



*“Joseph Kuipers is one of the rare musical voices of today: the fresh sincerity of his playing, combined with technical sovereignty over the instrument. He draws a dark, singing sound out of his Ceruti Cello, and creates lines that seem to float effortlessly.”*

#### **Berliner Abend Post**

American cellist **Joseph Kuipers** is renowned for his creativity and versatility in his captivating performances on both modern and gut strings. Appearing at festivals and music centers around the globe, he has performed at the Ravinia Music Festival, Aspen Music Festival, Les Festival International du Domaine Forget, Kronberg Academy, Ascoli Piceno Festival, Carl Orff Festival, and the World Cello Congress. Equally at home with modern and baroque performance styles, and often juxtaposing them in concert programs, Joseph has worked extensively with living composers, among them Robert Cogan, Heinz Holliger, Helmut Lachenmann and Arvo Part; and has performed with the Ensemble für Neue Musik Basel, Neue Musik Ensemble Mannheim, Second Instrumental Unit, New York, and the Callithumpian Consort of Boston.

Joseph is the Artistic Director of the Fredericksburg Music Festival where world renowned European classical musicians gather in historic Fredericksburg TX for a week of music making. In 2010 Joseph founded the Marinus Project an international collective of chamber musicians dedicated to the tradition of classical music in our time. Marinus is the “Ensemble in Residence” at Washington and Lee University and Eastern University. In April 2011 the Marinus Ensemble received a \$200,000 unrestricted artist development grant to further the Marinus Project.

Joseph completed his undergraduate studies at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, where his primary teachers were Paul Katz for cello and Pozzi Escot for composition. To immerse himself in the European Music Tradition, he subsequently studied for six years in Germany and Switzerland. In 2008, Joseph received an Artist Diploma from the Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst Mannheim, Germany where he studied with Michael Flaksman. Most recently he completed his Master of Musical Arts from the Musik-Akademie der Stadt Basel, Switzerland, where he studied with Thomas Demenga. Other important influences came from Anner Bylsma, Rainer Faupel, Bernard Greenhouse, Mstislav Rostropovich and Hong Wang, and in chamber-music from Rainer Schmidt of the Hagen Quartet.

Teaching plays a significant role in Joseph’s musical career. He is on the faculty at Washington and Lee University, Eastern University, and has held positions at the Binningen School for Gifted Students in Switzerland, as well as numerous masterclasses at festivals worldwide, and maintains a private teaching studio of cellists in North Dallas, where he is based.

He plays a cello from Francesco Gobetti, Venice ca 1710, a custom Tourte bow by Roger Zabinski, and baroque bow by Andrew Dipper.

Aside from his musical activities, Joseph is a composer, painter, chess player, and an avid fisherman. He can often be found in the great outdoors with his Australian Shepherd dog, Yelka.



Violinist **Sean Riley** maintains a career throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia as a performer, entrepreneur, and educator. He was given the honor to perform for Charles, the Prince of Wales at his 65th birthday celebration and on a separate occasion for the Sultan of Oman at the Savoy Hotel's Royal Suite. Riley was most recently awarded the Rainwater Innovation Grant to design and 3D print a 6-string electric violin to perform *The Dharma at Big Sur* written by the American composer, John Adams.

Sean's recent performance highlights have included the Basically Beethoven Festival, Austin Camerata (Texas), St. Martin in the Fields, Wigmore Hall, Royal Albert Hall, the Victoria and Albert Museum, St. James's Piccadilly (London), and Orchestra Hall in Chicago. He has collaborated with the Philharmonia Orchestra in the series *Infernal Dance: Inside the World of Bartok* and has also been featured in performances at the Sala Maria Cristina (Málaga), Teatro all'Antica (Italy), and the Kosciuszko Foundation (New York). He has curated recitals at London's National Gallery, at the Contemporary International Music Exchange in Italy and has most recently performed Fazil Say's *1001 Nights in a Harem* with the Signature Symphony in the United States.

A tireless advocate of contemporary music, Sean has led London's New Perspectives Ensemble, Variable Geometry Ensemble, the New Juilliard Ensemble. He has also performed with the Continuum Ensemble in London and a completely independent Continuum Ensemble in America for the Intersections Series at Harvard University, the Museum of Modern Art in New York, and at the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, D.C. He gave the European premiere of Nichole Lizée's violin concerto *Cathedral Mountain* at the Contemporary International Music Exchange and a Premier of Fazil Say's concerto *1001 Nights in a Harem*. Sean has recently championed works by composers Fazil Say, Simon Holt, Craig Armstrong, and Ken Hesketh.

