

# Elena Ariza *Cellist*

Artistic Dossier 2023



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# Elena Ariza *Program Bio*

Elena Ariza is rapidly establishing herself as one of today's most creative and community-driven cellists. Elena was a featured cellist in Yo-Yo Ma's groundbreaking [Music Art Life](#) project, an exploration of human connection through the J.S. Bach cello suites. An avid chamber musician, she has collaborated with luminaries such as Itzhak Perlman, Steve Tenenbom, Vivian Weilerstein, and members of the Brentano Quartet. She is fiercely committed to community activism, having organized fundraiser events for the 2011 Tōhoku tsunami, the 2021 Haitian earthquake, and most recently, for those affected by the Russian war in Ukraine.



While an undergrad at Columbia, she performed the Dvorak Concerto with the Columbia University Orchestra, under the direction of Jeffrey Milarsky, and gave a world premiere performance of composer Hiroya Miura's *Lustral Shades*, collaborating with esteemed musicians of the Japanese tradition. In 2017, she was invited to perform as part of the New World Symphony on one of its season concerts, under the baton of Michael Tilson Thomas. Featured on NPR's *From the Top*, Elena also performed as a soloist for a sold-out Davies Symphony Hall with the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra.

Elena has won numerous solo and concerto competitions such as the Music Teachers National Association's California State Competition, Pacific Musical Society Annual Competition, Mondavi Young Artists Competition, and the Symphony Parnassus Concerto Competition, among others. She has received various masterclasses and coachings from Frans Helmerson, David Finckel, Joseph Kalichstein, Roger Tapping, the Weilerstein Trio, Colin Carr, Paul Katz, the Borromeo, Shanghai, and Brentano Quartets, and has attended the Aspen Music Festival and School, Music@Menlo Chamber Music Festival and Institute, the Tanglewood Music Center, Vivac-e!, Taos School of Music, the Perlman Music Program, and the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival.

At Juilliard, Elena is currently studying under the tutelage of Joel Krosnick and Astrid Schween, for whom she serves as Teaching Assistant. Her former teachers and mentors include Richard Aaron, Ronald Leonard, Eric Sung, and Sieun Lin.

# Elena Ariza *Repertoire List*

## Recent Solo Repertoire:

- Bach: Cello Suite No. 1 in G Major
- Bach: Cello Suite No. 6 in D Major
- Bach: Sonata for viola da gamba in D major BWV 1028
- Beethoven: 7 Variations on "Bei Männern", WoO 46
- Boulanger: Three Pieces for Cello and Piano
- Bridge: Four Pieces
- Britten: Solo Cello Suite No. 1
- Cassadó: Requiebros
- Carter: Cello Sonata
- Chopin: Introduction and Polonaise Brillante in C Major, Op. 3
- Chopin: Cello Sonata in G minor, Op. 65
- Dvorak: Cello Concerto in B Minor, Op. 104
- Franck: Sonata in A major for Violin and Piano
- Grieg: Cello Sonata in A minor, Op. 36
- Haydn: Cello Concerto No. 2 in D Major
- Janacek: Pohadka for Cello and Piano
- Mykola Lysenko: Elegy for Cello and Piano
- Mendelssohn: Cello Sonata No. 2 in D major, Op. 58
- Paganini: Caprices (arr. Silva) #5, 9, 13, 14, 20
- Part: Fratres
- Penderecki: Divertimento for Solo Cello
- Piazzolla: Le Grand Tango
- Prokofiev: Sinfonia Concertante, Op. 125
- Prokofiev: Cello Sonata in C major, Op. 119
- Rachmaninov: Cello Sonata, Op. 19
- Schubert: Arpeggione in A Minor
- Schumann: Cello Concerto in A minor, Op. 129
- Sollima: Alone
- Wang, Anne Qian: The Cat That Lived a Million Lives (commissioned work, 2023)

## Recent Chamber Music Repertoire:

### Piano Trios

- Beethoven: Piano Trio in B-flat Major, Op. 97 "Archduke"
- Beethoven: Piano Trio in E-flat major, Op. 70 No. 2
- Mendelssohn: Piano Trio No. 2 in C Minor Op. 66
- Saint-Saens: Piano Trio No. 2 in E Minor, Op. 92
- Schoenfield: Café Music (mvt. I)
- Shostakovich: Piano Trio No. 2 in E Minor, Op. 67

