

## Faculty and Staff Biographies

**Dennis Auth**, Guitar and Beginner Bass. As a student of jazz at an early age, Dennis now enjoys over 30 years' experience performing and teaching various genres including rock, R&B, traditional gospel, and contemporary worship. He currently teaches private students across the Tidewater area.

**Jena Chenkin**, Park View Strings. B.A., University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Ms. Chenkin's teachers include Gerry Horner, a member of the Fine Arts Quartet. Ms. Chenkin has been a member of numerous orchestras, including the Milwaukee, Waukesha, Racine, and Green Bay Symphony Orchestras. She has appeared as soloist with the Racine and UW-Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra. Ms. Chenkin served as director for the Williamsburg Junior Orchestra Camp and is a member of the American String Teachers Association. She also teaches at the Governor's Magnet School for the Arts.

**Rachel Ruth Crumbly**, Piano. M.M., University of Michigan; B.M., Wheaton College. Mrs. Crumbly's teachers include Daniel Paul Horn, Louis Nagel, Joanne Smith, and Kelley Benson. While a student, she was awarded the William Phemister prize in piano and the Joanne A. Smith prize in Piano Pedagogy. Mrs. Crumbly was a full-time lecturer in the pedagogy department at the University of Michigan, where she began her teaching career. She has performed extensively as both soloist and collaborator, and has worked locally with other soloists and groups such as the Virginia Chorale and Virginia Symphony Chorus. While continuing to thoroughly enjoy teaching and performing, Mrs. Crumbly truly adores her main "gig" as stay-at-home mom to her children.

**Charlene Dimalanta Dismaya**, Piano. B.M., Virginia Commonwealth University. Mrs. Dismaya's teachers include Landon Bilyeu and Elizabeth Sjolund and pedagogy with Stephen Kolb and Melissa Marrion. Mrs. Dismaya has been awarded the Paderewski Medal, the GPA Award for the Office of Student Minority Affairs and has been featured in Who's Who Among America's Colleges and Universities. In Richmond, Mrs. Dismaya participated in Commonwealth Singers, Filipino Americans Coming Together and she served as the student representative for VCU's Faculty Search Committee. She completed her B.M. in 2000, and has been teaching piano at The Academy of Music since. Mrs. Dismaya has also taught private piano and group music classes (for pre-school & elementary) at The Courthouse Montessori School in Virginia Beach, The Virginia Beach Music Academy and A-Major Music. She was the pianist for First Church of Christ Science for 5 years. Mrs. Dismaya has performed in a master class with Andre-Michel Schub and was the pianist for The Chrysler Museum's Annual Holiday Festival for 3 years. Currently, Mrs. Dismaya is pursuing her Master's of Science in Occupational Therapy at Virginia Commonwealth University. Upon graduation, May 2010, she plans to integrate her background as a musician with occupational therapy to help children with special needs.

**John S. Dixon**, Executive Director. M.B.A., Harvard Business School; M.A., Oxford University. Prior to joining The Academy, Mr. Dixon pursued a 20-year career in international business. He is organist and composer-in-residence at Providence Presbyterian Church in Kempsville and his music is frequently used in churches throughout Hampton Roads. His compositions also have been performed by many of the Academy's faculty and members of the Virginia Chorale and the Virginia Symphony. Mr. Dixon is an experienced adjudicator, clinician and active member of the Tidewater Chapter of The American Guild of Organists. Occasionally he can be heard broadcasting classical music on WHRO FM 90.3, the fine arts public radio station serving Hampton Roads.

**Karen S. Dixon**, Director of Development. M.B.A., Harvard Business School; B.S., University of Virginia; B.S., Wake Forest University. Mrs. Dixon has founded a business, worked in corporate banking in Pittsburgh and London and worked in the steel industry as an engineer. Prior to joining The Academy, she was an active volunteer in schools, church and with the Children's Hospital of the Kings Daughters while raising two children. Mrs. Dixon enjoys singing in choirs and playing handbells and is an enthusiastic audience member at concerts throughout Hampton Roads.

