



*25th Annual  
- New  
Directions  
Cello Festival*

**Berklee College of Music**

**Boston, MA**

**June 21 - 23, 2019**

***exploring the boundaries  
of non-classical cello***





Proudly supports  
the New Directions Cello Festival



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# WELCOME TO THE 25th ANNUAL NEW DIRECTIONS CELLO FESTIVAL!

We are returning to our roots! We held our 2nd festival here at Berklee back in 1996. We are grateful to Berklee College of Music for allowing us to gather here. A big thanks to Eugene Friesen, professor of cello here and member of our board of artistic advisors. Also thanks to Christina Quarles for helping coordinate the festival with Berklee’s resources. And of course, we couldn’t pull this off without our volunteers.

This year’s festival holds special meaning for me, as it will be my last as director. After 25 years at the helm of this ship, I’m ready to watch it sail into the sunset. My baby is all grown up! It has been such an amazing ride on the good ship New Directions. The future is a bit unclear, but the past is shimmering brightly.

We are looking forward to another wild and wonderful time together in Cello City here in Bean Town this weekend! Enjoy! — *Chris White, Founder & Director*

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**New Directions 2019** is organized by the New Directions Cello Association & Festival, Inc., a 501c3 non-profit organization.

The purpose of the New Directions Cello Festival is to provide a forum for the exchange of music and ideas in the field of improvisational and non-classical cello.

The New Directions Cello Festival is made possible by our sponsors, donors, guest artists, members of the NDCA and YOU — the participants of the festival!

*Thanks for being a part of New Directions 2019 - #25!*



The New Directions Cello Festival  
would like to acknowledge our sponsors:

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Cello Assoc.

Cover art by Andrea Staffeld



WORKSHOP & EVENT SCHEDULE — FRIDAY, JUNE 21

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Registration	
1:00 PM	
<p><b>Stijn Kuppens</b> <i>Tocai</i> Meet Belgian cellist Stijn Kuppens and learn how to play his piece “Tocai,” a multi-layered cello orchestra piece with a latin feel and room for improvisation. (All Levels)</p>	<p><b>Rufus Cappadocia Polyrhythms</b> Learn a polyrhythm based on the etude I wrote for Berkley. I would be happy to share it with people ahead of time so they could come to the workshop prepared to work on the sticking pattern.</p>
2:10 PM	
<p><b>Eric Wright</b> <i>The Chop</i> We will work on chopping from every direction, starting from the beginning. Tone, groove, and simple patterns to get you headed down the road of percussive string playing! (Beginning/Intermediate)</p>	<p><b>Rufus Cappadocia</b> <i>Modal Music Workshop</i> Based on growing modes out of the Pentatonic scale. I touch on the lineage of the pentatonic scale and its microtonal alterations and blues as modal music distinct from jazz.</p>
3:20 PM	
<p><b>Stephen Katz</b> <i>Flying Pizzicato Counterpoint</i> Build your own multi-voice pizzicato grooves using principles of Stephen’s unique, highly rhythmic approach to strumming the cello. We’ll also incorporate left-hand pull-offs and hammer-ons to add detail and flourishes. (Intermediate/Advanced)</p>	<p><b>Stijn Kuppens</b> <i>Finding your Inner Cello</i> Belgian cellist Stijn Kuppens shares his project Inner Cello and gives you suggestions how to connect with your inner cello. Discover some compositions of Stijn Kuppens, find out where he got his inspiration and try out some new cello techniques. Get motivated to start letting out your own inner cello. (Intermediate/Advanced)</p>
4:30 PM– 6:00 PM	
<p><b>Cello Big Band</b> <i>Rehearsal #1</i> The CBB is a cello choir made up of anyone associated with the festival (participants, guest artists, staff) interested in reading and performing works for many cellos featuring contemporary arrangements and compositions, many of which have sections for improvisation. Big fun! Please come to all 3 rehearsals!</p>	
6:15 PM – 7:15 PM Dinner	

Friday Evening Concert - Boston Conservatory Theater

7:30 PM Matthieu Saglio  
8:30 PM Rufus Cappadocia  
9:30 PM Helen Gillet

About the Friday Guest Artists



**Matthieu Saglio**  
In his show “Cello Solo,” with his cello as his only means of expression, Saglio creates a universe inhabited by an artistic vision that is rich and sensitive, as if dealing with musical northern lights. Cello Solo is the result of a long maturity; an accumulation of the multiple experiences of the musician. Matthieu Saglio combines classical tradition where Cello Solo’s roots are buried, with sounds and rhythms brought from his encounters across the world. In his compositions, you can hear resonating echoes from Western cathedrals and the souks of the Maghreb, to Latin-American tango and Iberian flamenco. Read more - <http://www.matsag.com/>