### String Quartets

- Bartok: String Quartet No. 5
- Beethoven: String Quartet No. 14 in C# minor, Op. 131
- Beethoven: String Quartet No. 11 in F Minor, Op. 95 "Serioso"
- Janáček: String Quartet No. 2 'Intimate Letters'
- Mendelssohn: String Quartet in E-flat Major, Op. 44 No. 3
- Ravel: String Quartet in F Major
- Schoenberg: String Quartet No. 4, Op. 37
- Schubert: "Quartettsatz" c-Moll D 703

### Other Ensembles

- Arensky: String Quartet with 2 Cellos No. 2, Op. 35 (mvt. I)
- Brahms: Piano Quartet No. 3 in C minor, Op. 60
- Brahms: String Quintet No. 2 in G Major, Op. 111
- Dohnanyi: Piano Quintet No. 1, Op. 1
- Dvorak: String Sextet in A major, Op. 48
- Dvorak: Serenade for Wind Instruments, Cello and Double Bass in D minor
- Korngold: String Sextet in D Major, Op. 10 (mvt. I)
- Mustonen, Olli: Nonet for Strings No. 2
- Ravel: Sonata for Violin and Cello (mvt. I-II)
- Schumann: Piano Quartet in E-flat Major, Op. 47
- Strauss: Metamorphosen for 23 Strings
- Stravinsky: "Pulcinella" Suite
- Tchaikovsky: String Sextet in D Minor, Op. 70 "Souvenir de Florence"



# Elena Ariza *Press Kit*

## Guest Artist for Maine Mountain Chamber Music

March 2023

Posted February 27

### Maine Mountain Chamber Music concert Nordica Auditorium

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Maine Mountain Chamber Music concert presented by ArtsFarmington features Yuri Funahashi (piano), Laurie Kennedy (viola) with guest artists Gianluca Pane (violin) and Elena Ariza (cello). *Submitted photo*

ArtsFarmington plans to presents a Maine Mountain Chamber Music Concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 5, at Nordica Auditorium, in Merrill Hall on Academy Street in Farmington.

Performers Yuri Funahashi (piano), Laurie Kennedy (viola) with guest artists Gianluca Pane (violin) and Elena Ariza (cello) will perform the music of Beethoven, Nadia Boulanger, and Astor Piazzolla. Ariza is a cellist based in New York City, currently pursuing an Artist Diploma at The Juilliard School.

Pane was born in Farmington and began studying the violin at the Academy School in Wilton under the tutelage of Steve Muise. He started taking private lessons with Graybert Beacham in fourth grade, then from sixth grade through high school with Kennedy.

Kennedy, principal violist of the Portland Symphony Orchestra, retired in January, 2022, after 40 seasons.

Born in Japan, Funahashi moved to the U.S. at a young age with her family and received the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from The Juilliard School. She has recorded for Musical Heritage and John Marks Records and is on the faculty at Colby College in Waterville.

# Ukraine Benefit Cello Recital to raise \$7,000 (trans. from Japanese)

August 2022

## **“Peace for Ukraine” Charity Cello Recital by Elena Ariza Concert Review**



Photo: Toshi Wakui

On August 21st (Sunday), Ms. Elena Ariza held a charity cell recital at the Japanese SDA Church in Mountain View. More than 220 people came to listen to the concert on the day of the event, and many viewers from all over the United States, Japan, Canada, and Europe enjoyed the performance via LIVE Streaming.

In the first half of the program, a mellow piece that overlapped with a prayer for Ukraine was performed with beautiful cello sounds, and in the second half, Grieg's cello sonata was performed with powerful cello and piano performances that fascinated the audience. The final performance was a string quartet, with Yujin Ariza and Joshua Cisneros on violin, and Kou Minami Wyeth on viola, performing Tchaikovsky's Andante Cantabile. The beautiful tones and harmonies of the stringed

# Live from Music Mountain: Masterclass with Benjamin Zander

August 2020

≡ THE REGISTER CITIZEN

SUBSCRIBE



## ENTERTAINMENT

# August at Music Mountain features string quartets, solo artists

Staff reports

Aug. 12, 2020 | Updated: Aug. 12, 2020 6 a.m.