**Carol Thomas Downing**, Violin, fiddle, recorder, sight singing, music theory; M.A. Music Education, University of St. Thomas; B.A. Vocal Performance, (summa cum laude), Towson University. Ms. Downing is an experienced violinist, singer, children's choral director and an avid Celtic & Old-time fiddler. She has trained young musicians from preschool through the university level. She specializes in teaching ages 5 - adult, Suzuki Violin Books 1 - 7, and beginning through advanced fiddling. Her teachers include Berl Senofsky (violin) and Ruth Drucker (voice). Ms. Downing is former faculty member and chairperson of the Musicianship Department at the Peabody Preparatory of the Johns Hopkins University, where she taught violin, musicianship and chorus. Ms. Downing has served on the faculty of the Walden School for Young Composers (Dublin, N.H.) and is a contributing author to *The Walden School Musicianship Course: A Manual for Teachers*, (2002). She is Founder of the Peabody Children's Chorus (Baltimore), and Founder/Artistic Director of the Virginia Children's Chorus. Ms. Downing teaches at her home studio in Portsmouth, VA, and at the Academy of Music, Norfolk. She is a frequent clinician for community Suzuki violin workshops, and conductor and adjudicator for All-City & District Chorus events. Each summer she runs "Fiddle Fever", a week-long summer camp, and directs a student fiddle group, the "Flowing Tide Ceilidh Band". Ms. Downing is trained in the Suzuki and Kodaly methods. She is a member of the American Choral Directors Association, Chorus America, the Organization of Kodaly Educators, and the Suzuki Association of the Americas.

**Galina Epelman**, Piano. Professional Music School, Petrogradsky District in Piano Performance and Kirov Music College, B.M and M.M in Piano Pedagogy in Leningrad, Russia. Also she earned M.S. in biophysics from Leningrad State University and worked as a scientist for 30 years in Leningrad Agrophysics Institute, Russia and Virginia Polytechnic Institute in Virginia. Mrs. Epelman's first piano teaching job was at Petrogradsky District Professional Music School which she won in the Senior Year Competition. While in Graduate school at Kirov College, Ms. Epelman was awarded a scholarship to study piano performance and participate in master classes with Nikita Shadrin and Emma Volova, the distinguished artists at Leningrad State Conservatory. She is on the faculty of the Community Music Department at Old Dominion University and a substitute instructor at Governor's School for the Arts affiliated with ODU where she has been teaching group music theory and private piano classes. During summer 2002 and 2007, Galina Epelman traveled to St. Petersburg, Russia to take part in seminars on Music Theory and Piano Pedagogy sponsored by Petrogradsky District Professional Music School. Since 2003, Mrs. Epelman has been on the music faculty of the Academy of Music where she is responsible for about 20 students at different levels, including adults, where she regularly offers studio recitals, auditions, and opportunities for most promising students to compete for and win music scholarships, as well as finalist, first, second prizes at city and state competitions. Mrs. Epelman is currently a member of the Tidewater Music Teacher's Forum and American College of Musicians. She is an active participant in the events provided by these organizations.

**Sarah Ford**, Suzuki Violin. Prezuki, Creative Music Class, Suzuki Violin & Summer Camps. M.M. (Music Education with Concentration in Music Therapy), University of Georgia; B.M. (Music Education), Ohio Wesleyan University. Mrs. Ford started, teaches and is the coordinator of The Academy's Suzuki Violin Program. She has completed Suzuki Violin training courses *Every Child Can!*, *Books 1A- 3 and 1-4 Overview* with Martha Shackford, Ronda Cole and Susan Kempter. Mrs. Ford has been the music teacher at Loch Meadow Kindergarten for over 20 years. She is a member of Suzuki Association of the Americas (SAA) and the American Orff-Schulwerk Association (AOSA), and is Vice-President of STAHR (Suzuki Teachers' Association of Hampton Roads). She is also a member of the National Association for Music Education (MENC). Mrs. Ford sings in the Christ and St. Luke's Episcopal Church Choir (Norfolk).

**Heather Garcia**, Suzuki Violin and Viola, B.M (Music Performance). Mrs. Garcia, a native of Greenville, SC, began studying Suzuki viola at the age of nine with Lucie Fink. In 2000, she was accepted into the SC Governor's Arts and Humanities where she studied with Kathryn Dey and she graduated with honors. In 2002, she attended the University of Memphis on a full scholarship and had the privilege of studying under Mrs. Kimberly Meir-Simms receiving a Bachelor's in Music Performance with a concentration in Suzuki Violin Pedagogy. Before joining the Academy of Music, she was an instructor at the Buffalo Suzuki Strings school for four years under the direction of Mary Cay Neal. She also has completed *Every Child Can* and *Books I-VI* with Kimberly Meir-Simms, Mary Cay Neal, Carol Reuning-Hummel, and Edward Kreitman.

