

# CECILIA HUERTA-LAUF - Curriculum Vitae

Violoncello, 2/27/1987

[www.cellohuerta.com](http://www.cellohuerta.com)

9915 Fringe Tree Ct/ Louisville, KY 40241

phone: 615-417-2110 email: [cellohuerta@gmail.com](mailto:cellohuerta@gmail.com)

## **Education**

Doctorate of Musical Arts, Teaching Assistantship with honors May 2014	University of Miami, Miami, Florida
Master's of Music Performance with honors May 2011	New England Conservatory, Boston, Massachusetts
Bachelor's of Music Performance, Magna cum laude June 2009	DePaul University, Chicago, Illinois
Pre-college studies May 2005	Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee

## **Principal Teachers and Mentors**

2011-2014	Ross Harbaugh
2009-2011	Paul Katz
2008-2009	Brant Taylor
2005-2007	Stephen Balderston
2001-2005	Felix Wang
1997-2001	Bradley Mansell
1991-1997	Anne Hall Williams
2011-Present	Vincent L. Maggio
2010-Present	Benjamin Zander
2001-Present	Catherine Lehr Ramos

## **Chamber Music Ensemble Teachers and Mentors**

2011-2014	Paul Posnak
2009-2010	Vivian Weilerstein

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2010	Mai Motobuchi
September-December 2010	NEC Borromeo String Quartet Seminar (participant)
September-December 2009	Randall Hodgkinson
2005-2009	Rami Solomonow
2008-2009	Roger Goodman
2007	Ilya Kaler
1999-2004	John Kochanowski

## **Orchestral Conductors and Training**

2011-2014	Thomas Sleeper
2010-2011	Benjamin Zander
2009-2011	Hugh Wolff
2009-2011	David Loebel
2006-2009	Cliff Colnot
2005-2006	Tom Hall
1999-2005	Carol Nies
1997-1999	Sally McFadden
1995-1997	Celeste Tuten

## **Professional Employment and Training**

January 2016-Present	NouLou Chamber Players (co-founding director and cellist)
April 2017	Louisville Orchestra (guest assistant principal)
March 2017-Present	Louisville Orchestra (substitute)
March 2015-February 2017	Louisville Orchestra (substitute for selective concerts)
May 2015-Present	Electria (electric cello, member)
October 2014-February 2017	Paducah Symphony Orchestra (assistant principal cellist)

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September 2014-Present	Highland Chamber Players (substitute)
April-May 2018	Nashville Recording Studio Sessions (freelance cellist)
December 2012-March 2016	Broadway Across America (Lion King, Mary Poppins, and Phantom of the Opera)
September 2015	Lexington Philharmonic Orchestra (substitute cellist)
August 2013-May 2014	Henry Mancini Institute String Quartet (founding member)
January 2012-May 2014	Florida Grand Opera (member and substitute)
February-March 2013	Palm Beach Symphony (substitute)
November 2013	University of Miami's Ring Theatre (She Loves Me)
November-December 2012	The House Theatre of Chicago (The Nutcracker: A Magical Story for Christmas)
September 2011-May 2014	Henry Mancini Institute (principal cellist and fellow)
December 2010-2011	Boston Latin-American Orchestra (founding administrative director/principal cellist)
October 2010-April 2011	Discovery Ensemble (member)
October 2010	Boston Philharmonic Orchestra (substitute)
September 2010-May 2011	NEC Community Performances and Partnerships Program (fellow)
August 2008-June 2009	Civic Orchestra of Chicago (member)
September 2005-2009	Oistrach Symphony Orchestra (founding assistant principal cellist)
September 2008-May 2009	MusiCorps (mentor for Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras)

## **Teaching Experience**

August 7-14, 2016	Suzuki Cello Unit One Training & Certification <i>Completed 28 hours of class time and 15 hours of observation for Suzuki Cello Unit One Training &amp; Certification at Southwestern Ontario Suzuki Institute 2016 with Susan Gagnon</i>
June-July 2016	"Musical Storytime with Cecilia and the Cello" at Louisville Free Public Library branches (presenter)