4 of 6



Cellist Elena Ariza

Music Mountain / Contributed photo /

Live From Music Mountain presents a special master class at 1 p.m. Aug. 23 by English conductor Benjamin Zander, music director of the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra, and author of the US National Bestseller, *The Art of Possibility*.

The master class will feature cellist Elena Ariza, alumna of the Music Mountain Academy, who will join live from San Francisco to perform Haydn Cello Concerto No 2 in D Major, Hob VIIb:2 (I. Allegro moderato). Questions can be submitted in advance via email to [info@musicmountain.org](mailto:info@musicmountain.org), as well as in real time via email to [info@musicmountain.org](mailto:info@musicmountain.org), and via the chats on YouTube and on Facebook Live.

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<https://www.registercitizen.com/entertainment/article/August-at-Music-Mountain-features-string-15477039.php#photo-19798981>



# Soloist performing Stravinsky's *Pulcinella* under Nicholas McGegan at Alice Tully Hall

February, 2020



<https://www.juilliard.edu/news/144986/nicholas-mcgegan-conducts-bach-and-stravinsky-feb-10-and-handels-rinaldo-feb-17>

Soloist with the Columbia University Orchestra

April, 2019



Spring 2019 Concerts

Jeffrey Milarsky, Conductor & Music Director

**APRIL 7th & 23rd**

**WOLFGANG  
AMADEUS MOZART**

*Le Nozze di Figaro* Overture, K. 492

**ANTONÍN DVOŘÁK**

Concerto for Violoncello &  
Orchestra in B Minor, Op. 104 (1st mvt)  
Elena Ariza, violoncello

**SERGEI PROKOFIEV**

Romeo & Juliet Suite, Op. 64

PETER NORTON

symphonyspace

2537 Broadway at 95th Street / Sunday April 7th &  
Tuesday April 23rd / Both concerts at 8pm / Free admission

columbia university orchestra 

MUSIC PERFORMANCE PROGRAM

# Solo Recitals at Columbia University Orchestra

February, 2019; November, 2018

## MID-DAY MUSIC @ COLUMBIA FEATURING ELENA ARIZA & MISHA GALANT, CELLO-PIANO DUO

Wednesday, November 14, 2018 - 1:00pm

Columbia University Faculty House



### MID-DAY MUSIC @ COLUMBIA

Wednesday, November 14, 2018

1-2pm | Garden Room 2 | Faculty House | 64 Morningside Dr.

Come join us in the Garden Room at Faculty House, where Students and Music Associates from Columbia University's Music Performance Program will be showcased in an afternoon recital series.

### PROGRAM

Arpeggione Sonata in A minor - Franz Schubert

Prelude in F major, Op. 2 - Sergei Rachmaninoff

Cello Sonata in G minor, Op. 65 - Frédéric Chopin

<https://mpp.music.columbia.edu/events/mid-day-music-columbia-featuring-elena-ariza-misha-galant-cello-piano-duo>

## MAISON FRANÇAISE + MPP: ELENA ARIZA AND MISHA GALANT

Friday, February 22, 2019 - 1:00pm



### MUSIC @ MAISON FRANÇAISE

Friday, February 22, 1pm | Maison Française

Music recital by Elena Ariza (cello) and Misha Galant (piano).

### PROGRAM:

Ravel Sonate Posthume

Giovanni Solima Alone

Tchaikovsky Meditation op. 72 no. 5

Mendelssohn Cello Sonata no. 2 in D

Piazzolla Le Grande Tango

<https://mpp.music.columbia.edu/events/maison-francaise-mpp-elena-ariza-and-misha-galant>



# World Premiere of *Lustral Shades* by Hiroya Miura

IMJS: Japanese Cultural Heritage Initiatives @ Columbia Univ.

January, 2018



Featuring Mayumi Miyata (shō), Hitomi Nakamura (hichiriki), Takeshi Sasamoto (ryūteki), Hidejiro Honjoh (sangen & shamisen), and Elena Ariza (cello)



With composer Hiroya Miura

<https://www.imjs-jchi.org/2020/05/05/emajin-initiative-13th-annual-concert-of-japanese-heritage-musical-instruments/>





IMJS: Japanese Cultural Heritage Initiatives  
Columbia University

Treasuring the Past | Enriching the Present | Transforming the Future

*The Annual Concert of Japanese Heritage Music*

## **Glories of Japanese Music Heritage**



**In celebration of the 50th Anniversary of our Institute**

Japanese Sacred Gagaku Court Music and Contemporary Music for Japanese Heritage  
Instruments including:

### **Part II Contemporary Works for Japanese Heritage Instruments**



Composers (left to right): Tadahisa Nakamura, Toshi Ichianagi (c.Koh Okabe), Hiroya Miura

Performers include Mayumi Miyata (shō), Hitomi Nakamura (hichiriki), Takeshi Sasamoto (ryūteki), Yumi Kurosawa (17-string koto), Erik Helstrom (bass clarinet), Hidejiro Honjoh (shamisen), Elena Ariza (cello), Columbia Gagaku Instrumental Ensemble of New York, and others.