**John "BJ" Griffin**, Cello. Music Performance, James Madison University. BJ began playing the violin in the 5th grade in Virginia Beach. In middle school, he volunteered to play cello and fell in love with the sound. He went on to study at James Madison University as a music education and cello performance major. In addition to studying cello at JMU, BJ also studied violin, viola, string bass, piano, flute, clarinet, saxophone, drums, and three years of voice lessons. BJ began his teaching career during college in 2007 at Shenandoah Academy High School and Elementary school where he taught private lessons and started a strings program, while also keeping up a private violin and cello studio in the Shenandoah Valley. After James Madison University, he taught a high school vocal class and private violin lessons in the Bronx, NY. BJ has performed in various places nationally as well as internationally in China and Greece. He also attended the Bay View Music Festival in Petoskey, MI for 4 years and recently was a guest artist at the Gateways music Festival in Rochester New York. This past summer he was cello faculty at Interlochen Arts Camp in Michigan where he taught lessons, coached sectionals, and performed in faculty recitals. BJ's teaching philosophy incorporates techniques from his vocal background to connect the students' voices to the instruments. "If you can sing it, then you can play it."

**Rebecca Gilmore**, Cello, B.M., Indiana University; M.M., Cello Performance, Rice University. Her teachers include Janos Starker, Tsuyoshi Tsutsumi, Norman Fischer and Desmond Hoebig. Ms. Gilmore is currently a faculty member with The Academy of Music and Virginia Wesleyan College. She is an orchestral and chamber musician, and is currently Acting Assistant Principal Cello with The Virginia Symphony. Ms. Gilmore also performs with The Philadelphia Orchestra, The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and The Breckenridge Music Festival Orchestra. Previously she was Principal Cellist of The Greensboro Symphony where she made her solo debut performing Tchaikovsky's "Rococo Variations". Earlier in her career she soloed with the Charlotte Symphony and the Charlotte Repertory Orchestra and the latter with which she performed Haydn's "Cello Concerto in D Major". In May of 2010, Ms. Gilmore was broadcast live on NPR for a performance of Schubert's Guitar Quartet with JoAnn Falletta and VSO colleagues on a Virginia Arts Festival Series. She has been a featured solo and chamber artist with the Virginia Arts Festival, The Virginia Symphony, the Norfolk Chamber Consort and on

college series at Old Dominion University and Virginia Wesleyan College. Her cello career has taken her abroad to The Banff Centre for the Arts in Alberta, Canada, England, The Czech Republic, Austria, Germany, Switzerland, France, Italy and China. Within the United States, she has both taught and performed with numerous music festivals including the Breckenridge Music Festival Orchestra, The Brevard Music Center, Garth Newel Chamber Music Center, The National Repertory Orchestra, The National Orchestral Institute, and the North Carolina School of the Arts' International Music Program where she was a soloist with orchestra throughout Europe. In Canada she and pianist/composer Gabriela Frank performed Frank's world premiere of "Rios Profundos" which was recently released on a Capstone Records label titled, "It Won't Be The Same River" with the Mallarmé Chamber Players of Durham, North Carolina. As a chamber musician, she is co-founder of Ambrosia Quartet, a professional ensemble of players from the VSO whose debut in 2005 on the Feldman Chamber Music Society Series entranced a full house of patrons of works by Shostakovich, Brahms and Beethoven. The group came together in the fall of 2002 and has been featured on the Familiar Faces Series at Virginia Wesleyan College, for the Virginia Arts Festival and for the Music in Your Life Series in Williamsburg, VA. Ambrosia Quartet has traveled throughout Hampton Roads (VA), to North Carolina and as far reaching as China to perform. More recently Ambrosia is exploring both quartet and trio repertoire in pursuits of future recordings. As a teacher, Ms. Gilmore "carries the torch" as her teacher, Janos Starker, instructed. She has taught both private lessons and as faculty of institutions such as the Academy of Music, the Governor's School for the Arts and the Brevard Music Center (NC). She is trained by the Suzuki Association of the Americas in Suzuki Cello Book 1.

