



Lori Fay, Founder & Director

presents

An evening of Chamber Music

with works by

Elgar, Telemann, Vivaldi, and Winters

featuring

Lori Fay, *Founder and Director, violin*

Anthony Verge, *Assistant Director, violin, and viola*

Barbara Godette, *violoncello*

Sean Lewis, *double bass*

Cory Winters, *viola*

with guest artists

Marissa Caufield, *harp*, and **Benjamin Henderson**, *organ*

and student participants

Rin Ahlert, Gregory Allen, Justin Han, Hieu Le, Adrian Mazariegos, Andrea Ortega,

Emaline Pendleton, Iana Perry, and Samuel Tran, *violin*

Angel Duron, Thanh Lu, and Allijah Rutherford, *viola*

Myles Flanders and Rylee Whittaker, *violoncello*

Adren Stahl, *double bass*

Thursday, April 13, 2023, 6pm/CST

The Maple Room at The Bakery District, 70 South 7th Street, Fort Smith, Arkansas

Friday, April 14, 2023, 7pm/CST

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, 2701 Old Greenwood Road, Fort Smith, Arkansas

VIRTUALLY AVAILABLE at *A String Fort Smith* YouTube Channel: [ASTRINGFORTSMITH](https://www.youtube.com/channel/ASTRINGFORTSMITH)

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PROGRAM

Concerto for Two Violins in A minor, Opus 3, No. 8, RV 522

Allegro, Larghetto e spiritoso, Allegro

Antonio Vivaldi

(1678-1741)

Adrian Mazariegos, *violin*

Lori Fay, *violin*

Violoncello Sonata in E minor, RV 40

Largo, Allegro

Vivaldi

Myles Flanders, *violoncello*

Concerto in F Major TWV 53:F 1

Allegro

Georg Philipp Telemann

(1681-1757)

Samuel Tran, Iana Perry, and Andrea Ortega, *violin*

Sospiri, Opus 70

Edward Elgar

(1857-1934)

Marissa Caufield, *harp*

Benjamin Henderson, *organ*

Eight Ukrainian Folk Songs

Cory Winters

(b. 1987)

Gregory Allen, Emaline Pendleton, Angel Duron, and Myles Flanders, *string quartet*

A String Fort Smith, full ensemble

Program Note

When Russia illegally invaded Ukraine in February 2022, I realized that I needed to learn more about Ukraine's history and culture. While I could easily read the history of the general region, that didn't tell me much about Ukraine's unique culture and identity as a separate and independent Nation. As a musician, the easiest way for me to connect with a different culture is via its music. After much searching online, I found a book of Ukrainian folk songs. As I played my way through this collection of songs on the piano, I jotted down anything that inspired me musically. Using Bartok's "Romanian Folk Dances" and "44 Violin Duets" as guides, I winnowed down my various jottings to a smaller set of sketches that have contributed to several related projects. A few of the more complex piano sketches evolved into the eight "Ukrainian Folk Songs" to be premiered by A String Fort Smith. A few of the other sketches will contribute to a set of violin duets, and I plan to arrange some of these wonderful melodies for younger string players. In whatever format, my hope is that these musical offerings will inspire both performers and listeners to learn more about Ukraine and support the Ukrainian people in their time of need.

ô Cory Winters



Please join us for the final performance of our 2022-2023 season!

A Benefit Concert

with proceeds to foster the ongoing activities of A String Fort Smith

Friday, June 16, 2023, 7pm/CST, location tba

About *A String Fort Smith*



A String Fort Smith, founded in the summer of 2020 by Lori Fay, is aimed at fostering excellence and unprecedented performing opportunities for junior- and high-school aged students interested in pursuing careers in the performing arts. Currently assisted by four devoted colleagues ó **Anthony Verge**, *Assistant Director, violin, viola*; **Barbara Godette**, *violin, viola*; **Sean Lewis**, *double bass*; and **Cory Winters**, *viola* ó *A String Fort Smith* participants are selected based on an audition. The ensemble consists of the most advanced and dedicated students ó

approximately ten to fifteen (10 to 15) participants per semester ó who make a commitment to rehearse for one hour once per week, on Monday evenings at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in Fort Smith. Participants must be engaged in private music study or plan to undertake private lessons, and are expected to diligently practice for public concerts which take place twice per year in addition to performances in a variety of local settings. The repertoire selected for *A String Fort Smith* rehearsals and performances comprises primarily unabridged works that students might not otherwise be exposed to in a typical school setting. Recent performances include: the ArcBest Performing Arts Center prior to the March 4, 2023 Fort Smith Symphony concert, St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, and the Arkansas College of Osteopathic Medicine.