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*Gave four musical story presentations at different Louisville Free Public Library branches*

- October 16, 2015 “Once Upon a Time: A Storybook Halloween” at Main Library of Louisville Free Public Library  
(presenter)  
*Presented and performed a musical story presentation for 600+ children and parents with an instrument petting zoo*
- September 2015-Present Westport Middle School  
(cello coach)  
*Teach weekly sectionals for twenty young cellists grades 6th-8th*
- September 2015-April 2017 Wheeler Elementary School  
*Teach and run a Suzuki Cello Program for three-four young cellists once a week with ten classes per semester*
- September 2015-November 2016 Farmer Elementary School  
*Teach and run a Suzuki Cello Program for five young cellists once a week with ten classes per semester*
- August 22, 2015 Every Child Can Class! (ECC) Course  
*Participated in one day course with Dr. Timothy Durbin at University of Louisville*
- July 2015-2016 University of Louisville Community Music Program  
*Co-teaching Suzuki Steps Baby/Toddler class*
- March 12, 2015 “Lion King” School Presentation  
(organizer/presenter)  
*Organized and presented a demonstration of music from Broadway Across America’s “Lion King” with selected touring musicians and actors at Hite Elementary with a following question and answer session*
- February 2015-Present Educational music consultant  
*Provided string sectional coachings for students at the Louisville Youth Orchestra, Meyzeek Middle School, and Youth Performing Arts School*
- February 2015-July 2017 Suzuki Stars Music Academy  
*Teach a cello introduction class, string improvisation class, private cello lessons, and co-teach Suzuki Steps Baby/Toddler class*
- September 2014-Present Private teacher in Louisville area

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*Teach private cello lessons ranging elementary-adult level  
(currently 8 private students)*

March 21-23, 2014

The O'Connor String Method Teacher Training Certification,  
Books I & II (teacher training)

September 2011-May 2014

University of Miami  
(teaching assistant to Ross Harbaugh)  
*Taught 15 hours a week of the following at the college and  
graduate levels: private cello lessons, orchestral repertoire class,  
technique class, chamber music, cello choir, string orchestra  
sectionals, assist running studio class and other studio duties*

September 2011-May 2014

Frost School of Music String Academy  
(private teacher)  
*Taught 2 junior high cello students*

April-May 2012

Superior Music Academy  
(substitute teacher)  
*Taught 3 junior high and high school cello students*

September 2011-May 2014

Henry Mancini Institute Outbound Program  
(fellow)  
*Perform in a community outreach concert, educational or musical  
story presentation once a semester*

November 2012

Tuneful Tales at Miami International Book Fair  
(presenter)  
*Presented and performed a musical story presentation for 40  
children at Miami International Book Fair with an instrument  
petting zoo*

September 2010-May 2011

New England Conservatory  
(studio assistant to Paul Katz)  
*Assisted in running the cello studio*

January-May 2011

NEC Music History Department  
(teaching assistant to department chair Katarina Markovic's  
Introduction to Style)  
*Assisted in running and teaching an undergraduate history class*

September 2010-May 2011

NEC Community Performances and Partnerships Program  
(fellow)  
*Gave musical story presentations for kindergarten classrooms with  
guidance and training under Tanya Maggi*

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- October 2010-April 2011      Discovery Ensemble  
(member)  
*Performed as member of the ensemble and participated in musical workshops, sectionals and private lessons with the orchestra and chamber groups for Boston public schools, including Conservatory Lab Charter School*
- April 2011      Boston Public Schools District-Wide String Festival  
(volunteer)  
*Coached elementary string students to perform their pieces for the final festival performance*
- September 2008-May 2009      MusiCorps Program  
(mentor)  
*Acted as mentor for Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra program by giving sectionals to the cello sections, and received teaching training in workshops*
- July 2008      Manchester Music Festival's Music Discovery Week  
*Taught private lessons and showcased the students' final performance*
- September 2005-May 2014      Private teacher in Chicago, Boston and Miami  
*Teach private students ranging elementary-graduate level*