**Karen A. Hoy**, Voice. M.S., The Juilliard School; B.M., Temple University. Originally from Philadelphia, Ms. Hoy has performed extensively in opera, oratorio and recital. Her major instructors were Ellen Faull, Estelle Liebling, and Eleanor Steber. She has won numerous vocal competitions including first place in both the Liederkranz and Kosciusko Foundation's vocal competitions. Prominent conductors she has worked with include Gustave Meier, Anton Coppola and James Conlon. In Norfolk, Virginia Ms. Hoy maintains a private studio of advanced high school students and adults. Her students have been accepted at major music schools and conservatories and former students sing at some of the major opera houses in the United States and Europe. She has been an active member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) for over 30 years and is Governor of the Virginia District of NATS.

**William P. Hunter**, Facility Manager and Administrative Associate; B.A in Economics, Trinity College, Hartford, CN; M.S. in Physical Oceanography, U.S. Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA. Mr. Hunter is a retired U.S. Naval Officer, having served 20 years on active duty. He is also retired from his second career as Project Manager and Advance Planning Manager at a local shipyard, Metro Machine, Inc. He is active in the community serving as Secretary on the Board of Directors of Symphonicity, the Symphony Orchestra of Virginia Beach. He is also presently the Chorus Manager of Symphonicity Chorus. He is a founding member and past president of Schola Cantorum, a mixed voice *a cappella* chorus which performs throughout the Tidewater area of Virginia. He is a member of Vestry at his church, Eastern Shore Chapel Episcopal Church in Virginia Beach and also sings in the choir at that church.

**Catherine Keresztesi-Stevens**, Suzuki Violin. B.M. in Music Education (violin/voice), Eastern Michigan University; M.A. in Early Childhood Education, Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Virginia. Ms. Keresztesi-Stevens received her Suzuki education with Hiroko Iratani Driver at the Blue Lake Suzuki Camp in Michigan and has taught Suzuki violin for over 35 years and was coordinator of the Ann Arbor Suzuki Institute for over five years. She coauthored a Suzuki reading method with Evelyn Avsharian, ***Mississippi Hot Dog Lonely Hamburger Band*** and ***Happy Hamburger Hoe-down***. She is Montessori Preschool trained and is completing a master's degree in early childhood education. She is a member of the Suzuki Association of the Americas (SAA).

**Bokyoung Bonnie Kim**, Flute. M.M., Professional Studies, Manhattan School of Music; 1<sup>st</sup> Diploma, Conservatoire de St. Maur; 1<sup>st</sup> Diploma, Conservatoire du 10em de Paris. Ms. Kim is a winner of the Young Artist Competition in France and Concours l'UFAM, Bellin and Nerini. She has served as a faculty member at the Manhattan School of Music, and Sam Yook University in Korea. Ms. Kim has performed numerous concerts in France, Korea and the US and has taught master classes in Korea and in the US. Her students have won numerous competitions at regional and national levels. Ms. Kim is on the faculty of Old Dominion University, Christopher Newport University, Tidewater Community College and also is on the faculty and director of the International Flute Institute of New York Summer Music Festival.

**Stephen Kolb**, Founder & Piano. M.M., Northwestern University; B.M., Wheaton College. Mr. Kolb served as The Academy of Music's Executive Director for its first decade, and is currently Director of Music at First Presbyterian Church, Hampton, VA. Mr. Kolb's teachers include David Kaiserman, Daniel Paul Horne, William Phemister, Reginald Gerig, Andor Kiszely and Maureen Hooper. He served as a member of the piano faculty at Wheaton College, where he also founded a children's music program. Mr. Kolb has appeared locally in numerous classical and jazz solo and accompanying roles and has recorded with the ACC Heritage Band (Langley), Swing Shift (jazz trio), Renewal Artists, and the Virginia Symphony. He holds certification in Orff-Schulwerk, (Levels I, II and III). Mr. Kolb has been recognized by the Cultural Alliance of Hampton Roads for contributions to the cultural life of the area. He is a past chairman of the Southern Region of the National Guild of Community Schools of the Arts and past board president of Bay Youth Orchestras of Virginia. He is a past chairman of the Southern Region of the National Guild of Community Schools of the Arts.

