

Cal State San Bernardino Cello Ensemble Concert

Ensemble violoncelli del Conservatorio di Como

14 giugno 2025

Palazzo Arese-Borromeo - Cesano Maderno
SALA AURORA

PROGRAMMA

--- *Quartetto di studenti di Violoncello dell'università di San Bernardino* ---

Concerto Grosso in re minore, Op. 11, No. 3, RV 565

Antonio Vivaldi
(1678-1741)
arr. Laslo Varga
(1924-2014)

V. *Allegro* (3'00")

Quartetto di Violoncelli

Annabelle Su – *violoncello* I; Karina Gomez-Torres – *violoncello* II;
Taryn Brantsma – *violoncello* III; Adeline Epstein – *violoncello* IV

--- *Piccola Orchestra di Violoncelli* ---

Concerto per Violoncello e Orchestra in Re maggiore, Hob. VIIb:2

Joseph Haydn
(1732-1809)
arr. Douglas Moore
(b. 1946)

I. *Allegro Moderato* (12'00")

Annabelle Su, *Soloist*

Dr. Esther Back**, Karina Gomez-Torres - Cello I; Adeline Epstein, Paige Rodriguez - Cello II;
Taryn Brantsma, Camila Vega-Espinoza – Cello III

II. *Adagio* (5'00")

Adeline Epstein, *Soloist*

Dr. Esther Back, Karina Gomez-Torres - Cello I; Annabelle Su - Cello II;
Taryn Brantsma, Camila Vega-Espinoza – Cello III

Cello Petite Orchestra

--- *Ensemble Violoncelli Univerità di S. Benardino California*

007 fantasised for cello octet (3'40")

Monty Norman et al.
(1928-2022)
arr. Richard Birchall
(b.1981)

Uptown Funk (4'00")

“Funky”

Mark Ronson et al.
(b. 1975)
arr. Alison Gillies
(b. ???)

Ensemble Violoncelli San Bernardino & Ensemble Violoncelli del Conservatorio di Como

Cavalleria Rusticana Intermezzo

Pietro Mascagni

Romance, Op. 119, No. 1

Georg Goltermann

Traviata Preludio

Giuseppe Verdi

Farruca da “El sombrero a tres picos”

Manuel De Falla

(Bis) Libertango

Astor Piazzolla
(1921- 1992)
arr. Mitsu Saeki

Ensemble Violoncelli dell' Università di San Bernardino California (Direttore Dr. Ester Back)

Annabelle Su+
Adeline Epstein+
Karina Gomez-Torres+
Taryn Brantsma+
Camila Vega-Espinoza++
Paige Rodriguez++
Nathan Chu, *violin* ++
Evan Hesskamp+
Alex Mclaughlin+

Ensemble Violoncelli del Conservatorio di Como (Direttore M° Guido Boselli)

Camilla Rossi
Riccardo Binda
Virginia Astori
Alessio Molinati
Matilde Mezzadri
Shanti Avanzi
Alice Castracane
Maria Ghilotti
M° Daniele Bogni

THE CAL STATE SAN BERNARDINO CELLO ENSEMBLE



The CSUSB Cello Ensemble provides a wide range of performances, career development, and educational outreach opportunities. The Ensemble performs many different genres of music and a wide variety of classical (both original and great, familiar arrangements) that is more challenging than typical orchestral music. We provide a fun environment where cellists play together and bring out the sound and capabilities of the cello. We would like to develop cellists and bring out their highest levels every season and perform concerts at prestigious venues! This ensemble is modeled after the elite professional chamber cello group (consisting of twelve members) formed by the members of the Berlin Philharmonic and London Cello Orchestra.

In order to assure the highest levels of performance and musicianship, the CSUSB Cello Ensemble provides master classes/workshops that feature world-renowned professional artists/cellists and highly-respected instructors. The group also consistently provides opportunities to perform with professional artists and faculty-in-residence at CSUSB, which constitutes a significant experience for these students.