**Rufus Cappadocia**  
Is a multi-lingual musician, performer, composer and recording artist of incredible range and diversity. From the modalities of Middle Eastern, West African and pan-European folk forms to blues, rock and jazz along the way, adding elements American roots, Mediterranean textures, and Caribbean percussion for good measure, Cappadocia naturally embraces all music. “I’ve studied a lot of different musical vocabularies,” Rufus Cappadocia explains. “And I’ve played with musicians literally from around the world. But, in the end, music all comes down to a single source. “I guess you could say my whole life has been an attempt at getting to that place.”  
Read More - <https://www.bethanyandrufus.com/rufus-capaddocia>



**Helen Gillet “Taking the Cello on a joy ride.”**  
Belgian-born Helen Gillet is both a singer-songwriter and a surrealist-archeologist focused on the worlds of synthesized sound and acoustic cello. Though Gillet had already begun to experiment with improvisational music prior to her arrival in New Orleans, she’s since flourished into one of the most unique, talented, and beloved artists in the Crescent City. She’s known for her eclectic palette – which includes avant-garde jazz, French chansons, funk, alternative rock, and the bohemian flair of the Velvet Underground. Gillet’s solo performance is known for its enigmatic quality as she fabricates each song with a true mastery of live looping technology. More -[www.helengillet.com](http://www.helengillet.com)



WORKSHOP & EVENT SCHEDULE — SATURDAY, JUNE 22

9:00 AM	
<p><b>Gunther Tiedemann</b> <b>The Groove Cello</b> <b>ConneXion: “Ruching Blues”</b> We learn to play my composition “Ruching Blues” (4 parts) containing a big-band-like theme, a trombone inspired counterpart, a walking bass and a strumming part. There will probably be some time left to take a blues solo for some of you to complete our final performance in the workshop. (Beginner/Intermediate)</p>	<p><b>Trevor Exter</b> <b><i>Club Cello Workshop</i></b> Lay down a groove. Amplify. Lead a band. Sing. Improvise in a diverse group. Blend, but without becoming a background player. Trevor brings a technical clarity to these elusive pursuits, helping you find your authority on stage. (Intermediate/Advanced)</p>
10:10 AM	
<p><b>Stephan Braun</b> <i>How to start arranging songs for one and more string player.</i> Playing chords, bass, grooves, percussion, chopping (All Levels)</p>	<p><b>Mattieu Saglio</b> <i>The Cello with a Thousand Accents</i> Discover new technical resources for a free cello. So many possibilities for the right hand to work as a guitar or bass, with rhythm and groove. We will have a look on flamenco rhythms, quarter-tone and phrases from Arabic music, discover the loop-station and the use of sampling. We will practice and improvise together. (Intermediate/Advanced)</p>
11:20 AM	
<p><b>Corbin Keep</b> <i>Out of the Loop: “Electronic” Effects on Acoustic Cello</i> Using extended techniques, we’ll learn to emulate loopers and other FX, and in so doing, expand our concept of what a cello can do.</p>	<p><b>Mike Block -</b> <i>“Contemporary Cello Etudes”</i> An exploration of this new book, with contributions by many of your favorite New Directions cellists. We will learn one of the “sing-ing-while-playing” etudes during the workshop, and if you have one prepared to play, we can have a mini-masterclass too!</p>
12:20 PM – 1:15 PM LUNCH	

