



Fall 2023

Newsletter

William Pu Music Academy

Our Academy

Fall semester, 2023, the William Pu Music Academy has hundreds of students at two campuses: Alpharetta & Buford. We have also added new faculty members who offer additional instruction in guitar, trumpet, oboe, & English Horn.

New Faculty Members:

- Mr. Michael Farrick - Stringbass
- Mr. Alex Fricker - Oboe & English Horn
- Mr. Zachery Helms - Cello
- Dr. Sunghun Kim - Piano
- Dr. Yuliya Kim - Cello
- Ms. Venus Parker - Violin
- Mr. Jonathan Swygert - Trumpet

Student Performance

Our students are provided with many opportunities to perform in public & student recitals throughout the year.

"A World of Art Festival"

Cumming Arts Center
September 9th, 2023



Dr. Martin Geurgiev Student Recital

WPMA Buford Campus
October 8, 2023



Youth Orchestras

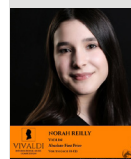
Congratulations to the 60 accomplished WPMA students who have secured positions in 11 esteemed youth orchestras across Metro-Atlanta, with several earning leadership roles as concertmasters, assistant concertmasters, principal violists, and principal cellists.



Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra,
Emory Youth Symphony Orchestra,
Emory Youth Chamber Program,
Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra,
Metropolitan Youth Symphony Orchestra of Atlanta,
Gwinnett County Youth Symphony,
Kendall Youth Orchestra, and
Alpharetta Symphony Youth Orchestra
Atlanta Festival Youth Orchestras

Aaron Wang	Chloe Sun	Gloria Ge	Manasvi Dokiparthi
Abigail Kim	Cielle Lee	Helen Zhou	May Jin
Alex Ko	Cooper Ruan	Ian Du	Mia Jiang
Amelie Grakoui	David Kim	Irene Choi	Nathaniel Wirudi
Amy Jing	Didi Stone	James Lee	Nile Solomon
Annie Qi	Eamon Li	Jordan Zeng	Olivia Ge
Aronelle Chu	Elena Rao	Jordan Zheng	Olivia Scott
Arsheya Singh	Elijah Kim	Joshua Kim	Olivia Wang
Aryanna Pecqueur	Ellie Kim	Joshua Nguyen	Raunak Das
Audrey Lee	Elyse Santoso	Joshua Park	Rex Zhang
Caleb Mani	Elyse Santoso	Joshua Shu	Rishi Narula
Charlotte Jeong	Eric Xu	Julian Kwon	Ryan Han
Chase Choi	Ethan Goh	Kevin Fan	Stella Yi
Chloe Kim	Franklin Li	Lucas Liu	Stephanie Malcom
Chloe Sue	Gabriella Kim	Luke Kim	Teresa Carlisi

Congratulations



Norah Reilly, a student of Dr. Sunha Kim, won the Absolute First Prize at the Vivaldi International Music Competition.

Upcoming Student Recitals

- October 22, 2023 4:30PM - Martin Gueorguiev
- October 22, 2023 6:00PM - Martin Gueorguiev
- October 26, 2023 7:30PM - William Pu



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Featured Students



Didi Stone, 12th Grade, Alpharetta High School
Concertmaster of Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra
Concertmaster of Emory Youth Symphonay Orchestra

I started learning the violin at the age of 5, following in the footsteps of my older sister. However, it wasn't until I was 12 that I really got into it. I stumbled upon a YouTube video of someone playing the Schindler's List theme on the violin, and it struck a chord with me. Despite my teacher's initial doubts, I practiced hard and eventually performed it at a recital. This experience deepened my love for the violin and showed me how music can stir emotions.

About a year ago, I joined the William Pu Music Academy. My teacher, Mr. Pu, has a unique way of teaching, blending strictness with humor. He uses analogies to explain music, making it fun to learn. Under his guidance, I improved my violin skills and learned to connect with the emotions in music. Mr. Pu's belief in his students taught me that with hard work, even challenging goals are possible. I'm eager to inspire others with my journey. Besides music, I'm also part of my school's chorus and have been a soloist at the all-state chorus twice. I've won singing competitions in my hometown and as far away as Quanzhou, China. I even had the opportunity to record songs in China with a well-known songwriter. Outside of music, I enjoy solving Rubik's Cubes, staying active, and exploring geography. I want to show that with dedication, you can achieve your goals.



