



Daniel Ching, violin

Daniel Ching, a founding member of the Miró Quartet, began his violin studies at the age of 3 under tutelage of his father. At age 5, he entered the San Francisco Conservatory Preparatory Division on a full twelve-year scholarship, where he studied violin with Serban Rusu and Zaven Melikian, and chamber music with Susan Bates. At the age of 10, Daniel was first introduced to string quartets.

A graduate of the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, Daniel studied violin with Kathleen Winkler, Roland and Almita Vamos, and conducting with Robert Spano and Peter Jaffe. He completed his Masters degree at the Cleveland Institute of Music, where he studied with former Cleveland Quartet violinist Donald Weilerstein. He also studied recording engineering and production with Thomas Knab of Telarc, and subsequently engineered the Miró Quartet's first promotional disc.

Daniel is on faculty at the Sarah and Ernest Butler School of Music at the University of Texas at Austin, where he teaches private violin students and coaches chamber music. He concurrently maintains an active international touring schedule as a member of the Miró Quartet.

Daniel is a discerning connoisseur of all things cinematic and electronic. Before he became a busy parent, Daniel was an avid skier and a dedicated reader of science fiction—he looks forward to returning to those passions, some day. In his free time, Daniel enjoys hosting happy hours with friends and lounging at home with his wife Sandy (also a member of the quartet), their two sons, and two cats.

Sandy Yamamoto, violin

A member of the Miró Quartet since 1996, Satoko Sandy Yamamoto has performed throughout North America, Europe, and Asia as a soloist and chamber musician, garnering praise from audiences and critics alike. Since her solo debut with the North Carolina Symphony at the age of 11, Sandy has appeared as a soloist with numerous orchestras including the Winston-Salem Symphony, Durham Symphony, Asheville Symphony Orchestra, St. Barths Festival Orchestra, International Music Program Orchestra, and the Cleveland Institute of Music Orchestra among others.

With the Miró Quartet, she was a top prizewinner in the Naumburg and Banff competitions and received both the Avery Fisher Career Grant and the Cleveland Quartet Award. Sandy was invited to be a guest speaker and role model for the winners of the 2003 Glamour Magazine's Top Ten College Women, which is an annual scholarship competition that recognizes outstanding women in their field.

Upon winning the North Carolina National Bank Competition at age 13, Sandy received a full scholarship to the North Carolina School for the Arts. She continued her studies at the Cleveland Institute of Music where she received her Bachelors and Masters degrees. Her principal teachers were Elaine Richey, David Cerone, and former Cleveland Quartet violinist Donald Weilerstein.

Sandy teaches both violin and chamber music at the Sarah and Ernest Butler School of Music at the University of Texas at Austin. When she is not touring or teaching, Sandy enjoys being at home with her husband Daniel Ching (also a member of the Quartet), their two sons and two cats, and indulging in her two guilty pleasures: massages and HGTV.

John Largess, viola

Violist John Largess began his studies in Boston at age 12 in the public schools, studying with Michael Zaretsky of the Boston Symphony, and later as a student of Michael Tree at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. In 1995, he graduated from Yale University to join the Colorado String Quartet as interim violist with whom he toured the United States and Canada teaching and concertizing. The following year he was appointed principal violist of the Charleston Symphony Orchestra in South Carolina, a position he held until joining the Miró Quartet in 1997.

Also an active speaker and writer about all things chamber-musical, in 2004 Mr. Largess was invited to give a week-long audience lecture series as a part of the Eighth International String Quartet Competition at the Banff Centre for the Arts in Alberta, Canada; he repeated this series in 2007, and will do so again in 2010.

With his training in Greek and Latin Literature and his Bachelor's degree in Archeology from Yale University, as well as studies at the Hebrew University in Israel, he has participated in excavations in Greece, Israel, and Jordan. John loves to cook gourmet cuisine, particularly French pastry and fine desserts; luckily, he also enjoys exercising. John is a trained yoga instructor, having studied Vinyasa Power Yoga with Baron Baptiste. He also practices Kundalini, Bikram, and Astanga styles, and teaches yoga at 24 Hour Fitness and the Bodhi Yoga studio in Austin, Texas where he lives. When not standing on his head, he enjoys making his Tibetan Singing Bowl sing.

John serves as Senior Lecturer and Coordinator of String Chamber Music at the University of Texas at Austin School of Music.

Joshua Gindele, cello

Cellist Joshua Gindele, a founding member of the Miró Quartet, began his cello studies at the age of 3 playing a viola his teacher had fitted with an endpin. As cellist for the Miró, Joshua has won numerous international awards including an Avery Fisher Career Grant, the Naumburg Chamber Music Award and the Cleveland Quartet Award and has shared the stage with Pinchas Zuckerman, Joshua Bell, Midori, Matt Haimovitz, Eliot Fisk, Leif Ove Andnes, and The Oak Ridge Boys. He continues to perform across four continents and on some of the world's most prestigious concert stages.

In 2006 Joshua co-founded www.classicallounge.com. This is an online networking site where you can meet musicians, both professional and amateur, discover new talent or get discovered, share music, post and get concert information, share opinions, post classified ads and much more. The site was sold to www.classicalconnection.com in August of 2009.

In his free time he regularly hikes, climbs, runs, goes to the gym, plays tennis and golf, skis, cooks French food and enjoys the occasional glass of wine.

Joshua serves as Senior Lecturer at the University of Texas at Austin where he teaches a select number of private cello students and coaches chamber music