

THE ST. OLAF COLLEGE DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

presents

Julia Sakharova, *violin*
Philip Bergman, *cello*
Miko Kominami, *piano*

MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2026 • STUDIO A • 7 P.M.

PROGRAM

Melodie op. 42 Souvenir d'un lieu cher Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840–1891)

Nocturne Lily Boulenger (1893–1918)

Julia Sakharova, *violin*
Miko Kominami, *piano*

Piano Trio in A Minor, Op. 50 Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840–1891)

Julia Sakharova, *violin*
Philip Bergman, *cello*
Miko Kominami, *piano*

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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Julia Sakharova, Concertmaster of Orchestra Iowa, is an internationally established concert artist, known for her performances as soloist, orchestra performer, and chamber musician. She has been described by critics as projecting “incredible temperament, very fine sensitivity, and remarkable colors” and hailed for her “technically thrilling” and “powerful musical personality.” For 12 years Ms. Sakharova was a member of the nationally recognized and critically acclaimed Arianna String Quartet and served on the music faculty at the University of Missouri St. Louis. Prior to that tenure, she was an Assistant Concertmaster with the Alabama Symphony Orchestra and a member of the Albany Symphony in New York.

At the age of eight, Ms. Sakharova made her solo orchestral debut with the Moldova Philharmonic Orchestra. She has since appeared on numerous stages including Alice Tully Hall, Steinway Hall, Carnegie Hall, and the Library of Congress. She has performed in numerous festivals, recitals, tours, and competitions across her native Russia, Western and Southern Europe, Japan, South America, and the United States.

Ms. Sakharova was featured on Centaur label as part of the entire Beethoven string quartet cycle release. She was also featured on Rachmaninoff's Elegiac Piano Trios (Tavros Records) and on the release of Sean Hickey's Cursive – Piano and Chamber Works (Delos). Mr. Hickey dedicated Ampersand, a work for violin and piano, to Ms. Sakharova, which she debuted at the Steinway Hall recital. A variety of other performances have also been featured in radio broadcasts on WQXR's “Young Artists Showcase,” KMZT's “Sundays Live,” Cleveland's WCLV, and on St. Louis' KWMU. Ms. Sakharova's film score credits include Mimzy, The Perfect Stranger, and The Brave One.

Her competition credits include first prize at the International Competition for the Music of Eastern & Central Europe, Top Prize at the Olga Koussevitzky Competition for Strings, a top prize at the Jeunesses Musicales Montreal International Competition, and the first prize of the Coleman Chamber Ensemble Competition.

Ms. Sakharova has performed at festivals including the Music Academy of the West, Festival International de Colmar, the Verbier Festival & Academy, Keshet Eilon Violin Mastercourse, Kneisel Hall Chamber Music Festival, and the Bowdoin International Music Festival.

Ms. Sakharova has been a dedicated educator conducting masterclasses at the University of Iowa School of Music, Alabama School of Fine Arts, and Birmingham Southwestern College. She has also taught and appeared on stage at the Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival, Music Mountain Chamber Series, Madeline Island Music Camp and the Femusc Festival in Brazil. Her residencies include the Peabody Conservatory, Oberlin College, Northern Illinois University, and Northwestern University. She is the recipient of the Artist Teacher Award from the American String Teachers Association. For a number of years, Ms. Sakharova has been a regular guest at the International Glezarova Music Festival in Moscow and conducted online violin masterclasses.

Julia Sakharova holds a position of Visiting Professor in Music at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota

Philip Bergman is a cellist, musician, and educator based in Northwest Illinois. Highlights of his wide-ranging career thus far include collaborating in performance with Yo-Yo Ma, sharing the stage with Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, performing Beethoven's 9th Symphony with a chorus of ten thousand on national television in Japan, creating and implementing a residency of interactive performances in a memory care facility, and playing under the baton of Sir Neville Marriner.