About **Lori Fay**, *Founder & Director*



Lori Fay, *Founder & Director* of *A String Fort Smith*, brings years of symphony orchestra, chamber music, solo performing, and recording experience to the Fort Smith area where she resides. Ms. Fay received a Master of Music in Violin Performance from the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University (Houston, TX), as well as a Master of Music in Teaching from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music (Oberlin, OH). At eight years of age, Lori started her study of the violin and piano in her hometown of Greenwich, Connecticut; since then, she has devoted her professional life to music and to the violin in particular.

Since settling in Fort Smith over 15 years ago, and establishing a career as *Associate Concertmaster* of the Fort Smith Symphony, *Co-Founder and Co-Director* of DuoBrava (www.duobrava.com), private violin, viola, and piano instructor, and more, her passion remains working with young string players interested in improving their skills and deepening their love of music. Before establishing residence in the Fort Smith area, Ms. Fay performed and toured with many major US Orchestras, including: the Houston Ballet Orchestra as *Principal Second Violin Chair* for 25 years; Houston Grand Opera; Gilbert and

Sullivan Society of Houston; Ebony Opera Guild; American Pops Orchestra; Texas Chamber Orchestra; Victoria Bach Festival Orchestra; Houston Symphony; Theatre Under the Stars; Texas Opera Theatre Orchestra; Corpus Christi Symphony; and the American Institute of Musical Studies Orchestra in Graz, Austria. In addition to her extensive orchestral experience, she has made many operatic recordings.

About our Faculty



Barbara Godette has been performing on cello and teaching private cello lessons in the Fort Smith, Arkansas area for twenty years. She is a former Assistant Principal Cellist for the Fort Smith Symphony and former cellist for the Fort Smith Symphony String Quartet. Barbara has served as the Master Cello Instructor for the Academy of the Arts through the University of Arkansas in Fort Smith and for the Community School of the Arts of Fort Smith. She is currently an adjunct instructor for the Fort Smith Public School Orchestra program in addition to her private cello instructions. Barbara has a Bachelor of Music Degree in Applied Cello from the University of Texas at Austin. During her time studying in Texas, she also instructed cello and served as section leader for the University of Texas String Project program. Barbara enjoys instructing cello lessons to students of all ages ranging from early grade school age through senior adults.

Sean Lewis was raised in Olathe, Kansas and began playing cello at the age of 10. At age 13, he made the switch to bass. He went on to study Music Education at Harding University and moved to Fort Smith right after graduating to be the Orchestra Director at Ramsey Middle School. Sean has played in many different ensembles throughout his career. He has served as Principal for the Youth Symphony of Kansas City, the Harding University Orchestra, and has made appearances with the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra; he has also played in the Bald Knob Cantata and has filmed with the Fort Smith Symphony. Sean loves both the indoors and outdoors. He loves everything about sports, hiking, disc golf, biking, and going on adventures with his wife Julie and his dog Ravel. He is a self-proclaimed "cool teacher" and does whatever he can to get kids playing music and have fun doing it.



Anthony Verge, a Kansas native and graduate of the University of Central Arkansas, started studying viola at the age of 10. With interests like fishing, camping, hiking, and spending time outdoors, he spends just as much time outside as he does studying and playing music. Anthony is the Orchestra Director at Kimmons Junior High as well as a member of the Fort Smith Symphony's viola section. He has played with numerous local symphony orchestras such as the Symphony of North Arkansas, the Texarkana Symphony, the South Arkansas Symphony, and the Arkansas Philharmonic. He enjoys playing viola as well as violin, and loves seeing the enjoyment and growth in young and older students alike.

Cory Winters began his musical studies as a violin student with the public-school orchestra program in his hometown of Fort Smith, Arkansas. He went on to attend the University of Central Arkansas, where he studied violin with Dr. Linda Hsu, viola with Katherine Reynolds, and composition with Dr. Paul Dickinson. After graduating with a Bachelor of Music in 2010, Mr. Winters continued his education at Belmont University. While there, he studied viola with Sarah Cote and composition with Dr. William Pursell and Dr. Mark Volker, earning a Master of Music in 2012. Cory's musical influences include Irish and American folk music, shape-note singing, blues, country, and a variety of art music. In addition to working with *A String Fort Smith*, Mr. Winters also teaches violin, viola, mandolin, and composition lessons at the Community School of the Arts Fort Smith. In addition to his musical interests, Cory is an avid reader and enjoys studying history, musicology, and astronomy. He currently resides in Van Buren, AR.