Left to right: Yumi Kurosawa, Elena Ariza, Erik Helstrom and Hidejiro Honjoh

**Saturday, March 31, 2018 4:00-6:00PM**

[Miller Theatre, Columbia University \(Broadway at 116th Street\)](#)

Doors open at 3:30PM

# Benefit Concert for the United States International Music Competition (USIMC)

January, 2018

*Rising Stars*

**USIMC Benefit Concert**

• Three talented young musicians from the Columbia-Juilliard Exchange Music Program

- Yujin Ariza (Violin A, C, D) top winner of USIMC
- Elena Ariza (Cello A, B, C) top winner of USIMC
- Misha Galant, MTAC YAG, winner of many competitions

*Yujin Ariza*  
Violin

*Elena Ariza* Cello

**8:00 JAN 5, 2018**  
PM, FRIDAY  
TICKETS **\$80 (VIP) \$40 \$20**

**TRIANON THEATRE**  
72 North Fifth Street, San Jose, CA 95112  
**www.usimc.org**  
**www.cmtanc.org**  
**650-257-0388**  
(no age under 5, tax deductible)

Hosted by:  
United States International Music Foundation (USIMF)  
Chinese Music Teachers Teachers' Northern California (CMTANC)  
-501 (c)(3) non-profit organization

Sponsored by Scott Cao Violins

*Misha Galant* Piano

<https://www.usimc.org/>

# Soloist Debut with Symphony Parnassus

October, 2015



March 14, 2016

## Cello 'a good fit' for Elena Ariza



### Cupertino teen to perform Dvořák concerto on March 20

The cello—beautiful but unwieldy—seems like an unusual instrument for a child to start playing when she is barely out of diapers.

But when you grow up in a musical family and they need a cellist for the piano trio, why wait?



Elena Ariza, now 17, began cello lessons when she was just 4 years old.

It turns out her mom, Nagisa, a professional pianist and piano teacher, wanted Elena to join her and Elena's older brother Yujin, a violinist, in a trio, so Elena began lessons. She seemed to have found her instrument right away.

"I think it really fits me," she says. "I like the register of the instrument...I guess the cello is more like human voice. It speaks to me more."

Elena is due to graduate in June from Menlo School in Atherton, Calif., and has been very busy this winter, flying across the country from one music school to the next for a half-dozen auditions to determine where she will advance her already impressive music career.

On March 20 (3 p.m. at Herbst Theatre in San Francisco), she will share the stage with Symphony Parnassus to perform what she calls the "king of all cello concertos,"—the Dvořák Cello Concerto.

"I really love how it expresses everything from noble character to depression and mourning," she said, "and how it has a lot of variation inside the concerto."

She is thrilled to be performing with Symphony Parnassus. "It's a really great honor to be given this opportunity," she

said. "It's not often as a high-schooler that you get to perform solos with an orchestra."

This is her fourth performance of the Dvořák piece.

Elena—winner of the 2015 Parnassus-San Francisco Conservatory of Music Competition—has won many other prizes, including the Music Teachers National Association's California State Competition, Menuhin-Dowling Competition, and the Diablo Valley Orchestra and South Valley Symphony Concerto Competition. She studies cello with Eric Sung in the SFCM Pre-College Program, and plays with the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra.

As a chamber musician, Elena plays in the Cambiata String Quartet, which was featured on the NPR radio program "From the Top," and won first place in the Sacramento State Chamber Music Competition in 2015.