The CSUSB Cello Ensemble provides unique opportunities for cellists to perform as SOLOISTS within an orchestral setting before local, national, and international venues and audiences. Each year, the Ensemble holds a Solo Concerto Competition to identify a talented and deserving student to perform a concert/solo piece with the Cello Orchestra. The Ensemble is dedicated to challenging and motivating students to bring out their potential to be outstanding young musicians and help them with their artistic and professional development.

The Orange County Cello Ensemble, the director's former premier cello ensemble group, was synonymous with passion and dedication. As its artistic director, Dr. Back helped the OCCE members gain acceptance to prestigious colleges or achieve bright futures and successful careers. These members won prestigious awards and have contributed with unmatched service to their communities. We welcome you into this distinguished group and look forward to the impact you will make as a future CSUSB Cello Ensemble member for this upcoming academic year.

Artistic Director/Conductor/Cellist



Hailed by a German critic for her Baroque cello playing as “Deep-rooted musicality, passion, and interpretive beauty meet Baroque music,” cellist **Dr. Esther Back** is an acclaimed cellist known not only for her solo, orchestral, and chamber performances but also as an avid educator and outreach advocate. She has performed at major venues in both the US and Europe.

Back also has collaborated in chamber music, concertos, and symphonies with renowned artists such as Lynn Harrell and Bernard Greenhouse.

A long-term pupil of world-renowned Baroque cellist and viol player Jaap ter Linden, Back began studying at Frankfurt University at the age of eleven and came to the US sometime later. She holds BM (CSU/Fullerton), MM (University of Redlands) degrees in Cello Performance, and DMA/Historical Performance Practices (Claremont Graduate University) degree in Baroque cello and viola da gamba. At present, she is working toward PhD/Musicology degree at CGU.

An enthusiastic teacher, Back serves as a faculty member at CSU/San Bernardino and has a large private studio; her students have won top awards at various music competitions, providing them with soloist opportunities with professional orchestras and invitations to regularly perform at prestigious venues.

She also is the founder, artistic director, and conductor of the CSU/San Bernardino Cello Ensemble.

Under her numerous years of direction, the former Orange County Cello Ensemble (OCCE)—which she founded—performed live on 88.9 KUCI frequently as well as at Walt Disney Hall and prestigious venues in France.

She also produced the CD album, “Miracle of the Cellos.” Back is currently preparing a complete recording set of the six Bach unaccompanied cello suites for the Athene Label.

Soloists



Annabelle Su is in her third year at California State University, San Bernardino pursuing a Bachelor of Music degree in Cello Performance with a minor in Entrepreneurship in the Arts.

She has been a member of the CSUSB Cello Ensemble, for which she has performed a solo three times, for six years, and of the CSUSB Symphony Orchestra for four years. Under the devoted instruction of Dr. Esther Back, Su has continuously developed her skills as a performer through countless competitions. Namely, as a winner of two international competitions, the Golden Classical Music Award and the Grand Prize Virtuoso Competition, she performed a solo at the world-renowned Walt Disney Hall in 2023 and had an invitation to perform at the Petit Palau at the Palau de la Música Catalana in Barcelona. In addition, Su performed the last movement of the Elgar Cello Concerto in E Minor with the CSUSB Symphony Orchestra as a winner of the Young Artist Concerto Competition in Spring 2024.

Currently, Su is a student assistant for the CSUSB Symphony Orchestra for the past two years, a student teacher with the Coyote String Project, a member of the Coachella Valley Symphony, and maintains a 4.0 GPA. Su plans to pursue her other interests here at CSUSB through the Early Music Ensemble, where she is studying the baroque cello; the Coyote Music Society, where she serves as president to help build and nurture a community within the music department; and as an Academic Mentor for the Department of Residential Housing, where she mentors residents in their academic journey. Recently, she has also taken an interest in traditional Chinese instruments and aims to further her knowledge and skill in the field.

In the future, she intends to study cello through graduate school and receive a Doctorate in Musical Arts. She hopes ultimately to become a professional performer, educator, and entrepreneur.



Addy (Adeline) Epstein, 20 years old, attends CSU San Bernardino, where she is majoring in Computer Engineering while minoring in Music.

She has been playing cello since the 5th grade through MTS in Big Bear.

Currently, Addy privately studies with Dr. Esther Back and participates in several chamber groups within the community.