## **Publications, Discussion Panels and Boards**

- May 12, 2015-Present      Member of Chamber Music Society of Louisville Board -  
(committees include executive as president, secretary, marketing & communications, and programming)
- May 2014      "The Exploration and Creation of Cello Arrangements for Selected Works by Carlos Guastavino"  
(University of Miami, D.M.A. dissertation)
- February 10, 2014      "Finding Your Musical Mission in a Symphony Orchestra with Michael Tilson Thomas," New World Symphony Virtual Hangout Series  
(guest panelist)

## **Synergistic Activities**

- June 7, 2018      GRL PWR Middle School Girl's Summit  
(guest speaker)

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- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| May 20, 2017      | Kentucky Cello Club Competition<br>(judge)  |
| February 11, 2017 | Kentucky Educators Music Association Conference<br>(guest electric cellist performer) |
| October 23, 2016  | Kentucky MTNA Competitions, Junior Strings<br>(judge)                                 |

## Awards, Competitions, and Honors

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| May 2014                 | Outstanding Doctoral Student Award 2014 at the Frost School of Music from the University of Miami                   |
| April 2014               | Beta Beta Chapter of Pi Kappa Lambda, National Music Honorary Society<br>(inducted member)                          |
| May 2013                 | Downbeat Award for Outstanding Classical Group<br>(HMI Chamber Ensemble)  |
| April 2013               | Award from University of Miami Graduate Student Association<br>(Academic Excellence, Leadership, and Service Award) |
| August 2012              | Carlos Prieto International Cello Competition<br>(semi-finalist)  |
| November 2011            | Frost Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition<br>(first place winner)   |
| March 2011               | Chicago Edes Foundation Prize for Emerging Young Artists<br>(nominee)   |
| February 2011            | New England Conservatory Entrepreneurial Grant<br>(recipient winner)  |
| September 2008-June 2009 | Civic Orchestra of Chicago<br>(fellowship award)  |
| November 2007            | Chicago Cliff Dwellers String Competition<br>(first place winner)   |
| December 2004            | National YoungArts Foundation<br>(honorable mention)  |
| January 2004             | MTNA Southern Regionals Senior Strings Competition  |

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(honorable mention)

November 2003 MTNA Tennessee Senior Strings Competition  
(first place winner)

November 2003 Nashville Symphony Orchestra  
(solo appearance)

November 2003 Nashville Youth Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition  
(first place winner)

## **Festivals**

Summer 2011 Carteret Cello Festival, Carteret, France (with director Alexander Baillie)

Summer 2010 Banff Centre Masterclasses, Banff, Canada

Summer 2008 Manchester Music Festival, Manchester, Vermont

Summer 2006 Orvieto Musica, Orvieto, Italy

Summer 2005 Kennedy Center/National Symphony Summer Music Institute, D.C.

Summer 2002 Killington Music Festival, Killington, Vermont

Summers 2001, 2003, 2004 Rocky Mountain Summer Conservatory, Steamboat Springs, Colorado

## **Other Relevant Performing Experience and Academic Training**

November 2017-Present Special Composition Project with Rachel Grimes  
(cellist)

July 14, 2018 Forecastle Symphony at Forecastle Festival  
(cellist)

January 17, 2018 WUOLive Lunchtime Classics  
(cellist)

November 11 & 12, 2017 Louisville Ballet, Firebird Suite  
(principal cello)

July 8 & 9, 2017 Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone Live with Louisville Orchestra  
(substitute cellist)