<https://www.symphonyparnassus.org/news/2016/3/14/cello>



# Debut with the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra (Press Release)

October, 2015



Contact:  
Public Relations  
San Francisco Symphony  
(415) 503-5474  
[publicrelations@sfsymphony.org](mailto:publicrelations@sfsymphony.org)  
[www.sfsymphony.org/press](http://www.sfsymphony.org/press)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** / October 6, 2015



Images of Elena Ariza, the SFS Youth Orchestra and Donato Cabrera are available for download in the [SFSYO Press Kit](#)

## **SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY YOUTH ORCHESTRA 2015-2016 SEASON OPENS NOVEMBER 1 AT DAVIES SYMPHONY HALL**

**Donato Cabrera conducts his seventh and final season as SFSYO Music Director and SFS Resident Conductor**

**Highlights of the season include a performance by concerto competition winner Elena Ariza November 1; annual holiday concerts of *Peter and the Wolf*, December 13; and hosting the Bay Area Youth Orchestra Festival at Davies Symphony Hall, January 17, 2016**

**SFS musicians, violinist Chen Zhao and violist Katie Kadarauach are guest soloists in Mozart's *Sinfonia concertante* in E-flat major for Violin, Viola, and Orchestra, May 15, 2016**

**SAN FRANCISCO, October 6, 2015** — The [San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra](#) (SFSYO) and Wattis Foundation Music Director [Donato Cabrera](#) open their 2015-16 season on Sunday, November 1 at 2pm at Davies Symphony Hall, Cabrera's seventh and final season with the Orchestra. The opening concert of the year, November 1, features Elena Ariza, winner of the Youth Orchestra's 2015 Concerto Competition, in Dvořák's Cello Concerto in B minor. Ariza has been a member of the SFSYO since 2011 and Principal Cello since 2014. The Orchestra performs two holiday concerts of *Peter and the Wolf*, December 13, and additional concerts on March 20 and May 15, 2016. It will host and perform in the Bay Area Youth Orchestra Festival at Davies Symphony Hall on January 17, 2016 at Davies Symphony Hall, along with four other Bay Area Youth Orchestras. Violinist Chen Zhao and violist Katie Kadarauach, musicians of the San Francisco Symphony, perform as soloists in Mozart's *Sinfonia concertante* in E-flat major for Violin, Viola, and Orchestra in the final concert on May 15, 2016. Both are both strongly connected to the Youth Orchestra —Zhao as a member of the SFSYO Coaching Team, and Kadarauach as an SFSYO alumna.

<http://nagisaariza.com/img/SFS%202015-16%20press%20release.pdf>



SAN FRANCISCO  
SYMPHONY

*Michael Tilson Thomas*  
MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS • MUSIC DIRECTOR

**San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra**

**Donato Cabrera**, Wattis Foundation Music Director

Sunday, November 1, 2015 at 2:00

Davies Symphony Hall

**Donato Cabrera** conducting

**Dvořák**

Cello Concerto in B minor, Opus 104

Allegro

Adagio ma non troppo

Finale: Allegro moderato

**Elena Ariza**

INTERMISSION

**Ravel**

*Alborada del gracioso*

**Copland**

*Appalachian Spring*

This concert is supported by the San Francisco Arts Commission.

THE CONCERT

# Soloist with South Valley Symphony

February, 2015



< Previous   Next >

## Teen takes music competition, will play with symphony in March

**Elena Ariza, 16, earns chance to play with South Valley Symphony**

*Published in the Jan. 21 – Feb. 3, 2015 issue of Morgan Hill Life*

*By Staff Report*

The sweet sounds of classical music filled Morgan Hill resident Audrey Gray's home music studio as three young musicians competed as finalists in the South Valley Symphony's 7th annual Al Navaroli music competition Jan. 10.

Cellist Elena Ariza, a 16-year-old student at Menlo High School, earned an opportunity to perform with musicians at the March 7 symphony concert which will be held at Gavilan Community College's theater. Fellow competitors BinHui Kwon, on oboe, and Brian Lee, on flute, received honorable mention accolades at the competition.

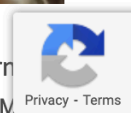
Ariza performed Victor Herbert's Cello Concerto #2 in E minor as well as a portion of Antonin Dvorak's Cello Concerto in B minor to win the competition. She'll perform the full Dvorak concerto at the concert.

Ariza started playing the cello at age 4 and performs in the San



*Photo by Marty Cheek*

Cellist Elena Ariza will perform  
the South Valley Symphony M



<https://morganhilllife.com/2015/01/16/teen-takes-music-competition-will-play-symphony-march/>