelve seasons. His experience inside one of the world's leading orchestras continues to inform his work with students, ensembles, and institutions navigating questions of excellence, sustainability, and burnout.

In addition to his solo and chamber work, Gupta is a founding member of the Darshan Piano Trio and collaborates widely with artists across disciplines. His projects often pair performance with conversation and reflection, creating

spaces where audiences are invited to listen more deeply, across differences of culture, profession, and experience.

As a speaker, Gupta has addressed audiences at universities, medical centers, corporations, and public gatherings across the United States, including the Aspen Institute, Mayo Clinic, the American Medical Association, the U.S. Psychiatric Congress, Hallmark, Accenture, and the League of American Orchestras. His three TED Talks have reached millions of viewers worldwide. Whether speaking to students, founders, clinicians, or artists, Gupta is valued for his ability to translate complex ideas into language that is grounded, humane, and immediately useful.

Gupta's writing explores similar terrain, tracing the connections between practice, purpose, and belonging. His memoir, *Restrung*, will be published by Grand Central Publishing in 2026.

Danielle Cho has served as Assistant Principal Cellist of the Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra since 2021 and also performs regularly with the National Symphony Orchestra.

As a co-founder of Sound Impact, she has dedicated much of her time to bringing music outside of the concert hall and into schools, juvenile detention centers and international communities. Danielle has led Sound Impact's international programs in Costa Rica and Panama, including its cultural exchange program which gives international students the opportunity to study at US summer music festivals. This passion was instilled in her after studying in Barcelona as a Fulbright Scholar, after which she was invited to play with the Orquesta de la Comunitat Valencia where she toured internationally under Lorin Maazel and Zubin Mehta. She was also a featured soloist at the 2014 TedxFulbright Conference and the first Fulbright alumni to be selected to serve on two missions with the Youth Orchestra of the Americas (YOA) Global Leaders Program in Argentina and Haiti.

Highlights of Danielle's career have been solo appearances with the Erie Chamber Orchestra and the Festival Filharmonica Juvenil (Argentina) and



festival appearances in Europe and the US including IMS Prussia Cove, Spoleto, Music in May, the Holland Music Sessions, Taos, Sarasota, and Schleswig-Holstein. Additionally, Danielle performs regularly with the American Pops Orchestra, the Eclipse Chamber Orchestra, and the National Symphony Orchestra.

Passionate about teaching, Danielle holds an active private studio in the Washington DC area. Her students have been principal cellists of the American Youth Philharmonic Orchestra and All-State Virginia Orchestra and have gone on to study at top conservatories like Oberlin, Peabody and Shenandoah Conservatory.

She holds degrees from the University of Southern California and the New England Conservatory where her principal teachers have been Ronald Leonard, Natasha Brofsky and Lluís Claret.

In her spare time, Danielle enjoys photography, hiking and boxing.



Pianist **Ellen Hwangbo** has forged an international career as a soloist, chamber musician, and artistic leader. She has been lauded for her performances of “harmony, energy and elegance” and her ability to create “truly potent and dramatic” concert experiences. Her recent appearances include the Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and Merkin Hall, as well as with orchestras in Europe and North America, including the Timisoara Philharmonic in Romania. A top-prize winner of the Music Teachers National Association’s National Young Artist Competition, she has performed widely across the globe.

As an innovator in the world of chamber music, Ellen is admired for her dynamic and wide-ranging collaborations and the expressive range she brings to ensemble playing. She curates her own series of distinctive chamber programs as founder and Artistic Director of Constellations Chamber Concerts, described by Washington Classical Review as a “feisty” new series “with an independent streak.” She performs regularly with world-renowned musicians and ensembles, such as Chee-Yun, Anthony Marwood, Benjamin Beilman, Aaron

Berofsky, Soovin Kim, Tessa Lark, Colin Carr, Richard Lester, Lucy Shelton, William Sharp, Eduardo Leandro, Sandbox Percussion, and the icarus Quartet, and was a member of the award-winning Saguaro Piano Trio based in Los Angeles. Her performances have been broadcast on several radio stations including WETA Classical, VPR Classical and WRCJ Detroit. She has appeared at many of the world's most prestigious music festivals, including Chamber Music Northwest, Music@Menlo, Yellow Barn, Lake Champlain, Peasmarsh, Chautauqua, Sarasota, and Aspen, as well as Pianofest and the Banff Centre.