1:20 PM – 2:05 PM	
<p><b>Midday Concert with Vincent Courtois and the Love of Life Trio</b> <b>Boston Conservatory Theater</b></p> <p>Vincent Courtois’ classical training endowed him with technique, precision and instrumental control. His curiosity and eclecticism led him to play with brilliant musicians from different backgrounds: Rita Mitsouko, Christian Escoudé, Michel Petrucciani, Louis Sclavis and Michel Portal, to name a few. Strengthened by his many experiences and influences, Vincent Courtois has developed a unique musical exploration. His creative process builds on musical relationships, the balance of personalities and energies, the impact of contrast, ideas of sound, images, incertitude and silence. Creating a musical form where freedom is paradoxically managed with utmost rigor and attentiveness, he gives collective creation a chance and each collaborator a unique position in a spirit of trust and mutual involvement. Vincent is performing with his Love of Life Trio which also features Robin Fincker, tenor sax and clarinet and Daniel Erdmann on tenor sax. “This trio sounds beautiful, on edge...They refresh the clichés, reverse them, change the sepia into a rainbow...the audience remains in suspension” Alain Gauthier, Culture Jazz. <a href="http://vincent-courtois.com/west">http://vincent-courtois.com/west</a></p>	
2:30 PM	
<p><b>Stephen Katz</b> <b>Flying Pizzicato Basics</b> Transform your pizzicato skills with Stephen’s unique, highly rhythmic approach to strumming the cello. Learn to apply basic Flying Pizzicato principles to almost any mid-tempo groove, including new ones we’ll compose together. (All Levels)</p>	<p><b>Helen Gillet</b> <i>Surrealist Archaeology of Cello Techniques Workshop #1</i> Uncover a surrealist archaeology of cello techniques through looping, deep listening, improvisation and vocal accompaniment. We will explore using technology as a seamless tool of expression. I will share my own synthesis of North Indian Hindustani music, funk, rock, avant-garde Jazz and French Chansons. In this class we will improvise using Sun Ra’s <i>Call for all Demons (G minor)</i>.</p>
3:40 PM	
<p><b>Vincent Courtois</b> <i>Chant Interior (Inner singer)</i> Experiential playing, drawing from your “inner singer.” The waters are still, but the pool is deep! (All Levels)</p>	<p><b>Gunther Tiedemann</b> <b>The Groove Cello ConneXion: “Pluck Party”</b> Learn to play Gunther’s composition “Pluck Party” (3 parts) featuring the pizzicato technique hammer on and some percussion. It’s in a friendly Latin mood and we will do some solo improvisations exploring the advantages of hammer on and pull off for faster pizzicato lines. (Intermediate/Advanced)</p>
4:50 PM – 6:00 PM Cello Big Band Rehearsal # 2 (See description on Friday)	



6:15 PM – 7:15 PM Dinner

Saturday Evening Concert  
Boston Conservatory Theater

7:30 PM Stephen Katz  
8:30 PM Eric Wright with Mairi Rankin  
9:30 PM Deep Strings - Stephan Braun & Anne-Christin Schwarz

About the Friday Guest Artists



**Stephen Katz**  
Cellist and award-winning composer, Stephen Katz, has performed at Carnegie Hall and toured internationally as a soloist, and with the Paul Winter Consort and the Essex String Quartet. He has been featured on APM’s Performance Today broadcasts and is a NEA grant recipient. As co-founder of Seen & Heard with dancer/monologist BJ Goodwin, he literally danced with the cello while accompanying the dramas they played out on stage.

Read More - [www.stephenkatzmusic.com](http://www.stephenkatzmusic.com)

Eric Wright

Is a 2017 JUNO Award-winning cellist. Raised on pure Vermont air and inspired by his love for American Old Time and Irish music, he sets out to incorporate cello into new and traditional music in ways that haven’t been done before. Taking his innovative bowing techniques, chording styles, and ‘the chop’, to new levels, Eric has become a highly sought-after performer, accompanist, producer, session musician, and arranger for all types of folk styles.

Read More - <https://ericwrightsound.com/>



Deep Strings

Is a duo featuring Anne-Christin Schwarz and Stephan Braun. They both hail from East Germany and met each other at the Musikgymnasium Belvedere in Weimar. They have been developing their own unique sound since 2000. With brilliant timing, amazing virtuosity, a beautiful voice and stunning new cello techniques, they astonish audiences.

Read More - [www.deepstrings.com](http://www.deepstrings.com)



WORKSHOP & EVENT SCHEDULE — SUNDAY, JUNE 23

9:00 AM

**Matthieu Saglio**  
*The Cello with a Thousand Accents, part 2*  
Discover new technical resources for a free cello. So many possibilities for the right hand to work as a guitar or bass, with rhythm and groove. We will have a look on flamenco rhythms, quarter-tone and phrases from Arabic music, discover the loop-station and the use of sampling. We will practice and improvise together.  
(Intermediate/Advanced)

**Helen Gillet**  
*Surrealist Archaeology of Cello Techniques Workshop #2*  
Uncover a surrealist archaeology of cello techniques through looping, deep listening, improvisation and vocal accompaniment. We will explore using technology as a seamless tool of expression. I will share my own synthesis of North Indian Hindustani music, funk, rock, avant-garde Jazz and French Chansons. In this class we will turn into a rock band and improvise, sing and jam out on Velvet Underground’s Ride into the Sun (D Major) and a polyrhythmic singing/looping/improvising original tune.

