



Sam Matthews, cellist, has been an active teacher and clinician for the past 20 years. Following graduation with his master's in performance from the Peabody Conservatory of Music in 2005, Mr. Matthews worked in Shanghai, China, as an orchestra director for several institutions and ensembles including: the Shanghai American School, Fudan University's International School, Shanghai International Youth Orchestra, and the Shanghai Promusica Chamber Orchestra. During this time, he was sought after in China as an orchestral clinician as well as a performer in multiple professional ensembles.

Mr. Matthews relocated to Houston in 2011, and quickly established himself as a leading cello instructor and clinician (full orchestra and cello) in the area. Many of his former cello students have gone on to be successful participants in All-Region and All-State orchestras. After a short hiatus from private lesson teaching, to manage the growth of his business, Sam's Strings Violin Shop and his family obligations as the father of twin boys, Mr. Matthews has added limited teaching to his schedule again, as a faculty member and director of the Paganini School of Music and Space City Suzuki Institute.



Violinist Michael Fahey has been performing, teaching and conducting in the Houston area since 1991. He has performed with the Theatre Under The Stars Orchestra, Houston Latin Philharmonic and many other orchestras and has conducted high school groups at Symphony Hall in Chicago as well Carnegie and Lincoln Center in New York. In 2012, Mr. Fahey was the recipient of the Houston Symphony educator of the year award. After 30 years of service, Fahey retired from public school teaching at Stratford High School in 2020. Mr Fahey is the founder and conductor of the ECHOrchestra, a community orchestra based in the Energy Corridor, which is now in its 10th season! Mr. Fahey holds the Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Violin Performance from the State University of New York and the Master of Music Degree in Violin and Music Education from the University of Akron, Ohio. He has also done post graduate work at The Cleveland Institute of Music. He is a member of the Artist Faculty at the Paganini School of Music in Katy, TX and is in demand as a guest conductor, workshop clinician and violinist. He has recently been appointed as Symphonia conductor with the Houston Youth String Orchestra and clinician with the American Classics Music Festivals. He lives in the Energy Corridor with his wife Melanie and two rambunctious canines.



Sherry Cheng holds a Master of Music degree in piano performance from the University of Maryland and a Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance from the University of Oklahoma. Cheng is deeply engaged in various aspects of Houston's diverse arts community. As a musician, she performs regularly in chamber music concerts, collaborating with musicians from the Houston Symphony and other freelance musicians in projects that range from traditional to avant-garde. As an arts writer and music critic, she is a contributing editor for Arts and Culture TX magazine, writing feature stories across multiple arts disciplines. As an advocate for bringing classical performing arts into under-represented communities, she has served on Houston Grand Opera's Cultural Advisory Committee. As an early childhood music educator, she has taught Preschool music for 23 years and continues to be a fierce champion for arts integration in the school curriculum. Currently Cheng serves on the board of Houston Brass Quintet as well as Aurora Picture Show, a non-profit media arts organization dedicated to promoting the understanding and appreciation of moving image art.