Philip is the principal cellist of Orchestra Iowa, where he performs orchestra and chamber concerts, as well as participating in educational concerts in concert halls, schools, and public libraries across the state. Philip is also principal cellist of the Dubuque Symphony where, in addition to orchestral performances, he designs and carries out interactive performances in schools as part of the DSO's "Adopt a Musician Program." Philip is also a section cellist in the Illinois Symphony Orchestra.

A passionate and dedicated teacher, Philip serves as Assistant Adjunct Professor of Cello at the University of Northern Iowa. He also has a private studio and is a regular clinician—teaching lessons, sectionals, mock auditions, and masterclasses for both cellists and chamber ensembles—across both Illinois and Iowa. Philip has previously served as a Teaching Associate in Music at Lake Forest College, faculty at the Des Moines Symphony Academy, and faculty at Five Seasons Chamber Music Festival.

An avid chamber musician, Philip has collaborated in performance with Joyce Yang, Yo-Yo Ma, David Perry, and Jennifer Gilbert among many others. He is a performer in the Stoughton Chamber Music Festival, and he appears in a wide variety of chamber music settings throughout the year.

Philip is an experienced interpreter of new music. Recent world premieres have included works by Kevin Puts, Laura Schwendinger, and Michael Gilbertson. He has collaborated with composers such as Nicole Mitchell, inti figgis-vizueta, and Nina Shekhar on performances of their works. Philip has also commissioned new works from composers including Maria Kaoutzani, Craig Davis Pinson, and Liza Sobel Crane.

Prior to moving to Northwest Illinois, Philip was a Civic Fellow and cellist in the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, performing orchestral and chamber concerts in Symphony Center and across the city of Chicago, planning and implementing interactive concerts in schools, participating in collaborative songwriting projects with families that had lost loved ones to gun violence, and creating Chicago Speaks, Chicago Listens: an annual musical event showcasing Chicago's community leaders. Before his time in Chicago Philip was a cellist and Vorspieler in the Hyogo Performing Arts Center Orchestra in Japan.

Philip received his Bachelor of Music from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where he studied with Brandon Vamos, cellist of the Pacifica Quartet. He then went on to complete a Master of Music at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, studying with Uri Vardi.

In his free time Philip enjoys good food, good stories in any medium, playing with his dog Nadja, and obsessively following the goings on of Major League Baseball.

Pianist **Miko Kominami** is a graduate of the Juilliard School, and she currently enjoys a varied career as a soloist, faculty member at Luther College, and as Principal Keyboardist of Orchestra Iowa. She has concertized extensively throughout North America, including performances in New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago, Minneapolis, Boston, Washington D.C., and Toronto, both as a soloist and a collaborator with other artists. As a concerto soloist, she has been featured repeatedly with Orchestra Iowa, Danbury Symphony, Kishwaukee Symphony, Malibu Coast Chamber Orchestra, Symphony of the Potomac, and the Luther College Symphony.

Ms. Kominami gave her New York Solo Debut Recital at Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall in 1996, as a result of winning the Artists International Award. She was acclaimed by *New York Concert Review* as "both a virtuosic and a musicianly performer." Other awards include a Canada Council Arts Grant, and First Prize at the 1996 Concerto Soloists' Competition in Philadelphia. She has performed live on WFMT Chicago, as well as Maine and Iowa Public Radio Stations.

In addition to her solo engagements, Ms. Kominami is a founding member of the Murasaki Duo, a cello/piano ensemble. The Duo has toured Scandinavia, as well as Israel, Ireland, and the United Kingdom. It regularly performs on chamber music series throughout the nation, and has released recordings on the Centaur Records, Delos, and Montgomery Arts House labels. Its recording *Duo Virtuoso* won the Violoncello Foundation's Fourth "Listeners' Choice Award" in 2016. Ms. Kominami can be heard on other recordings released by Delos, Innova, and Fleur de Son Classics.