Ellen has also been highly engaged in the new music world, collaborating with many composers and making both new solo and chamber works a standard part of her repertoire. She has worked directly with composers David Ludwig, William Bolcom, Stefano Gervasoni, Jörg Widmann, and Brett Dean on many of their works, including several world premieres and recordings. Her passion for new music led to commissions of new works from composers Andy Akiho, Chris Rogerson, Vivian Fung, and Daniel Pesca through Constellations, Ellen's role as a founding member of new music ensemble Consortium Ardesia, regular appearances with SUNY Stony Brook's long-standing Contemporary Chamber Players, close working relationships with faculty composers at Stony Brook, including Perry Goldstein and Sheila Silver, and advocacy for the next generation of young composers.

Ellen began her piano studies with Peter Cooper and continued with Logan Skelton at the University of Michigan, graduating summa cum laude. She received her Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees from SUNY Stony Brook, where she studied under luminary pedagogue Gilbert Kalish.

In addition to her work as Artistic Director of Constellations, Ellen also held leadership roles at the Mighty Young Composers program, Yellow Barn Festival and Amalfi Coast Music & Arts Festival and managed the Stony Brook Piano Project concert series from 2010 to 2012. She has given recent masterclasses at the University of Michigan, UNC Chapel Hill, University of Central Florida, Davidson College, Covenant College, Washington & Lee University, Universidade de São Paulo, Universidad Nacional Costa Rica, the Lake Champlain Chamber Music Festival, and the Amalfi Coast Music & Arts Festival. Ellen currently teaches privately in the Washington, D.C. area.

Ellen lives in Potomac, Maryland with her husband Tom and daughter Lily. When not performing or teaching, Ellen enjoys oil painting, studying philosophy, and family trips to the C&O Canal National Historic Park.

Join us for the rest of our season!

get tickets at constellationsmusic.org/upcoming



Musicians from Marlboro

*Tuesday, October 27, 7:30
PM at the Constellations
Music Salon*

Experience the legendary Marlboro Music Festival tradition up close as five exceptional musicians bring Haydn, Dean, Saariaho, and Mozart to Constellations on a special Tuesday evening stop on their national tour.

Pacifica Quartet with Ellen Hwangbo

*Sunday, November 8, 2026,
3 PM at the Constellations
Music Salon*



The renowned Pacifica Quartet brings its celebrated virtuosity and intensity to Mendelssohn and Ligeti before joining pianist Ellen Hwangbo for Schumann's exhilarating Piano Quintet.



Citations: Voices Across Time

*Sunday, January 17, 2027,
3 PM at the Constellations
Music Salon*

Four extraordinary musicians - Toyin Spellman-Diaz (oboe), Anthony Manzo (bass), Ian Rosenbaum (percussion) and Andrew Rosenblum (harpsichord) - explore musical memory and reinvention in selections from the Baroque and beyond, Henri Dutilleux's remarkable *Les Citations*, and a world premiere by Constellations composer Nick Morandi.



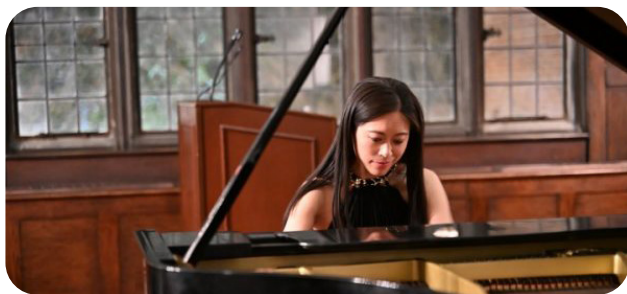
INTERWOVEN: A Lunar New Year Celebration

*Sunday, February 8, 2027,
3 PM at the Constellations
Music Salon*

Celebrate Lunar New Year with INTERWOVEN as the koto, shamisen, and erhu meet the Western string quartet in a vibrant musical journey across cultures, traditions, and generations.

Music & Diplomacy with Pauline Yang

*Sunday, March 21, 2027,
3 PM at the Constellations
Music Salon*



Pianist and U.S. Arts Envoy Pauline Yang brings music and diplomacy together in a unique afternoon of chamber performance, storytelling, and firsthand reflections from a musical life lived across borders.