Elijah Kim, 10th Grade, Johns Creek High School
Principal Cello of Emory Youth Symphony Orchestra

I was introduced to the cello in the 3rd grade through the school orchestra. I soon fell in love with my instrument and began taking private lessons a month after starting orchestra. Joining my first youth orchestra really helped me expand my music learning journey. I joined the Metropolitan Youth Symphony in Portland, Oregon. This experience helped me realize that there is more to music making than just solo pieces. I also serve in leadership roles in clubs at school. I enjoy playing tennis and am on the Johns Creek tennis team. I like hanging out with my friends and creating new memories whether music related or non-music related.

I currently study under Dr. Martin Gueorguiev at WPMA. Dr. Martin is an amazing teacher, not only growing me as a cellist, but also as a person. He makes learning the cello an activity I look forward to and enjoy. He has helped me work on many types of pieces. He is willing to listen to my ideas while also pitching in some of his own. He is willing to work with me on parts I have trouble with. This has really helped me grow as a musician as I now understand how to approach different types of music.

I hope to be an awesome, amazing, spectacular inspiration to other musicians. I also hope I am able to have more opportunities like this in the future.

Featured Students Recommendations

If you'd like to showcase your students or children in our newsletter and share their music learning stories, please contact admin@wpmusicacademy.com. We believe that their experiences and journeys can inspire and motivate others, and we're excited to highlight them.



Newsletter

William Pu Music Academy

Featured Students

**Olivia Wang, 7th grade,
The Westminster Schools**

*Concertmaster of
Metropolitan Youth
Symphony Orchestra or
Atlanta*



I began my violin journey at the age of 7, inspired by the beauty of orchestral performances and motivated by my mom's encouragement to become a proficient violinist. Before delving into the world of the violin, I spent a few years playing the piano, which provided a solid foundation for my musical pursuits. Outside of music, I actively engage in robotics and compete in squash at school.

At the William Pu Music Academy, I have the privilege of learning from two outstanding teachers. Mr. William Pu, my violin instructor, is an insightful and dedicated teacher who has a knack for refining every aspect of violin playing. His guidance has greatly influenced how I approach practice and performance. Dr. Sunha Kim, responsible for teaching me theory and sight reading, is a passionate and focused educator with exceptional composition skills. Under their tutelage, my violin playing has seen significant improvements, and I've gained a deeper understanding of the creative process in music.

**James Lee, 10th Grade,
North Gwinnett High
School**

*Concertmaster of
Gwinnett County Youth
Symphony*



I decided to start learning violin when I was in third grade. The spark of interest was ignited through my sister and so I joined an afterschool orchestra program. Initially, I wasn't all that enthusiastic, but by the end of fourth grade, something clicked, and my passion for the violin began to take root. It was during the fifth grade when I received the Musician of the Year Award, alongside a scholarship, that I realized this was more than just a hobby; it was my musical calling.

My journey took a significant turn in the seventh grade when my orchestra teachers at North Gwinnett High School recommended that I start taking private lessons. This pivotal moment led me to the William Pu Music Academy, where I met Mr. William Pu, an exceptional violinist, and dedicated teacher. His unique blend of expertise, humor, and passion made learning the violin not just educational but also incredibly enjoyable. Thanks to Mr. Pu's guidance, I unlocked my true potential and discovered the depth of my love for the violin.

**Jordan Zheng, 12th Grade, Northview High School
Principal Viola of Emory Youth Symphony Orchestra**



My musical journey began when I was 9, living in North Carolina. It all started with a local orchestra concert that left me in awe. I decided to learn the violin and began taking lessons with Mr. William Pu after moving to Georgia. In high school, I switched to the viola and started taking lessons from Ms. Amy Chang.

I've been lucky to attend music summer programs like the Atlanta Festival Academy and the Governor's Honors Program. These experiences had a big impact on me. I was surrounded by great coaches and other students who love classical music. Besides music, I enjoy working with oil and charcoal in visual arts.

Ms. Amy Chang is a fantastic teacher. She's not only fun to work with but also very detailed when it comes to learning solos and excerpts. She prepares her students well, and thanks to her, I always feel ready for auditions. My love for classical music has also grown a lot because of her guidance, especially during audition season.