



Sunday, March 2, 2025
Taplin Auditorium, Fine Hall

Masterclass: 2:00 PM
Performance: 7:00 PM

The Donna Weng Friedman Masterclass Series presents:
A Masterclass and Performance with
Curtis Stewart, violinist

Featuring Elinor Detmer '26, Kelly Kim '26, Yuri Lee '25, Tienne Yu '25

About the Department of Music

The Department of Music at Princeton University provides its undergraduates—whether they major or minor in Music—the opportunity to learn from a world-renowned faculty of scholars and composers. Performance opportunities include student-led and departmental ensembles like symphony orchestras, multi-genre choruses, jazz, contemporary music, African music, steel band, laptop orchestra, and much more, and students have access to private instrumental and voice lessons from eminent performing artists. The graduate program offers two distinct and prestigious Ph.D. programs in composition or musicology; graduate students receive fully-funded, immersive experiences conducting research, advancing their craft, and collaborating with faculty within Princeton University's inspiring, interdisciplinary campus.

For more information about the Department of Music and other upcoming events, and to sign-up for our mailing list, please visit music.princeton.edu.

MASTERCLASS PROGRAM

Sunday, March 2, 2025

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Elinor Detmer

Class of 2026

Yuri Lee

Class of 2025

Tienne Yu

Class of 2025

Kelly Kim

Class of 2026

Students will announce their repertoire from the stage.



THE AMERICAN RECITAL

Sunday, March 2, 2025, 7:00 PM

J.S. BACH

Improvised Sonatas / Partitas for solo violin

CURTIS STEWART

24 American Caprices & assortment of solo violin pieces

STEFANIA DE KENESSEY

Microvids for piano and violin improvisation, with Donna Weng Friedman, pianist

CURTIS STEWART / VIVALDI

Seasons of Change for violin and electronics

The use of photographic, video, or audio equipment is strictly prohibited. Please turn off or mute electronic devices for the duration of the performance.

ABOUT

About Curtis Stewart

Praised for “combining omnivory and brilliance” (The New York Times), six-time GRAMMY® Award-nominated violinist and composer Curtis Stewart translates stories of American self determination to the concert stage. Tearing down the facade of “classical violinist,” Stewart is in constant pursuit of his musical authenticity, treating art as a battery for realizing citizenship. As a solo violinist, composer, Artistic Director of the American Composers Orchestra, professor at The Juilliard School, and member of award-winning ensembles PUBLIQuartet and The Mighty Third Rail, he realizes a vision to find personal and powerful connections between styles, cultures and musics. He has been awarded a 2025 Sphinx Medal of Excellence, in recognition of extraordinary leaders in the classical music field who are transforming lives while addressing systemic obstacles within Black and Latino communities.

As a soloist, Curtis Stewart has been presented by Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, The Kennedy Center, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Cal Performances, Washington Performing Arts, Virginia Arts Festival, The Juilliard School, and the 2022 GRAMMY® Awards, among many others. He has made special appearances with Los Angeles Opera and singer-songwriter Tamar Kali; as curator and guest soloist with Anthony Roth Costanzo and the New York Philharmonic “Bandwagon,” touring performance installations from NYC’s Whitney Museum, Guggenheim Museum, and Museum of Modern Art; to MTV specials with Wyclef Jean; and sold-out shows at Madison Square Garden with Stevie Wonder, Bruce Springsteen, and Seal. Both Stewart’s 2021 album of quarantined song cycles and art videos, *Of Power* (Bright Shiny Things), and his 2023 album, *of Love*.—a tribute to his late mother Elektra Kurtis-Stewart—were nominated for GRAMMY® Awards for Best Classical Instrumental Solo. His recording of Julia Perry’s *Concerto for Violin and Orchestra* with the Experiential Orchestra (Bright Shiny Things) is nominated for a 2025 GRAMMY Award for Best Classical Instrumental Solo.

Stewart has been commissioned to compose new solo, chamber, and orchestral works by the Seattle Symphony, Virginia Symphony Orchestra, Phoenix Symphony Orchestra, Carnegie Hall’s Play/USA, countertenor Anthony Roth Costanzo and members of the New York Philharmonic, The Knights, La Jolla Music Society, Sybarite5, the New York Festival of Song, Newport Classical Festival, the Royal Conservatory of Music, the Eastman Cello Institute, Orlando Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and more. In 2022, he was named Artistic Director of the American Composers Orchestra, a national organization dedicated to the creation, celebration, performance, and promotion of orchestral music by diverse and

innovative American composers.

An enthusiastic educator, Curtis Stewart currently teaches at The Juilliard School and the Perlman Music Program, and for ten years led all levels of music theory and orchestra at the LaGuardia High School for Music & Art and Performing Arts in NYC. Learn more at www.curtisjstewart.com

About Donna Weng Friedman

Award-winning pianist Donna Weng Friedman enjoys a distinguished career as a soloist, chamber musician, educator, and filmmaker. Selected as one of Musical America's Top 30 Professionals of 2024 for her outstanding contribution to the performing arts. Donna was inducted into the Steinway & Sons Teacher Hall of Fame in 2023 for her "passionate commitment to teaching and inspiring young people in music."

Donna wrote, directed, and produced the award-winning documentary short "NEVER FADE AWAY," which is archived at the Bob Hope Memorial Library at the Statue of Liberty in perpetuity. She was the inaugural winner of the Women Who Innovate Grant 2023, awarded by the International Alliance for Women in Music for her "impactful and meaningful" work.

In collaboration with WQXR, Donna created Heritage and Harmony and HER/MUSIC:HER/STORY to shine a light on the stories and music of musicians from under represented communities.

Donna has performed in concert halls worldwide and appeared as soloist with major symphony orchestras, including the Atlanta, Philadelphia, and Shanghai Symphony Orchestras. She has collaborated with world-class artists such as Carter Brey, Anthony McGill, Elizabeth Mann, Ani Kavafian, David Shifrin, St. Luke's Chamber Ensemble, Paul Neubauer, Marya Martin, and Curtis Stewart.

Donna received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Princeton University and a Master's of Music from Juilliard. She studied with Nadia Boulanger, Adele Marcus, and Radu Lupu.