ARTEMIS: icarus Quartet Premieres Akiho

*Sunday, May 16, 2027,
3 PM at the Robert E. Parilla
Performing Arts Center*

Our season grand finale! Take an inspiring journey from ancient mythology to humanity's return to the Moon as two-piano, two-percussion icarus Quartet gives the world premiere of an electrifying new evening-length work by Grammy-nominated composer Andy Akiho, with Constellations as lead commissioner. Held at the Parilla Performing Arts Center in Rockville.

Constellations Chamber Music Parties



Come have a blast with the Constellations crew in a "judgment-free zone" for music-making! Launched in December 2024, we are continuing this new Constellations community initiative with monthly Chamber Music Parties during our regular concert season, open to everyone with a love for chamber music!

Here at Constellations, we're all about the magical ability of chamber music to bring people together. And while our main series concerts at the Constellations Music Salon bring the artistry of world-class musicians to Potomac, chamber music isn't just something you witness—it's something that musicians of all levels can partake in first-hand! Join the many Constellations staff, supporters, and friends who have kept their instruments close at hand as passionate amateurs as we make our way through readings of two (or more) masterworks every month with guided warm-ups and gentle coaching from Constellations chamber music experts.

Thanks to generous support from the **Associated Chamber Music Players** (acmp.net), all Constellations Chamber Music Parties are FREE, but registration is requested in advance for headcount purposes. Not a string player? We'll be hosting these parties regularly and will be mixing up the repertoire each time - so let us know what you play if you'd be interested in joining for future events!

No preparation is necessary and parts (and refreshments!) will be provided, but we will provide links to public-domain parts each month if you want to take a peek in advance.

NEXT EVENT:
Sun. Nov. 15, 2026, 1 PM

Register online at
constellationsmusic.org



Thank you to our generous supporters!

(list reflects donations since September 1, 2024)

\$5,000 or more

Ann Franke & Dan Alpert
Hae-Soon Hahn & Steve Rosenbaum
Karen Kotulis-Carter
Korean Concert Society (Jungnim & Joung Cook)
Carl & Beryl Tretter
Hyunah Yu & William Brody

\$1,000 or more

Thomas Carter
Dan Fenstermacher
Alan Michaels
Joel & Nancy Poznansky

Aron & Karen Primack
Andrea Ricka
Joshua & Sheryl Yu
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\$500 or more

Colin Carr
Joy Chang & Christopher Sanchez
Mitchell Dolin
Leslie Hsu & Rick Lenon
Eliza Jarvinen

Erica Kane
Judith Kotulis
Bruce & Lori Rosenblum
Astrid Weigert
Anonymous

\$200 or more

John Carter
Penny Carter-Lockert
Steven Chanock
Jan Chong & Glenn Donnellan
Roselyn Doggett
Edward Fizdale
Matthew Gillman
Ralph Hecht
Michael Hodgson
Sandra Hou
Young Hwangbo

Gilbert Kalish
Lee Rucker Keiser
Cynthia Keith
Theodora Klayman
Bunny McDonough
Adrienne & Steve Nassau
Nancy Riker
Judith & Paul Silverman
Lisa & Ken Sperka
Bill Weaver
Robert Weinstock

\$100 or more

James & Louise Bugg
Klaus Enders
Allen Grunes
Albert Hunt
Richard James Price

Barry Rosenbaum
Jeff Stern
Kathe & Edwin Williamson
Elizabeth York

Constellations is grateful for further support of this season's programming from the Maryland State Arts Council and the Arts & Humanities Council of Montgomery County.



SEE UPCOMING EVENTS

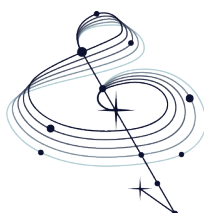


DONATE ONLINE



Save the dates!

- * Tuesday, Oct. 27 at 7:30 PM-
Musicians from Marlboro
- * Sunday, Nov. 8 at 3 PM-
Pacifica Quartet with Ellen
Hwangbo
- * Next Constellations Chamber
Music Parties:
Sunday, Nov. 15 at 1 PM and
Sunday, Dec. 13 at 1 PM



CONSTELLATIONS

CHAMBER CONCERTS

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