

Masterclass Teachers- Fall 2020

David Premo

Cellist David Premo joined the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra in 1992, was promoted to Fourth Chair, a non-rotating position in 1994, and subsequent to a national audition in 1999, was offered the position of Assistant Principal. Following another round of national auditions, Mr. Premo was awarded the position of Associate Principal in 2001. Additionally, Mr. Premo has been Artist-Lecturer at Carnegie Mellon University since 1994, providing private cello instruction, coaching chamber music groups and teaching an orchestra repertoire class.

Mr. Premo came to Pittsburgh from Washington D.C., where he served as Associate Principal of the Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra from 1980 until 1991. During his tenure in Washington, Mr. Premo performed chamber music at the Phillips Collection, the Corcoran Gallery and the Library of Congress, and served on numerous occasions as principal cellist with the American Chamber Orchestra, the National Gallery Orchestra and the Wolf Trap Festival Orchestra, among others. Mr. Premo performed as a member of the National Symphony Orchestra, both at the Kennedy Center and on several United States and European tours.

David Premo studied 'cello in his native Chicago with Margaret Evans of the Chicago Symphony, later with Robert Newkirk at Catholic University, and most recently with Janos Starker at Indiana University. His 'cello was made in approximately 1860 by Jean Baptiste Vuillaume.

Renee Banks

Alto saxophonist Renee Banks is from Fort Washington, Maryland, and she graduated from Friendly High School. She earned her Bachelor's in Music Education with an instrumental emphasis from the University of Lynchburg in 2019 and currently serves in the United States Marine Corps Band as a saxophonist. Banks' primary instructors during her time at the University of Lynchburg were Leigh Berkley and Kyle Greaney. In addition, she received instruction from Robert Young in 2017 and participated in a masterclass with Christopher Creviston in 2019. Ms. Banks also plays flute, clarinet, and piano.

In 2017, she competed in the Concerto/Aria competition and earned first place for her performance of the Saxophone Concerto by Paul Creston. Banks was a member of the Collegiate Chapter of Virginia Music Educators Association (CCVMEA) for four years and served as the public relations officer (2017-2018) and was a member of the Zeta Theta Chapter of Mu Phi Epsilon (music fraternity) for three years (2015-2018). Banks presented at University of Lynchburg's Student Scholar Showcase on topics including the Implications of Music in Nazi Propaganda (2017) and the Implications of Montessori's Teaching Methods in Music Classrooms (2018). Banks also presented at the Virginia Music Educators Conference on the topic of Making Music with Montessori (2018).

Jody Gatwood

Jody Gatwood, (B.S., The Juilliard School), Professor Emeritus of the Catholic University of America. Studied with Ivan Galamian and Paul Mekanowitzky at The Juilliard School, where he was awarded the Fritz Kreisler Scholarship. Additional studies at the Meadowmount School of Music and also with Josef Gingold, Wilfred Biel, and Robert Oppelt. Winner of the Kosciuszko Foundation's Wieniawski Prize and a prize winner in the Montreal International Competition. During the Vietnam War served for four years in the White House Orchestra of the U. S. Marine Band ("The President's Own") providing ceremonial music for the Nixon White House. Has received critical acclaim in the United States and Europe as a soloist with many orchestras, including the Pittsburgh, Houston, and Phoenix symphony orchestras, and with such conductors as Andre Previn and Leonard Slatkin. Has performed on the Kennedy Center's Fortas Chamber Music Series, at the Library of Congress, Phillips Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, and The National Gallery of Art. As concertmaster (now Concertmaster Emeritus) of The National Philharmonic, has performed numerous solo works, including the world premiere of Concerto for Violin and String Orchestra by Andreas Makris. As a guest artist with the Smithsonian Chamber Players, has recorded for Sony Classical and Deutsche Harmonia Mundi in chamber works by Mendelssohn, Gade, Spohr, Dotzauer, Franchomme, and Servais. Starting in 1984 has performed in and helped to organize numerous "Concerts to End Hunger" to awaken public commitment to the eradication of hunger and malnutrition in the world. Cited by Yehudi Menuhin in 1991 as "an extraordinarily fine violinist and musician." Named "Teacher of the Year" in 1996 by the American String Teachers Association, Maryland/D. C. Chapter. His students have performed with major symphony orchestras and have won scholarships for study at The Curtis Institute, The Juilliard School, and The Paris Conservatory.