

The University of Georgia
Hugh Hodgson School of Music

Presents

JESÚS CASTRO-BALBI, CELLO
JAMES KIM, CELLO
EMELY PHELPS, PIANO

Edge Recital Hall

Friday, February 27, 2026, at 7:30 PM

PROGRAM

Sonata in F Major, Op. 67 (1904)
Moderato quasi andante
Très lent
Final

Mélanie Bonis
(1858-1937)

Sonata in E Minor, Op. 38 (1865)
Allegro non troppo
Allegretto quasi menuetto
Allegro

Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)

Jesús Castro-Balbi, cello
Emely Phelps, piano

Intermission

Suite for Two Cellos
Tranquillo e rubato – Allegro
Quasi allegro
Danzando
Adagio espressivo
Allegro energico
Introduzione (Largo) – Fugato energico

Samuel Zyman
(b. 1992)

Jesús Castro-Balbi, cello
James Kim, cello

Figaro, from *The Barber of Seville*
Allegro vivace

Rossini-Castelnuovo Tedesco
(1895-1968)

Jesús Castro-Balbi, cello
Emely Phelps, piano

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Jesús Castro-Balbi is a concert cellist and educator of international renown. He has performed extensively across the U.S., Latin America, Europe, and Asia, including at Carnegie Hall, Mexico City's Sala Nezahualcóyotl, Seoul Arts Center, Shanghai's Oriental Arts Center, and at Tokyo's Suntory Hall, and is featured in 11 albums. As a soloist, he has collaborated with, among other fine ensembles, the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, the Aarhus Symphony Orchestra in Denmark, the Leipzig Radio Orchestra in Germany, the Norwegian Radio Orchestra, the Mexico City Philharmonic Orchestra and the China Philharmonic Orchestra.

A passionate champion of new music, he is the dedicatee of 29 compositions by major and emerging composers. He has presented 71 premiere performances and the world premiere recording of 20 works, including the first recording of Samuel Zyman's Suite for Two Cellos with Carlos Prieto.

He taught at The Juilliard School (Pre-college Division) before developing a destination cello program at Texas Christian University centered on outstanding undergraduate, master's, artist diploma, and doctoral students who are now productive artist-citizens around the world. He has given masterclasses at such prestigious schools as Beijing Central Conservatory, Paris Conservatoire and the Stuttgart Hochschule, and has adjudicated international competitions abroad.

Of Peruvian heritage and raised in France, Dr. Castro-Balbi graduated from the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique at Lyon, Indiana University Bloomington, the Yale School of Music, and holds a doctor of musical arts degree from The Juilliard School. He is currently a professor of music at Kennesaw State University. Please visit jbcello.com.

Lauded by The New York Times for his "admirable purity of tone and accuracy," **James Kim** has appeared as soloist with orchestras such as Boston Symphony and Royal Philharmonic of London, working with conductors including David Zinman and Michael Sanderling onstage at Carnegie Hall, Boston Symphony Hall, Jordan Hall, and Metropolitan Museum of Art. He has given solo recitals at Weill Hall, Kumho Art Hall, and The Greene Space. His performances have been broadcast on NPR and WQXR.

A champion of music by Shinuh Lee, Dr. Kim premiered her Cello Concerto in 2021 and released an album of her works dedicated to him, *Death and Offering*, through Sony Classical in the same year. Other collaborations include Ensemble DITTO and Sejong Soloists. In January 2025, he joined the Lysander Piano Trio.

He currently serves as Assistant Professor of Cello at University of Georgia's Hugh Hodgson School of Music. He has given masterclasses and lectures at Manhattan School of Music, University of New Mexico, and Seoul National University's College of Music.

Dr. Kim is a recipient of the 2012 Salon de Virtuosi's Sony Career Grant and a top prizewinner of the 2006 David Popper, 2015 Isang Yun, and 2024 Naumburg International Cello Competitions. From 2016 to 2021, he performed on a Matteo Goffriller cello from Venice ca. 1715, generously loaned by Samsung Cultural Foundation and Stradivari Society® of Chicago, Illinois. He holds an Artist Diploma from The Juilliard School and a Doctor of Musical Arts from Manhattan School of Music.

Praised by the Boston Globe for her “fleet, energetic, and bright-toned” playing, pianist **Emely Phelps** enjoys a versatile career as a chamber musician, soloist, and teacher. Second prize winner of the 2023 Ernst Bacon Prize for American Music, Emely has given more than 50 performances over the past two years, with recent highlights including an all-American solo recital and educational residency in Ruth Crawford Seeger’s birthplace of East Liverpool, OH, chamber music performances with A Far Cry and the Cassatt Quartet, Gershwin’s Rhapsody in Blue with the Ohio University Wind Symphony, and duo recitals with violinist Christine Harada Li, flutist Jeiran Hasan, and trombonist Lucas Borges.

Emely has presented solo recitals throughout North America and Europe with a diverse repertoire ranging from Bach to Carter, and is a particularly passionate advocate for new music, having given world premieres of more than a dozen compositions and worked closely with Jörg Widmann, Shulamit Ran, Lei Liang, Robert McClure, and Richard Wernick in performances of their works. An in-demand collaborator, she has been on the faculty of the T-Town Chamber Music Festival, Icicle Creek Chamber Music Festival, Anchorage Chamber Music Festival, and Yellow Barn Young Artists Program, performs regularly with Electric Earth Concerts, and appears on flutist Hannah Porter Occaña’s albums *Confluence* and *Discovering Her Voice*, as well as a CD for the Delos label with violinist Dawn Wohn (*Unbounded*), all featuring duos by female composers. She was a founding member of the prizewinning Trio Cleonice, with whom she spent eight years performing more than 150 concerts across the United States, Europe, and China.

Emely is currently Limited-Term Assistant Professor of Piano at the University of Georgia, having most recently served as Associate Professor of Instruction at Ohio University, where from 2019-2025 she co-chaired the keyboard division, taught applied piano, chamber music, and keyboard repertoire, and directed the graduate collaborative piano degree program. She holds a doctoral degree from Stony Brook University, a graduate diploma from New England Conservatory and a BM and MM from Juilliard, and has studied with Christina Dahl, Julian Martin, Vivian Weilerstein, Marjorie Lee, and Carole Kriewaldt.