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- |   |   |
|---|---|
| June 21, 2017   | Fete de la Musique Louisville with NouLou Chamber Players (cellist)   |
| April 15, 2017  | Louisville Orchestra, Festival of American Music with conductors Michael Tilson Thomas & Teddy Abrams (guest assistant principal cello) |
| November 10, 2016   | Zelda: Symphony of the Goddesses Concert (assistant principal cello)  |
| September 4, 2016   | Old Louisville LIVE with NouLou Chamber Players (cellist)   |
| April 21, 2016  | Music City Hit-Makers as St. Jude's Benefit concert (principal cello)   |
| January 28, 2016  | NouLou Chamber Players premier concert "Mozart Birthday Bash" at the Conrad-Caldwell House Museum (co-founding director and cellist)    |
| December 2, 2015  | Trans Siberian Orchestra, Louisville, Kentucky (cello section)  |
| November 12, 2015   | Louisville Orchestra, "Grawemeyer 30th Anniversary Concert" (substitute cellist)  |
| November 8, October 4, June 28, March 8, 2015; and October 26, 2014 | The Classical Hour on live radio with Nada Loutfi (guest cellist)   |
| September 25, 2015  | Indiana University Southeast "A Chamber Music Extravaganza" (guest cellist)   |
| May 10, 2015; and May 19, 2013                                      | Dayton Chamber Music Society, Dayton, Ohio (guest cellist)  |
| April 10 & 11, 2015   | Louisville Ballet, "Director's Choice: A New World" (assistant principal cellist)   |
| March 27, 2015  | "Songs in the Key of Life Performance Tour" with Stevie Wonder (cellist)  |
| March 24, 2015  | Louisville Orchestra, "Making MUSIC" series (substitute cellist)  |
| May 6, 7 & 20, 2014   | HMI String Quartet Launch CD Recording  |

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- (founding cellist)
- May 18, 2014 US Premiere of Thomas Sleeper's "Comhrá" for cello and orchestra with Florida Youth Orchestra (soloist)
- April 28, 2014 HMI String Quartet Launch Concert, premiering string quartet works by Jeremy Fox, Luis Miguel Gil, Gene Knific, Peter Learn, Rafael Piccoletto de Lima, Brian Lynch, and David Mendoza (founding cellist)
- April 7, 2014 Premiere of 7 cello ensemble arrangements by Cecilia Huerta of Carlos Guastavino's works (arranger)
- April 1, 2014 "With Love by Jeremy Fox: arrangements for some of my favorite singers" album (cellist)
- January-April 2014 Double bass lessons with Dr. Brian Powell
- October 13, 2013 Festival Miami, Fiddles on Fire - Featuring Mark O'Connor & Glenn Basham (soloist, duo with O'Connor on "Limerock")
- April 8, 2013 Douglas J. Cuomo Concert, Miami, Florida (soloist for selected cello works)
- March 3, 2013 "With Love - Jeremy Fox: Arrangements for some of my favorite singers" album at Jazzbill Records (cellist)
- February 20, 2013 Dani Martin at The Hit Factory Criteria Recording Studios (recorded for upcoming album)
- February 18, 2013 "Lembracas dum Pe-de-Serra" cello sextet by Rafael Piccoletto de Lima, Miami, Florida (premiered)
- January 11, 2013 PBS Special "Jazz at the Philharmonic" (principal cellist)
- November 25, 2012 Miami Bach Society (cellist)
- November 3, 2012 "George Benson - Inspiration: A Tribute to Nat King Cole" album at

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	The Hit Factory Criteria Recording Studios (principal cellist)
September 2011-May 2014	Frost Symphony/Chamber Orchestra (principal cellist)
September 2011-May 2014	Henry Mancini Orchestra (principal cellist)
September 2011-May 2014	Bluegrass training with Mark O'Connor
September 2011-May 2014	Classical and jazz improvisation training with Vincent L. Maggio
May 4, 2011	"Shifting, Grasp, Disintegrated" chamber music work by Elijah Wallace for NEC Student Composer Showcase in Jordan Hall (premiered)
January-May 2011	Free improvisation training with Warren Senders
September 2010-April 2011	NEC Lab Orchestra with Aram Demirjian, Andres Lopera, and Joshua Weilerstein (principal cellist)
March 4, 2010	US premiere of Gunther Schuller's "Peter and the Wolf", Jordan Hall, Boston, Massachusetts (principal cellist)
July 2010	"Weezer-Hurley" album (principal cellist)
February 2007	"Ambush from Ten Sides" Silk Road Ensemble demo recording (accompanying cellist)
September 2005-May 2014	Boston Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and Cleveland Symphony Orchestra (cello sectional training)
June 2005	Nashville Symphony Orchestra Side-by-side concert (cello section)
2002-2012	Solo cello master classes with Alexander Baillie, Colin Carr, Andres Diaz, David Hardy, Desmond Hoebig, Thomas Landschoot, Amid Peled, Peter Rejto, and Raphael Wallfisch
2002-2010	Chamber music master classes with Larry Combs, Mathieu DuFour, Dimitri Murrath, and Peter Zazofsky

