

CURRICULUM VITAE

PERSONAL INFORMATION

- Name: Esther Back
- Address: 400 Purdy Avenue, Placentia, CA 92870
- Phone: (714) 296-6918 cell
- Email: Esther.Back@csusb.edu // eback.cello@gmail.com

BAROQUE CELLIST, VIOLIST DA GAMBA, CONCERT CELLIST,
PEDAGOGUE/CELLO INSTRUCTOR (2003 - present)
LECTURER, APPLIED CELLO AND DIRECTOR, CELLO ENSEMBLE, CALIFORNIA
STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN BERNARDINO (2018 - present)
MUSIC DIRECTOR & FOUNDER, ORANGE COUNTY CELLO ENSEMBLE (2003-2019)

EDUCATION

- **Doctor of Philosophy in Musicology**, Claremont Graduate University, in progress
(Fellowship and Teaching Assistantship)
- **Master of Music Degree** in Cello Performance, University of Redlands, 2010 (Honor
Scholarship)
- **Bachelor of Music Degree** in Cello Performance, California State University, Fullerton,
2006 (Honor Scholarship)

PRINCIPAL TEACHERS

- **Jaap ter Linden** ([Baroque Cellist and Viol player](#))
- **Ronald Leonard** (Former Principal Cellist, LA Philharmonic, Former Faculty at Colburn
School & University of Southern California)
- **Peter Stumpf** (Former Principal Cellist, LA Phil and Faculty at Indiana University)
- **Ben Hong** (Associate Principal, LA Philharmonic)
- **Kyle Champion** (Principal Cellist, Redlands Symphony, Faculty at University of Redlands)
- **Bongshin Ko** (Associate Professor of Music at California State University, Fullerton)
- **Hee-Song Song** (Faculty in Korea)
- **Fei Bein** (Former Faculty at Frankfurt University in Germany)

MASTER CLASSES FOR SOLO & CHAMBER PERFORMANCE

- **Bernard Greenhouse** (Cellist of Beaux Arts Trio)
- **Nathaniel Rosen** (Faculty of USC & Manhattan School)
- **Matt Haimovitz** (McGill University in Montreal)
- **Peter Stumpf** (Former Principal Cellist of LA Philharmonic)
- **Laszlo Varga** (Former Principal Cellist of NY Philharmonic)
- **Eleonore Schoenfeld** (Former Professor at University of Southern California)

- **Paul Katz** (Faculty at New England Conservatory)
- **Edward Aaron** (Metropolitan member)
- **Daniel Ruthmuller** (LA Philharmonic)

WORK EXPERIENCE

MASTER TEACHER & TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching positions at various music conservatories and music festivals

- Cello Faculty, California State University, San Bernardino (2018-present)
- Cello Instructor at Valley Christian School, West Music Conservatory (2002-2004), University of Redlands Community School of Music (2008-2012), Allegro Music Center (2002-2006), SOMA Music School (2005-2012), & Grace Music School (2009-2015)
- Cello Faculty, California Music Clinic (2010)
- Cello Coach at CMisc (California Music Institute SoCal), California State University San Bernardino Summer Music Camp, Irvine Classical Players, Irvine Young Artists, GMI Youth Orchestra, and Giocosso Youth Orchestra
- Private Cello Instructor: Esther Back Cello Studio (1999-present)

STUDENTS' ACCOMPLISHMENTS (HIGHLIGHTS)

- Over 40 awards of first and top prizes in over 30 string and concerto competitions including Golden Classical Awards International competition, American Protégé International String competition, Pelican Music International Competition for Young Artists, American Teacher's String Association of Los Angeles competition, Music Teacher's Association of California VOCE competition, Los Angeles Violoncello Society Scholarship, Satori String Contest, and Southwest Youth Music Festival competition
- Solo Debut Performance with Yorba Linda Symphony Orchestra, Seraphim Symphony, Grace Youth Orchestra
- Solo Debut Performances at prestigious major venues, including Carnegie Hall in New York (United States), Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles (United States), the Pantheon in Rome (Italy 2018), Eglise de la Madeleine in Paris (France 2017), and Sunday Concert Series at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library & Museum (2015-2018)
- Acceptances to the Orange County High School of the Arts
- Former students graduated from Julliard School, Eastman School of Music, and Manhattan School of Music