**Keiko Ishibashi**, Traditional and Suzuki Violin. B.M. (Music Performance), Musashino Music Conservatory; D.M. (Jazz Performance), Berklee College of Music. Mrs. Ishibashi teaches violin and performs with creative artists. She is also an arranger for CMH Records witch releases string chamber music in the style of Jazz, Rock and Electronic music. She has completed Suzuki Violin training courses Every Child Can!, Books 1 with Marilyn O'Boyle, 2 with Carrie Reuning-Hummel. Mrs. Ishibashi was the Suzuki violin instructor at Brooklyn College Preparatory center Suzuki Program. She has been the assistant director for the Sawami Morse music studio (Bloomfield, NJ) since 2009. Mrs. Ishibashi actively volunteered to hold workshops for children in need at many public school sectors in NJ. She is a member of Suzuki Association of the Americas (SAA).

**Simon Lapointe**, Violin. M.M., Peabody Conservatory. Simon Lapointe was born in Quebec, Canada, in 1979. He showed interest in the violin at the age of 2, and received his first violin lesson 2 years later. He obtained his Bachelor's of Music from the Conservatoire de Trois-Rivières in 2000, studying with Helmut Lipsky and Joanne Pothier. He then went on to get his MM at the Peabody Conservatory of Music with soloist and now Tokyo String Quartet 1st violinist Martin Beaver. Simon is in his fifth season as the Principal Second Violin of the Virginia Symphony Orchestra. He previously played with the Orchestre Symphonique de Québec and the West Virginia Symphony, as Assistant Principal Second Violin and Concertmaster, respectively. He was recently appointed Assistant Concertmaster of the Richmond Symphony Orchestra, and starting in 2010, will also serve as Assistant Principal Second Violin of the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra. He is Adjunct Professor of Violin at the Virginia Commonwealth University. He was a prizewinner of many competitions in the US and Canada. He is regularly invited as a soloist and recitalist in Baltimore, Quebec and Hampton Roads, as well as at the Lanaudière Festival.

**Robert McDonald**, Drums/Percussion. Virginia State University. Mr. McDonald has performed professionally for over 30 years. He has toured internationally, and has made TV and film appearances with actor/singer, Melba Moore. Mr. McDonald has opened for Freddie Hubbard, Stanley Turrentine, Roy Ayers, The Whispers, Hampton Jazz Festival, and others. He also served in the U.S. Army Band. Currently, Mr. McDonald performs throughout Hampton Roads as a jazz, pop, gospel, and rhythm and blues drummer.

**Christina B. Morton**, Park View Elementary Strings & Summer Camps. M.Ed., Old Dominion University; B.M.E., Northwestern University. Ms. Morton has been a member of the Virginia Symphony for over twenty years. She is well known in the Hampton Roads area as a Suzuki violin instructor. Ms. Morton has taught for “Twinklers to Sizzlers... Suzuki Violin” and Norfolk Public Schools (strings and harp). She also teaches at the Hebrew Academy of Tidewater and Home School Plus (at Ingleside Baptist). She conducts the Bay Youth Junior and String Orchestras, and serves as guest conductor for All-City orchestra programs throughout the Tidewater area.

**Maiyah Olivas**, Taiko (Japanese Folk Drumming). Creative Writing Certificate, Columbia University; B.A., University of Virginia. Ms. Olivas first drummed and danced with Charlottesville’s Chihamba West African Group, and then studied Taiko in Tokyo for 3 years with Kenny Endo and Kobayashi Seido. After returning to the US, she joined Soh Daiko, a professional-level Taiko group in Manhattan, performing with them for 5 years in venues such as Sesame Street and the Smithsonian Institute. She has taught at the North American Taiko Conference, the Collegiate Taiko Invitational and the Summer Taiko Institute. She is a third-degree black belt in Uechi Ryu Karate Do (which she taught at UVA) and has a private coaching practice specializing in stress release. Her work incorporates body/mind integration, feng shui, Reiki and Flower Essence Therapies.

**Marjorie Setnicky**, Piano. Has a background in piano performance from the Cleveland Institute of Music (Preparatory Department) and Music Education from Bowling Green State University. Marjorie studied piano with Francis Burnett, harpsichord with Dr. Vincent Corrigan and organ with Dr. Allen Shaffer. She has a large piano studio in Suffolk, and also instructs piano for the Academy of Music in Norfolk, Virginia. Marjorie is a past clinician for the regional American Guild of English Handbell Ringers performs actively with *Tapestry*, a small ensemble and solo-ringing performance group, and served as the conductor of the *Virginia Handbell Consort* 2001-2003. Marjorie is currently the Assistant Organist at Christ & Saint Luke's Church in Norfolk, Virginia, and has appeared for the 10th year in the *Organ Swell* as a part of the *Virginia Arts Festival*.