10:10 AM

**Stephan Braun**  
*Jam*  
“Learning and playing jazz standards like Au Privave, Recordame, Nothing Personal...”  
(For Smaller Groups - Advanced)

**Eric Wright**  
*Advanced Chopping*  
Here we will dive deeper into the chop. Interesting grooves, improvisation, fills, and variations to go along with your chopping foundations. Must have intermediate/advanced knowledge of the chop, or be prepared to push yourself.  
(Intermediate/Advanced)

11:10 AM - 12:25 PM Cello Big Band Dress Rehearsal – Boston Conservatory Theater

12:30 PM – 1:15 PM Lunch

Farewell Concert  
Boston Conservatory Theater

1:30 PM Open Mic by participants  
2:00 PM Cello Big Band Performance



# About our Guest Clinicians

## Mike Block

is a pioneering cello player, singer, composer, and educator, hailed by Yo- Yo Ma as the “ideal musician of the 21st-Century”. Acclaimed by the NY Times for his “vital rich-hued solo playing”, Block’s solo performances offer a rich mixture of core classical repertoire, folk music, songs, and original compositions. Mike is member of Yo-Yo Ma’s Silk Road Ensemble (SRE), having joined in 2005 while a student at The Juilliard School. Touring extensively throughout the world with SRE, he has been featured as cello and vocal soloist, contributed arrangements and compositions, and earned a Grammy Award in 2017 for their album, Sing Me Home. Mike is on faculty at Berklee College of Music and New England Conservatory. **Read More - [www.MikeBlockMusic.com](http://www.MikeBlockMusic.com)**



## Stijn Kuppens

Belgian cellist **Stijn Kuppens** composed a series of pieces for solo cello between 2010 and 2018 using self-developed playing techniques and inspired by real events or people around him. In 2018 nine of these compositions merged to become “Inner Cello.” After a full year of intense practicing, he recorded this 45-minute interconnected work for cello solo in the prestigious Concert Hall of the Royal Conservatory of Brussels. “Inner Cello” is a milestone in his musical career and the first chapter of a new artistic life dedicated to musical creation. Stijn Kuppens has been professionally active as a cellist and cello teacher for 20 years. “Inner Cello” will be released as CD and online in June 2019.

## Trevor Exter

For most of his life, **Trevor Exter** has been a professional singer and cellist with his own approach to all aspects of composing, songwriting, producing, performing and touring. He has a couple of bands where he gets to make a spectacle of himself, and some producers like to use him as a secret weapon. He also plays Fender bass. First-time listeners are sometimes puzzled when Exter steps on stage, a cello plugged into an amp the way a rocker bears his axe. Exter has toured with De La Guarda, Steve Kimock, James McBride’s Good Lord Bird Band, DJ Tasha Blank and his duo with John Kimock, XVSK. He frequently performs solo.



## Gunther Tiedemann

Is a cellist, composer and a director of orchestras and Cello Big Bands. He plays in several bands as well as in duos and a jazz string quartet. He has played with Markus Stockhausen, Ernst Reijseger, Stephen Katz, Nelly Furtado among others, and has toured Europe, USA, West Africa and Pakistan. He was a guest artist at New Directions in 2008 and 2017 and was the co-director of New Directions in 2018 in Cologne, Germany.

## Corbin Keep

Has been a fixture at the New Directions Cello Festival for many years. A guest artist in 2002 and 2009, Corbin is a member of the board of directors, editor of the Cello City Online e-newsletter and always spices up the festival with his unique workshops and jam sessions. Corbin’s commitment and passion for the cello and its constant evolution knows no bounds.



# WORKSHOPS, YOUNG PEOPLE’S CELLO-BRATION OPEN MIC & CELLO BIG BAND

## WORKSHOPS

Feel free to choose the workshop, jam session or activity that most interests you at any given time. If you find it is too challenging (or not challenging enough) feel free to quietly switch to another session if there is one going on at the same time.

## YOUNG PEOPLE’S CELLO-BRATION

is a mini-festival within the larger NDCF. This provides a way for cellists ages 8-16 to gain experience with alternative uses of the cello without attending the whole festival. It happens on Saturday (June 22) from 9:00am to 5:00pm. All activities are open to cellists of all ages at all times. Young cellists are welcome to observe the Cello Big Band rehearsal on Saturday and come to the free concert on Sunday! The Young People’s Cello-Bratation program includes all activities on Saturday, plus one concert ticket to the Saturday evening concert. Students choose from workshops and jam sessions offered during the day on Saturday. During the lunch hour, this special group will have a pizza lunch.