ORCHESTRA EXPERIENCES

- Cellist of **San Bernardino Symphony**, 2010-present (section position won in 2010)
- Cellist of **Redlands Symphony**, 2008-present (finalist for Assistant Principal position)
- **Principal** cellist of **Orange Coast College Symphony**, 2014-present

- **Principal** cellist of **Orange County Symphony**, 2010-2015
- Cellist of **American Youth Symphony**, 2006-2008
- Cellist of Burbank Philharmonic, Downey, Torrance (2008), Westchester (2005-2006), Carson-Dominguez (2007-2008), LA Pro Musica (2007), Culver City Symphony Orchestra (2006)
- **Principal** cellist of Summit Music Festival Symphony Orchestra, 2009
- **Principal** cellist of Texas Music Festival Symphony Orchestra, 2007
- **Principal** cellist of Grace International Church Symphony Orchestra, 2005-2010
- Cellist of numerous opera and musical works

PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCES AT MAJOR VENUES

- **Walt Disney Hall** in Los Angeles (2019) – Solo performer, music director and performance
- **United Nations** (NY) 2009 – Invitation performance (Solo & chamber music performer)
- **Eglise de la Madeleine, Paris** (France) 2017 – Solo Performer with orchestra (Moses Variation by Paganini)
- **Memorial Chapel** at the University of Redlands (2010) – Solo **Schumann Cello Concerto** with Redlands Symphony Orchestra & (2009) Solo **Dvorak Cello Concerto** with University Symphony Orchestra
- **Servite Theatre, Anaheim** (2016) - Solo **Schumann Cello Concerto** with Orange County Symphony Orchestra
- **Meng Concert Hall**, California State University of Fullerton (2006) – Solo **Prokofiev Cello Sinfonia Concertante** with orchestra
- **Walt Disney Hall** (2005-2015) – Orchestra performer
- **Dorothy Chandler Pavilion** (2004-2009) – Orchestra performer (Principal Cellist)
- **Carnegie Hall** in New York (2002-2003) – Orchestra performer (Principal Cellist)
- **Laguna Beach Music Festival** (2009) - performed with renowned cellist/artist, “Lynn Harrell”
- **FM 88.9 Radio Station** (2006-2018) – Music Director, performer, solo performer, live interview and performance
- **Royce Hall** in the University of California, Los Angeles (2006-2008) – Orchestra performer
- **Colosseum** at Caesars Palace, Las Vegas (2016) – performer
- **California Theatre** in San Bernardino – Orchestra Performer (2010-present)
- **Principal** cellist of CSUF Symphony Orchestra, 2001-2006
- **Principal** cellist of La Primavera Orchestra (performed in Carnegie Hall, NY in 2003), Valley Symphony (2003) and Pacific Symphony (2000-2001)

CONDUCTING/TEACHING ORCHESTRA EXPERIENCE

- Guest Conductor at **San Bernardino County Music Educators Association** (Professionally hired to conduct for the Superintendent of Schools San Bernardino County) 2017
- Assistant Conductor at Grace Youth Orchestra (2013-2016)
- Conductor, Orange County Cello Ensemble/Orchestra (2003-2018)

FESTIVALS

- **New York Summit Music Festival** (2008-2009)
- **Texas Music Festival** (2007)
- **North Carolina School of the Arts** (2004-2005)