As an educator, Sean has held a professorship at the Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance where he utilized Liz Lerman's Critical Response Process to develop communication and leadership skills amongst musicians. He was a graduate teaching assistant in contemporary music at the Royal College of Music and currently holds the role of Teaching Assistant to Brian Lewis at the University of Texas, Austin. Riley authored two online units for a blended-learning course on the Practice of Music Making, jointly delivered by the Open University and Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance on the topics of Artistic Identity and Social Media Marketing in the Arts.

Sean holds a masters degree in violin performance from The Juilliard School as well as an artist diploma and Master in Philosophy on the subject of performance training and peer communication in higher music education from the Royal College of Music, London. His teachers have included Radu Blidar, Kyung-Wha Chung, Hyo Kang, Roland, and Almita Vamos and Brian Lewis. Sean is the recipient of the Williamson Foundation of Music annual grant, Rayne Foundation grant, Donald Paterson Award, and the Worshipful Company of Musicians Silver Medal and the Rainwater Innovation Grant.



Critics have hailed **Michael Schneider** as “a pianist with exceptional insight” and a “performer with great panache” in performances across the states and abroad. Michael has performed in legendary venues such as the château of George Sand in Nohant, France, Carnegie’s Weill Recital Hall, and the Library of Congress. He has been a featured guest artist at the International Chopin Festival in France, the Music Festival of the Hamptons, directed by Lukas Foss, ‘Pianotune’ Festival in Brussels, the Hungarian Festival in Cancun, Mexico, the American Liszt Society Annual Conference, the Paderewski Festival in Paso Robles, CA, and for seven summers was an audience favorite at Pianofest in the Hamptons. On February 5, 2011, with one day’s notice, Michael gave a full-length solo recital in place of the canceled San Angelo Symphony Concert due to inclement weather.

In recent years, Michael has performed the Liszt E-flat Concerto with the San Angelo Symphony, the Beethoven Triple Concerto with the Irving New Philharmonic Orchestra, Gershwin’s Rhapsody in Blue and Concerto in F with the San Angelo and Plano Symphonies, the Brahms D minor Concerto with the Lewisville Lake Symphony, and the Poulenc Concerto for Two Pianos with the UT University Orchestra. Other concerto appearances have included the Elgin Symphony Orchestra (IL), the Richardson Symphony Orchestra (TX), the Bartlesville Symphony Orchestra (OK), the Harding University Orchestra (AK), and the Big Spring Symphony (TX).

Championing the music of Franz Liszt, Michael is quickly becoming known for his portrayal of Franz Liszt in his monodrama “Liszt and the Last Years,” which combines an original script based off of factual events with performances of works completed with a PowerPoint backdrop, featured at the annual conventions of the Music Teachers Association of California and the Texas Music Teachers Association as well as performed at the University of Texas at Austin for numerous donor groups. Other lecture/presentations Michael has given include “Gottschalk: Life and Works,” “The Common Mistakes of Practicing,” and “Gershwin’s Rhapsody in Blue” – a children’s book by Anna Harwell Celenza read by Michael while providing soundtrack from the piano.

As a collaborator, he has performed recitals with violinists Frank Almond (concertmaster of the Milwaukee Symphony), Jun Iwasaki (concertmaster of the Oregon Symphony), cellist Boris Andrianov (3rd prize winner of Tchaikovsky Competition) and many others. He is a regular performer with Mélange Musical, a chamber series in the Dallas/Ft Worth metroplex. In July 2010, with only a few days notice, he performed with several stars in the trombone world, including full recitals with Jorgen van Rijen (international recording artist), Ian Bousfield (principal trombonist of the Vienna Philharmonic), and Jacques Mauger (trombonist of the Paris Opera and teacher at the Paris Conservatoire). In 2014, Michael finished recording a CD entitled “Multiple Personae: The Family of Clarinets” for clarinet and piano by Virko Baley with clarinetist Dr. Timothy Bonenfant on the TNC Classical Label.

Michael is the creator and artistic director of the San Angelo Piano Festival, a classical music festival in West Texas with an emphasis on the piano repertoire. Annual events include guest

artist recitals, impromptu musicales, a composition contest, and a young artist program that consists of competition, master classes, and a showcase recital. Michael is also a co-creator of the Austin Piano Festival, established in 2013.

Michael holds degrees from the University of North Texas, where he studied with Dr. Pamela Mia Paul, and the Cleveland Institute of Music, studying with Mr. Paul Schenly. After two years as Adjunct Professor of Piano at Youngstown State University in Ohio, he returned to Texas to study with Anton Nel at the University of Texas at Austin where he received his Doctorate of Music in May 2011. In the fall of 2010, Michael guest taught in place of artist-in-residence Dr. Michelle Schumann at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor. He has also been adjunct faculty at the University of Texas at Austin and Concordia University-Austin.