



Sophie Bowden, *violin*

Sophie Bowden is a junior at Stony Brook University, pursuing a dual degree in Business Administration and Music. She began her violin studies at age four at the North Shore Suzuki School where she studied with Alison Johnson and Catherine McCallen. Currently, Sophie is a student of Margaret Kwon, a DMA graduate of Stony Brook University and student of the late world-reknowned virtuoso and pedagogue, Aaron Rosand.

Before college, she participated in Stony Brook University's Pre-College and Young Artist Programs as well as in LISFA, SCMEA, NYSCAME, and All-State Orchestras. Sophie was the 2019 winner of the Young Artist Competition and performed the Saint-Saens B minor concerto with the Stony Brook University Orchestra. In April of 2024, she performed the first movement of the Korngold Violin Concerto in D Major as a soloist with the University Orchestra after winning this year's Undergraduate Concerto Competition.

Between semesters, Sophie plays in local volunteer ensembles and community orchestras under the direction of Eric R. Stewart, including LISCA, Long Island Festival Orchestra, and the Long Island Mahler Festival.

Sophie attributes her early musical interest to family heritage. "Almost everyone in my family has played an instrument or at least enjoys music. I've been fortunate in that way because it's given me enormous joy and has opened so many doors. I can't imagine life without it."



Yumito Torigoe, *piano*

Yumito Torigoe began his study of the piano in his hometown of Forest Hills, New York at the age of four. During his childhood, he performed in venues such as the now-defunct 57th street Steinway Hall, and the Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall. After moving to California at the age of 11, he studied under Pamela Worcester for six years. During his time in California, Yumito performed and won accolades in many competitions and festivals at both local and statewide levels. In 2019, he was the soloist for the R. Schumann A Minor Concerto with the Saddleback Symphony Orchestra. In 2020, Yumito began to attend Stony Brook University on a full scholarship. In 2022, he was a soloist with the Stony Brook University Orchestra, performing the Beethoven G Major Concerto, as a winner of the undergraduate concerto competition. Yumito is currently a fourth year undergraduate student studying under concert pianist Andrei Romanov.



Eric Ness, *cello*

Eric Ness is a composer and cellist based in Long Island, New York. He first began studying piano with Gloria Shih before learning cello at the age of seven. As a cellist, he has worked in the past with Fred Sherry, Alberto Parrini, and Amy Barston, and is continuing his studies under Sameer Apte as an undergraduate at Stony Brook University. He has also performed in several orchestras, including regional and state festivals, as well as the Manhattan String Orchestra, where he was the soloist in Joseph Haydn's Cello Concerto in C Major. He is an avid performer of more modern repertoire as well, with chamber music recitals having included the works of Ligeti, Ginastera, Penderecki, and Shostakovich. As a composer, he has taken lessons with Matt Barnson and Kyle Krause, and is currently studying with Perry Goldstein. He has performed some of his own works, including *Triptych*, in partnership with Yumito Torigoe in 2023. He has also had two orchestral works premiered by the Stony Brook Symphony Orchestra that same year. His current project is a piano quintet, *Folk Songs*, which will have its first performance in May of 2024.