## OPEN MIC!

Once again, this year we are offering a forum for participants and staff to perform for the rest of us. On Sunday (June 23) from 1:30 to 2pm we will have 5-minute slots for participants or staff to perform before the Cello Big Band Concert! There will be a sign-up sheet posted on Saturday in the hall outside the workshop rooms. The first 6 acts to sign up will get to perform. Cellists may choose to play solo or with others.

## CELLO BIG BAND

The CBB is a cello choir made up of anyone associated with the festival (participants, guest artists, staff) interested in reading and performing works for many cellos featuring contemporary arrangements and compositions, many of which have sections for improvisation. Please come to all 3 rehearsals! Big fun!

Cellist **Joel Cohen** has been involved with the New Directions Cello Festival since 2001 as the director of the



Cello Big Band. In 2006 he was a guest artist at the festival performing with Quartet San Francisco. Joel had his early musical training in the Bay Area with Irene Sharp and Margaret Rowell and was co- principal cellist with the Oakland Symphony from 1979 to 1985. He lived in Vienna for the next twelve years, playing and touring Europe, Japan and the U.S. with the Vienna Chamber Orchestra. Since returning to the U.S. in 1997, he lived in and performed in the Boston area for many years and now lives, freelances and teaches in the Bay Area.

## GENERAL FESTIVAL INFORMATION

### FOOD

You can dine on campus and pay as they go for each meal. You will be given list of restaurants in the area as well.

### Berklee Dining Hall

#### Monday through Friday

- o Breakfast – 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM
- o Lunch – 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM
- o Dinner – 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM

### Saturday & Sunday

- o Brunch – 10:30 AM to 2:00 PM
- o Dinner – 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM

### The Dormitory

The Residence Hall is part of the New England Conservatory and is located in the Student Life and Performance Center (SLPC) at 255 Saint Botolph Street, Boston, MA 02115, on floors 4-10 and offers double and single rooms.

Guests will use one of the two community bathrooms on each floor. Community bathrooms include two to three sinks, two to three toilet stalls, and two to three stand-up shower stalls. (Each bathroom has one shower stall that includes a bench and could accommodate a wheelchair.)

### General Festival Questions:

Please ask any one of our volunteers or staff. For emergencies call Chris White’s cell phone (607) 227-2516. Chris gets lots of calls, so please try to keep these to very important questions that cannot be solved by others.

## BEHIND THE SCENES

**Chris White** Founder & Director

**Corbin Keep** Assistant Director & Newsletter Editor

**Sera Smolen** Assistant Director & Education Director

**Christina Quarles** Director, Conference Services and Events at Berklee

**Mark Greentree** Webmaster and program book design

### THANK YOU to this year’s volunteers!

Marta Roma, Kely Pinheiro, Camille Felisbret, Maria Penrice, Cody Zusman, Coman Fevrier

### Board of Directors

Joel Cohen, Corbin Keep, Sean Grissom, John Michel, Abby Newton, Elizabeth Simkin, Sera Smolen, Chris White

### Artistic Advisors

Ron Carter, David Darling, Eugene Friesen, Yo-Yo Ma, Julian Lloyd Webber

Check out our e-newsletter, Cello City Online. Send us your e-mail and we’ll send it to you! You can help support what we’re doing by becoming a member. Please join our unique family!



### New Directions Cello Association & Festival, Inc.

123 Rachel Carson Way, Ithaca, NY 14850

info@newdirectionscello .org

www.newdirectionscello .org

www.facebook.com/groups/newdirectionscellofestival/

NEW DIRECTIONS CELLO ASSOCIATION & FESTIVAL, INC . is a 501c3 nonprofit corporation



# CHRIS WHITE'S FAREWELL

It is with a mix of emotions that, after 25 years, I lead my last NDCF as director. Leading this adventure for cellists has been one of the great joys of my life. Cellolandia, as we sometimes call it, was somewhat of a new territory back in 1995. But now, a quarter century later, the cello has emerged as an important component of groups in all different genres of music. It is not unusual to see a cello playing in a rock band or with a singer. And some singer songwriters use the cello as their main instrument. Times have changed, the cello has come out of the (classical) closet and my baby (New Directions) is all grown up. A special thank you to all those who have helped make this possible, especially Sera Smolen and Corbin Keep, members of the board of directors, the hundreds of amazing guest artists that have played and shared their music and insights at the festivals, the regular participants who have come back many times (Rex! Nancy! Tom! etc.) and all the schools and venues where we have recreated the magic year after year. After this festival I plan to focus more on my own music and other creative projects, organize the archives of photos, audio and video recordings from past festivals, spend more time with my wife and family and see where the next phase leads. I will also keep our non-profit going as a resource for adventurous cellists worldwide.

*Cellistically Yours, Chris*



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