**Virginia Vail**, Voice. B.M.E, Wheaton College. Ms. Vail is a classically trained soprano who performs locally in classical, cabaret, theater and jazz venues. She is also an actor and has worked for a variety of theaters in the Hampton Roads area. She has done solo cabaret shows of American popular song and jazz standards as well as a variety of musical theater productions and has been a soloist with the Virginia Symphony and the professional vocal ensemble the Virginia Chorale. She has been a soloist for fifteen years with the choir of Trinity Episcopal Church in Portsmouth where she is also a member.

**Megan Van Gimple**, Suzuki Violin. M.M. in Violin Performance and Suzuki Pedagogy, The Hartt School; B.M.E. Valparaiso University. Prior to joining The Academy, Ms. Van Gimple was an active Suzuki violin and viola instructor in Connecticut. She received her Masters degree in Violin and Suzuki Pedagogy at the Hartt School of Music, where her teacher trainers were Teri Einfeldt and Linda Fiore. Before her time there, she was a public school strings instructor in suburban Milwaukee, conducting elementary and high school orchestras. An active violinist and violist, she counts among her teachers Anton Miller, Joanie Mercy-Johnson, and Chicago Lyric opera players June DeForest and Daniel Morgenstern. She has participated in master classes with the Miami String Quartet, Boston Pops conductor Keith Lockhart, the Diaz Trio, and the Turtle Island String Quartet. She attended the Brevard Music Festival as a chamber music fellow and participated in the Stamford International Chamber Music Festival in England. She has performed with the Concord Chamber Orchestra in Milwaukee, the Hartt Symphony Orchestra and the Waterbury (CT) Symphony Orchestra. She is currently the assistant concertmaster of Symphonicity, the Virginia Beach Symphony Orchestra.

**Joanne Whitaken**, Creative Music Classes & Summer Camps. B.M., University of Wisconsin, Madison; M.M., The Peabody Conservatory of Music of Johns Hopkins University. As a vocal soloist, Ms. Robinson has a wide performance history including a position with the Virginia Opera Company as a Spectrum Resident Artist. One of her responsibilities was to bring opera to elementary schools throughout Virginia. Ms. Robinson has had extensive experience working with young children and also teaches preschool Sunday school music at First Presbyterian Church of Norfolk. She also maintains a private voice studio and pursues her solo performance career.

**Sarah Winn**, Suzuki Violin. Thomas Edison State College (BA expected Dec. 2010)  
A homegrown Hampton Roads Suzuki student Miss Winn has been actively involved with STAHR, AOM (Summer Camps), and Bay Youth Orchestra throughout her Suzuki education. In addition, she received Suzuki training Every Child Can and Book 1 with Libby Armour, had an internship with Bay Youth Orchestra's Junior Strings (2 years), and was an AOM Suzuki Camp counselor throughout high school and college. Miss Winn is a member of the Suzuki Association of the Americas (SAA) and Suzuki Teachers' Association of Hampton Roads (STAHR)

**Claudia Wootton**, Voice and piano. Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) (BA). Claudia is a native Virginian returning to the Academy of Music after finishing graduate work in St. Louis and work in Seattle. She has been teaching for 16 years since graduating from VCU where she studied voice and education. Her passion and exuberance for music has lead to teaching all ages (from infants to adult) a variety of musical disciplines. Her previous work experience includes teaching music at First Presbyterian Pre-School and leading worship at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Norfolk.

**Dionne Wright**, Cello & Chamber Music Program. M.M., Pennsylvania State University; B.M., Ohio University, Magna cum Laude. Ms. Wright attended the Governor's School for the Arts. She has performed in Bath, England, as principal cellist of the Dublin Music Festival in Ireland, and the Soesterberg International Music Festival in Holland. Also, she has performed with the Charleston Symphony Orchestra, the Virginia Symphony, the Virginia Beach Symphony, and the River Cities Orchestra, as well as other regional orchestras and music festivals across the country. Recently, Ms. Wright performed as principle cellist of the Kennedy Center National Symphony Orchestra Summer Music Institute, where the world premier of her piece "Cello Quintonomy: A Piece for Five Cellos" was performed on the Kennedy Center Millennium Stage.