AWARDS, HONORS, & SCHOLARSHIPS

- **Fernandez Prize in Music, Claremont Graduate University, 2020** (\$500)
- **University of Redlands Competition Grand Prize Winner** (performed Schumann Concerto with Redlands Symphony in April 2010)
- **University of Redlands Competition Prize Winner** (performed Dvorak Concerto in Feb 2009)
- **Chamber Awards**
- **Grand Prize Winner** in Music Associates Competition at Cal State Fullerton (performed Prokofiev Sinfonia Concertante 2006)
- **University of Redlands Chamber Music Awards** (\$500)
- **Charles Baker Scholarship Awards**
- **Grand Prize** in ASTA Solo Competition Greater Los Angeles Finals, 2004
- **1st Prize Winner** in ASTA Solo Competition & **3rd Prize** in ASTA Greater LA Finals, 2003
- **1st Prize Winner** in ASTA Solo Compt. & **2nd Prize** in ASTA Greater LA String Finals, 2002
- **3rd Prize Winner** in ASTA Solo Competition in Greater LA String Finals, 1998
- **1st Prize Winner** in ASTA Solo Competition (Orange County), 1997
- **1st Prize Winner** in Kang-Won State Annual Solo Competition (Korea), 1991~1994
- **2nd Prize Winner** in Music Journal Competition (Seoul, Korea), 1994

SIGNIFICANT ORGANIZATION ROLES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Founder of a few professional acclaimed music groups, events planning/managing, full production of audio/video recordings, numerous grant writings and successful fundraisings

ORANGE COUNTY CELLO ENSEMBLE, FOUNDER (2003-2018)

- Incorporated 501(c)3, formed a board and became Presidential Service Award Certifying Organization
- Successfully produced over 30 concerts/events including performances at international and national major venues

- Produced over 40 music-related events requiring full production efforts: concert promotion posters/postcards, booking musicians, venue rentals, ticket sales, fundraising, media advertisements, creating programs, trained & supervised overall, creating scholarship ideas, bring donors, planning for event catering
- Executive Director, Music Director & Founder, Orange County Cello Ensemble (2003-2018)

CD/DVD RECORDING PRODUCED/RELEASED

- Miracle of the Cellos, Orange County Cello Ensemble (BMI) 2017 – Produced & Directed

COMPETITION CHAIR, AMERICAN STRING TEACHER’S ASSOCIATION, ORANGE COUNTY (2016-Present)

- Booked venues & hired judges, oversaw the competition, and communication

OTHER EXPERIENCES

- Adjudicator at numerous competitions

LANGUAGES

- Fluent Korean/English

CONTACTS

- Ben Hong, Associate Principal Cellist, Los Angeles Philharmonic, California, USA.
Phone: (310) 384-8949, Email: f4senna1000@mac.com
- Dr. Robert Zappulla, Chair, Music Department, and Professor of Music, Claremont Graduate University, California, USA.
Phone: (909) 952-3764, Email: Robert.zappulla@cgu.edu
- Dr. Anne Viricel, Executive Director, San Bernardino Symphony, 198 N. Arrowhead Ave., San Bernardino, CA 92408, USA.
Phone: (909) 381-5388, Email: alviricel@sanbernardinosymphony.org
- Dr. Andrew Glendening, Dean, Music Department, University of Redlands & Principal Trombone, Redlands Symphony, California, USA.
Phone: (909) 749-8684, Email: andrew_glendening@redlands.edu
- Ana Maria Maldonado, Principal Cellist, San Bernardino Symphony
Phone: (909) 559-6995, Email: ammaldonado23@yahoo.com
- Kyle Champion, Principal Cellist, Redlands Symphony
Phone: (909) 720-2982, Email: championcello@usa.net
- Bongshin Ko, Associate Professor of Music, CSUF Music Department Vice Chair
Phone: (657) 278-3265, Email: bko@fullerton.edu

CONCERT REVIEWS

Ms Chu & all -

Please convey admiration and appreciation for the marvelous concert yesterday at the Nixon to all.

The orchestra is marvelous...beautiful people making lovely music. The singers were excellent.

It seems like it is a very difficult piece...I'm amazed at the full orchestra sound created by the cellos.

Thank you for a most enjoyable time.

Best wishes for continued success,

Angela R. D. (2018)