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- 2013-2014 Improvisation, multi-genre masterclasses and workshops with Jeremy Cohen, Christian Howes and Todd Reynolds
- 2011-2014 Performed the following opera productions both in school and professionally: Bellini "La Sonnambula"; Gounod "Romeo et Juliette"; Massenet "Thaïs"; Mozart "Die Zauberflöte," "Don Giovanni," and "Le nozze di Figaro"; Puccini "Il Trittico" and "La Rondine"; and Verdi "La Traviata," "Nabucco," "Rigoletto," and "Tosca."
- 2005-Present Worked and performed under conductors Teddy Abrams, David Afkham, Daniel Bowling, Cliff Colnot, Sir Mark Elder, Leon Fleisher, Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos, James Gaffigan, Gary Green, Bernard Haitink, Miguel Harth-Bedoya, James Judd, Carlos Kalmar, David Loebel, Courtney Lewis, Leo McFall, Vince Mendoza, Raffaele Ponti, Larry Rachleff, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Gunther Schuller, Tara Simoncic, Thomas Sleeper, Michael Tilson Thomas, Cristian Macelaru, Ramon Tebar, Thomas Wilkins, Hugh Wolff, Benjamin Zander, and Mina Zikri
- Fall 2005-April 2018 Accompanied Classical artists Eteri Andjaparidze, Stephen Balderston, Michael Barenboim, Joshua Bell, Jane Bunnell, Mathieu Dufour, Daniel Gingrich, John Hagstrom, Ilya Kaler, Susanne Mentzer, Edgar Meyer, Eric Owens, Rami Solomonow, and Yuja Wang
- 2011-2013 Accompanied Jazz artists Cyrille Aimée, George Benson, Shelly Berg, Terence Blanchard, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Chick Corea, Michael Feinstein, Gordon Goodwin, Denyce Graves, Dave Grusin, Nicole Henry, Monica Mancini, Vincent L. Maggio, Bobby McFerrin, and Take 6
- 2012-2013 Accompanied popular artists Andrea Bocelli, Ben Folds, Forte Tenors, Gloria Estefan, Kenny Loggins, Jon Secada, Kevin Spacey, and Stevie Wonder
- 2011-Present Worked with and performed with arrangers and composers Jeremy Fox, Rachel Grimes, David Anthony Pegel, Rafael Piccolotto de Lima, Vince Mendoza, Raul Murciano, Gunther Schuller, Thomas Sleeper, and Randy Waldman
- 1998-2014 Solo and chamber music performances for community service projects in Miami, Boston, Chicago, Nashville, Colorado and Vermont areas

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**Described as “an assured soloist” with “fearless technique,” Cecilia Huerta brings passion and heart to her performances as an accomplished cellist.** A native of Dickson, Tennessee, she began playing the cello at age 4. She made her solo debut with the Nashville Symphony Orchestra at age 16. Her musical education began with a pre-college program at Vanderbilt University, extended to her undergraduate degree at DePaul University studying under Chicago Symphony Orchestra cellists Steve Balderston and Brant Taylor, and continued with her master's degree at the New England Conservatory of Music as a student of Paul Katz. Recently, Cecilia completed her doctorate and teaching assistantship studying with Ross Harbaugh at the Frost School of Music at University of Miami, Florida. Her dissertation “The Exploration and Creation of Cello Arrangements for Selected Works by Carlos Guastavino” is available for public viewing.

