

UNIVERSITY of VIRGINIA
MCINTIRE DEPARTMENT of **music**

presents

Violapalooza

Saturday, February 17, 2024

3:30 pm

Old Cabell Hall

University of Virginia

Program

Suite No. 2 in D minor, BWV 1008
I. Prelude
VI. Gigue

J.S. Bach
(1685-1750)

Ayn Baliya, viola

Chahagir for Solo Viola

Alan Hovhaness
(1911-2000)

Molly Wilkens-Reed, viola

Threw and Through

Jamie Leigh Sampson
(b. 1984)

I. Flight
II. Collisions
III. Mantras
IV. Brush

Andrea Priester Houde, viola

Divertimento No. 1 in F Major, KV. 395b
I. Allegro

W.A. Mozart
(1756-1791)

A Few Ragtime Trios
I. Spartanburg Rag
III. Valdosta Rag

Michael Kimber
(b. 1945)

Ayn Baliya, Andrea Priester Houde, Molly Wilkens-Reed

2024 Violapalooza Ensemble

Omid Sayyadli, conductor

Selections to be announced

*This concert is supported by the Eleanor Shea Music Trust
& The Virginia Viola Society*

About the Performers

Ayn Baliya

Associate Professor of Viola at the University of Virginia, Ayn Baliya leads a musically rich life through performance and instruction. Maintaining a studio and coaching chamber music, she serves as the Principal Violist of the Charlottesville Symphony at the University of Virginia and violist of the Rivanna String Quartet.

As a professional violist, Dr. Baliya performs solo, chamber, and orchestral works around the country. She soloed with the Charlottesville Symphony and Faculty Orchestra of the Tennessee Governor's School for the Arts. While a member of the ProMusica Chamber Orchestra of Columbus, she performed Classical and commissioned works, recording two CDs under the Summit label. She regularly performs with the Richmond Symphony and Williamsburg Symphony, and collaborates for chamber music with the Tennessee Governors School for the Arts, Staunton Music Festival, and Charlottesville Chamber Music Festival. Dr. Baliya was invited to tour with the Pittsburgh Symphony on their East Coast Tour, including a performance at Carnegie Hall. A diverse performer, she performs regularly on period to modern instruments eager to explore the full range of the viola. She has helped commission and premiere chamber works by composers such as Libby Larsen, Judith Shatin, and Jorge Variego, and recorded numerous new works for orchestra. She is a founding member of the Piedmont Duo, which explores the sonic possibilities of the viola and marimba.

Andrea Priester Houde

Andrea Priester Houde is a violist whose genuine love and dedication to her craft can be seen in performances around the world and in the unique environment of her teaching studio. Houde is Associate Professor of Viola at West Virginia University. She has given master classes around the world and has served on the faculty of the Interlochen Arts Camp, Orfeo Music Festival (Italy), Endless Mountain Music Festival, and the Master Players Festival. Her album, *The American Viola*, was released by Albany Records and features early to contemporary American works, including the historic world premiere of the first American viola composition. Specializing in viola pedagogy, Houde has given numerous clinics and presentations and hosts WVU Viola Days and Viola Bootcamps. She was a board member of the American Viola Society from 2016-2022. She has adjudicated both nationally

and internationally, including serving as a first-round judge for the 2021 International Primrose Viola Competition. Houde lives in Morgantown, West Virginia with her husband, Albert, and their four children.

Molly Wilkens-Reed

Molly Wilkens-Reed is viola instructor at Virginia Tech and the director of the Virginia Tech String Project, as well as summer music faculty at Interlochen Arts Camp. Distinguished awards include the Outstanding String Project of the Year Award from the American String Teachers Association, the Favorite Faculty Award at Virginia Tech, the Memphis Woman Magazine's Vision Award, and numerous grants for her string music education and pedagogy work. She is a member of the Epsilon Omicron Chapter of the Pi Kappa Lambda Society and serves as a board member of the National String Project Consortium and American Viola Society. Wilkens-Reed earned Bachelor of Music degrees in Music Education and Viola Performance from the Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music at the University of Memphis, a Master of Music degree in Viola Performance with a concentration in String Pedagogy at the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University, and is a certified Suzuki violin and viola teacher. Molly resides in Blacksburg, VA with her husband and their two young sons.

Special Thanks To:

The Department of Music and all the students, interns, and volunteers who made this performance possible.

*This concert is supported by the Eleanor Shea Music Trust
& The Virginia Viola Society*

For more information about any of our events visit
music.virginia.edu/events,
or subscribe to our weekly music e-mail at music.virginia.edu/subscribe,
or follow [uvamusic](#) on social media.