About our Guest Artists

Marissa Caufield is a 19-year-old harpist currently pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Music at the University of Arkansas, Fort Smith. Marissa started playing the piano at age 5 and moved on to harp a year and a half later. She has played for multiple events, as well as in partnership with various ensembles, and has won competitions with her harp playing skills. In the future, she hopes to pursue a career in music therapy.



Benjamin Henderson is from Middletown, CT, and is the Director of Music and Organist at First United Methodist Church in Fort Smith, Arkansas. He received his Master of Music in organ performance at Rice University in the studio of Ken Cowan and his Bachelor of Music in organ performance from The Eastman School of Music in 2020 and was awarded the Performer's Certificate while in the studio of Nathan Laube. His initial organ studies started with David Spicer for four years at the age of thirteen, having taught himself piano a couple years earlier. He has been an accompanist for Public School's Choirs and other community organizations. In 2015, Ben performed the Final from Alexandre Guilmant's First Symphony with the New Haven Symphony at the Bushnell in Hartford. For the summers of 2015 and 2016, he was a recipient of the Friends of the Wanamaker Organ Scholarship, which allowed him to study with Alan Morrison, Peter Conte, and Matthew Glandorf at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. While in this program, Henderson had the opportunity to play the largest fully functioning pipe organ in the world at the Wanamaker Organ in the Grand Court of Macy's Department Store. He is an aspiring composer and enjoys singing.

A String Fort Smith wishes to thank

- **Rector Michael Briggs**, for the use of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church for rehearsals and performances
 - **Laken Emerson**, *A String Fort Smith* photographer
 - **Grant Thomas**, *A String Fort Smith* videographer
 - **Sean Lewis**, website services
 - **John Jeter**, for coaching the students of *A String Fort Smith*
- **William Leeper**, videographer at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church
 - **Brandon Willey**, piano technician
 - **Isaac Edwards** and **Trieu Le**, stagehands
- **Fort Smith Public School Orchestra Programs**, and especially **Mike Burkepile**, **Karen Jeter**, **Curtis Hansen**, **Anthony Verge**, **Nathan Boyd**, and **Sean Lewis**, teachers

About our **Student Soloists**



Left to Right: Iana Perry, Sam Tran, Andrea Ortega, Adrian Mazariegos, Myles Flanders

Iana Perry is a senior at Southside High School. She is a member of the Southside Chamber Orchestra and has been a member of A String Fort Smith for three years. Iana participates in the National Federation of Music Clubs as a violin soloist and has won a cup for three (3) superior ratings in a row. After graduating from high school, she will attend the University of Central Arkansas where she plans to pursue a degree in Biology before continuing in the Doctoral Physical Therapy program to acquire her Ph.D.

Sam Tran is an early graduate of Southside High School. He has been a member of A String Fort Smith since 2021. Sam's interests are in the automotive field and programming. He has been admitted to the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville and will pursue a Computer Science degree. Sam hopes to keep music around throughout his life.

Andrea Ortega is a violinist at Southside High School, Arkansas All-Region/State, and has loved being a part of A String Fort Smith for the past two years. In the fall of 2023, she will be attending Yale University in New Haven, CT, majoring in Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology. Andrea plans to continue her musical endeavors while at Yale.

Originally from Los Angeles, California, **Adrian Mazariegos** moved to Fort Smith in 2015 and started studying and playing the violin in 2016. He has been ranked 7th in the North Arkansas All-Region Orchestra and later 4th in the Arkansas All-State Orchestra. He plans to study Psychology and Violin Performance at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville.

Myles Flanders is currently a senior at Southside High School. She began playing the cello near the end of 2018 and has fallen in love with it ó a passion which grows deeper with every day. While Myles is undecided as to her college of choice, she anticipates majoring in Psychology with a minor in either Biological Sciences or Music!



www.astringfortsmith.com
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Friends of *A String Fort Smith*

We are so grateful to the Friends of *A String Fort Smith* ó listed below ó whose gifts of financial support, or in-kind services, make it possible for us to fulfill our mission of offering unprecedented performing opportunities for junior- and high-school aged students interested in pursuing careers in the performing arts.

Thank you for your support!

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If you are interested in making a financial contribution to *A String Fort Smith* ó in any amount ó we would be honored! Your gift will help fund student scholarships and defray the costs of staff salaries, music procurement, guest artists, coaching with professional artists, website design, photography and videography services, and more.

At this time, contributions to *A String Fort Smith* are not tax-deductible.

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