

## **The Emil Trio Biographies**

The Emil Trio—comprised of Nathan Meltzer, Yannick Rafalimanana, and Joshua Halpern—formed after meeting at Krzyzowa-Musik Festival in Poland in 2021. Their first public appearance took place in the spring of 2022 with a German tour which included a debut at the Berlin Philharmonie.

Since their debut, the Emil Trio has performed throughout Germany and the U.S., traversing repertoire of all kinds. In their short time together, they have dedicated themselves equally to community engagement projects such as school concerts and collaborations with locally-owned businesses and social-service organizations.

The Emil Trio constructs programs that tell compelling stories, in order to bring audiences closer to the music and make a stronger case for repertoire which may be unfamiliar.

### **Joshua Halpern, cello**

Joshua Halpern has appeared on stages around the world as a soloist, chamber musician, and orchestral principal cellist. As a chamber musician, he has collaborated with artists including Jonathan Biss, Gary Hoffman, Kim Kashkashian, Patricia Kopatchinskaja, Anthony McGill, and Itzhak Perlman, and appeared at music festivals including the Ravinia Steans Institute, Music@Menlo, the Perlman Chamber Music Workshop, La Jolla Summerfest, and Krzyzowa-Music. He has worked personally with composers such as Richard Danielpour, Kevin Puts, and Kaija Saariaho. In 2023, he appears numerous times as guest principal cello with the Philharmonia Orchestra in London, as well as guest with the Varian Fry Quartet.

Josh is the founder and artistic director of the Cultural Caravan, a Colorado-based organization operating at the intersection of small businesses, social-service nonprofits, municipal organizations, and local artists. The Cultural Caravan has since presented over 50 artists with backgrounds ranging from Zimbabwean Afropop to Venezuelan jazz to Classical Music in coordination with over 40 local businesses and community organizations.

Josh completed his Artist Diploma at The Curtis Institute in Philadelphia, where he studied with Carter Brey and Peter Wiley. As an undergraduate at the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University, he studied with Desmond Hoebig. He is currently a member of the Karajan Akademie of the Berliner Philharmoniker, in which he plays as a member of the Berliner Philharmoniker and is mentored by Ludwig Quandt.

### **Nathan Meltzer, violin**

Winner of the Second Prize at the 2022 Sibelius Competition, recipient of the Salon de Virtuosi Career Grant, and youngest-ever winner of the Windsor Festival Competition, Nathan Meltzer has appeared as soloist with the Orchestre national d'Île-de-France, the Philharmonia Orchestra, the Royal Northern Sinfonia, the Finnish RSO, and the Aalborg, Berlin, Charlotte, Concepción, Evansville, Helsinki, Indianapolis, Medellín, and Pittsburgh orchestras, among others. He has performed in Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Poland, Switzerland, the UK, and across the US.

As a recitalist and chamber musician, Nathan has performed at ChamberFest Cleveland, Giardini La Mortella, the Heidelberger Frühling, the Krzyzowa Festival, the Moritzburg Festival, the Musical de l'Orne, the Perlman Chamber Workshop, and the Verbier Festival Academy. This season he returns to Moritzburg and appears at the Ravinia Festival.

Nathan recently released his debut CD with Rohan De Silva and is the co-founder Opus Illuminate, a concert series dedicated to the works of composers from underrepresented communities. A Juilliard

graduate and student of Li Lin and Itzhak Perlman, Nathan was the inaugural recipient of the 1734 “Ames, Totenberg” Antonio Stradivari violin from Rare Violins In Consortium.

### **Yannick Rafalimanana, piano**

French pianist Yannick Rafalimanana has developed an international concert career as a recitalist and chamber musician. Recent performances have taken him to halls all over the world with countless renowned artists and orchestras, including the Borromeo String Quartet, Itzhak Perlman, and ensembles including the Ensemble Parisien and the Berlin Konzerthaus Orchestra. Yannick regularly appears at a wide variety of summer festivals, including the Perlman Music Program, the Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival, the Brussels Chamber Music Festival, and Krzywowa-Musik Festival.

Yannick is the winner of numerous awards and prizes, including the Borromeo Quartet Guest Artist Award, the Bruxelles J-Musiciens Competition, and the Brest Piano Competition. As the first prize winner of the 2012 Tufts/New England Conservatory Soloist Competition, he made his U.S. concerto debut in Symphony Hall in Boston, playing the Schumann Concerto with the Boston Pops Orchestra and Keith Lockhart.

Born in Lille, he began his musical studies at the Conservatory of Lille under the tutelage of Alain Raes. He later graduated from the Paris Conservatoire with first prizes in piano performance, chamber music, and collaborative piano performance. Yannick then moved to Boston, where he obtained a graduate diploma from the New England Conservatory in piano performance and a master of music in chamber music as a student of Vivian Weilerstein. He lives in Berlin.