She has enjoyed tenures with groups such as the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, the Discovery Ensemble, Florida Grand Opera, and Oistrach Symphony Orchestra as well as a substitute for the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra. Cecilia was also the founding administrative director and principal cellist of the Boston Latin-American Orchestra. She has played under the direction of conductors such as Bernard Haitink, Esa-Pekka Salonen, and Michael Tilson-Thomas. Cecilia was the first prize winner of the Chicago Cliff Dwellers String Competition, Frost Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition, has been awarded with the New England Conservatory's Entrepreneurial Grant, and was a nominee for the Chicago Edes Foundation Prize for Emerging Young Artists in 2011. In August of 2012, she was selected as one of 17 semi-finalists from around the world in the Carlos Prieto International Cello Competition held in Morelia, Mexico. As a Henry Mancini Institute Fellow, she served as principal cellist and worked with young composers and arrangers such as Latin-Grammy nominated Rafael Piccolotto de Lima. Cecilia was also selected as a member of the newly established HMI String Quartet 2013-14 where she recorded commissioned works by Frost students, alumni and faculty.

Currently, Cecilia is freelancing and residing in the Louisville, Kentucky area. As of January 2016, Cecilia is a co-founding director and cellist of the NouLou Chamber Players ([noulou.org](http://noulou.org)). She is a substitute cellist for the Louisville Orchestra and performed as guest assistant principal during the 2017 Festival of American Music with conductors Teddy Abrams and Michael Tilson Thomas. Cecilia has served as assistant principal cellist of Paducah Symphony Orchestra, has performed as assistant principal cellist for the Louisville Ballet, and a member of the Highland Chamber Players and as an electric cellist in Electria. She has also served as a substitute cellist for selected concerts in the Lexington Philharmonic. Additionally, Cecilia is a member of the Chamber Music Society of Louisville Board including executive committee. In the chamber music world, she has received training from artists such as Borromeo String Quartet, Vivian Weilerstein, Rami Solomonow, and Ilya Kaler. She has performed at numerous chamber music summer festivals and recently on Louisville Crescent Hill Radio's “Classical Hour” live show, Miami Bach Society and Dayton Chamber Music Society. Cecilia enjoys expanding her repertoire outside of the traditional classical scene with forays into Latin-American music, Jazz, Bluegrass, improvisation, rock, theater, and Broadway. As of May 2015, she has joined Electria

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as an electric cellist. Broadway shows include “Lion King,” “Mary Poppins,” and “Phantom of the Opera.” Recently, Cecilia has received bluegrass training with Mark O’Connor and performed “Limerock” duo with him at the “Fiddles on Fire” concert during Festival Miami ‘13. Her other improvisation trainers have included Warren Senders and Vincent L. Maggio as well as masterclasses with Christian Howes and Jeremy Cohen. She has recorded albums with George Benson at the Hit Factory and Weezer, while accompanying popular and Jazz artists in PBS specials and live shows such as Bobby McFerrin, Chick Corea, Terence Blanchard, Dave Grusin, Vince Mendoza, Michael Feinstein, Shelly Berg, Andrea Bocelli, Kenny Loggins, Ben Folds, Gloria Estefan, and Stevie Wonder. Cecilia has participated in music festivals across the United States, Canada, France, and Italy, including the Banff Centre and Carteret Cello Festival. More recently, she was in the Forecastle Symphony at Forecastle Festival.

As an instructor, Cecilia brings support and dedication to her pupils, having taught at the university and preparatory levels at University of Miami, Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra, Frost String Academy, and Superior Music Academy. She is also a certified teacher in Suzuki Cello Unit One and in O’Connor String Method. Locally, Cecilia has served on faculty at Suzuki Stars Music Academy and University of Louisville’s Community Music Program. She currently has a private cello studio and is a guest coach for Louisville Youth Orchestra, Meyzeek Middle School, and Youth Performing Arts School. She gives weekly coachings to cello students at Westport Middle School and has run Suzuki cello programs at Farmer and Wheeler Elementary Schools. She has also served as a judge for the Kentucky MTNA Competitions & Kentucky Cello Club Competition. Recently, she was a guest speaker at the GRL PWR Middle School Girls Summit. Cecilia also uses outreach as a means to connect future musicians and audience members with their life-long passions and music. She is available as a musical presenter and performer through the Louisville Free Public Library. Her outreach training includes MusiCorps, NEC Community Performances and Partnerships, and HMI Outbound Program as well as performances through Tuneful Tales.