



## **Musician Biographies**

### **Yutong Sharp, violin**

Born in Beijing, China, Mrs. Sharp received her early training since age 7 at the Beijing Central Conservatory. Later on she came to USC to study with Prof. Alice Schoenfield on a full scholarship. Mrs. Sharp is a full-time member of The Pacific Symphony and The Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, as well as playing with The Los Angeles Philharmonic regularly. She is also very active as a studio musician.

Mrs. Sharp has played hundreds of movies including *Pirates of the Caribbean* and *Finding Nemo*, just to name a few. Recently, Mrs. Sharp joined forces with her fellow musicians from Palos Verdes and created the From Classical to Rock concert to raise money for the Peninsula Education Foundation for the Palos Verdes schools.

Mrs. Sharp enjoys teaching very much. With 30 years of teaching experience, you will walk away with some wonderful knowledge.

### **Erin Breene, cello**

Erin Breene is in great demand as both a chamber and orchestral musician. Ms. Breene is currently a member of the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra and the Long Beach Opera Orchestra. She regularly performs with Pacific Symphony and the Los Angeles Opera Orchestra and has served as Principal Cellist of the San Diego Chamber Orchestra, Associate Principal Cellist with the Opera Pacific Orchestra, and Principal Cellist of Music Center Dance of Los Angeles. Ms. Breene has been a frequent performer on San Diego's Art of Élan series, High Desert Chamber Music series, Carlsbad Music Festival, Laguna Beach Music Festival, and La Jolla's Athenaeum series.

As soloist, Ms. Breene performed the Elgar Concerto with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra as a "Young Artist" competition winner. She also performed the Haydn Concerto in C Major with the San Diego Chamber Orchestra. Ms. Breene was named a Finalist in the 2003 Concert Artist's Guild auditions with the Andros Quartet. As a member of the Basmati Quartet, she was the Grand Prize winner at the Coleman National Chamber Music Competition, and Second Prize winner at the 1999 Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition. During the summer months of 2000 and 2001, Erin attended the Tanglewood Institute where she had the opportunity to perform both orchestral and chamber music, and in the summer of 2002, she was a Fellow at the Aspen Music Festival.

Ms. Breene served as Principal Cellist of the Juilliard Symphony and Orchestra, the Tanglewood Festival Orchestra, the Aspen Sinfonia, and Rice University's Shepherd School Symphony where she received her BM degree under Paul Katz. Ms. Breene received her MM degree as a student of Timothy Eddy at the Juilliard School.

Ms. Breene performs on a modern cello, made in 2010, by the Los Angeles maker "Eric Benning". In her spare time she enjoys hiking, reading, hot yoga, fine wine, her three cats, and visiting her father in Rhode Island.

### **Anli Lin Tong, piano**

Praised by critics for her “pointed grace” (Las Angeles Times), “exquisite pianism (Chinese American News), and “energy and elation” (Daily Telegraph), pianist Anli Lin Tong has performed in Europe, Asia and the United States as a concerto soloist and chamber musician. She has appeared as a soloist with the Taiwan Symphony Orchestra in the Taiwan National Arts Festival, the Chinese Fine Arts Orchestra, the Columbus Symphony Orchestra, the Bratislava Chamber Orchestra, the Livic Chamber Orchestra, the Burbank Philharmonic, and in multiple engagements with the Beach Cities Symphony Orchestra. She has performed at such venues as the [former] Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center, Taipei Symphony Hall, the Getty Center, Detroit Orchestra Hall, and Bordeaux Opera House, among others. As a chamber musician, Ms. Tong has been featured in frequent collaborations with artists of the highest caliber, including principal players of major orchestras, and as the pianist of the Orphea Trio. Ms. Tong has appeared as guest artist on WBEZ Chicago Public Radio and classical music station Radio Philharmonic Taipei. Highlights of her concert career include a featured performance of George Gershwin’s Rhapsody in Blue with the Burbank Philharmonic at the Starlight Bowl in the July 4<sup>th</sup> Extravaganza, and a concert tour of Taiwan that garnered high praise for her performance of the award-winning Kuo Chi-Yuan Concertino for Piano and String Orchestra, of which she gave both the U.S. premiere and the West Coast premiere, was praised as “the best rendition of this work” by Taiwan Symphony Review.

Born in Taiwan into a family of medical doctors, Anli Lin Tong began piano lessons at age five and at age nine won First Prize in the first nationally televised piano competition in Taiwan. That same year, she met and played for the renowned Polish virtuoso and pedagogue, Mieczyslaw Munz, who invited the young Anli to study with him at the Juilliard School. Under the official sponsorship of Taiwan’s Ministry of Education’s highly selective “Musically Gifted Children Study Abroad Program” Anli began her musical journey two years later in the United States, and became the youngest pupil in Mr. Munz’s class during his final years at Juilliard. Anli Lin Tong’s musical lineage thus traces back, through Mr. Munz, to the “Lion of the Keyboard” Ferruccio Busoni, the legendary Rosina Lhevinne through Martin Canin, her major teacher at Juilliard after Mr. Munz’s passing, and later to the great Russian piano tradition through the late Vitaly Margulis at UCLA.

Ms. Tong has been a sought after teacher in the Los Angeles area where her students have consistently received top prizes in state and national competitions, including the Los Angeles Philharmonic Kaper Award, Grand Prize and Discovery Prize First Place Winners of the Young Musicians Foundation Debut Concerto Competition, Grand Prize at Miami Summer Festival Concerto Competition, and numerous top prizes at the Los Angeles International Liszt Competition, the Los Angeles Junior Bach Festival, the Young Musicians Foundation Scholarship and Chamber Series, MTAC VOCE Competition, IIYM Summer Festival and International Competition, among other others. As a chamber music coach, Ms. Tong’s students have received First Place at the California state VOCE Competition and First Prize at the prestigious MTNA Chamber Music Competition in California, Southwest US Division, and ultimately capturing the First Prize at the National MTNA Chamber Music Competition. Her students have been

featured soloists with numerous orchestras in the US and abroad, and have been accepted to top music schools in the U.S., including Juilliard, Mannes, Eastman, New England Conservatory, San Francisco Conservatory, UCLA, Indiana, among others. Anli Lin Tong was featured in teaching demonstrations at the 2005 World Piano Pedagogy Conference. She was a guest artist at 2015 MTAC State Convention where she presented a lecture “Rendezvous with Bartók” to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the composer’s death. She has also lectured at CAPMT and MTAC branches in Southern California on topics ranging from Chamber Music to Liszt and Poetry. Her article, “Lessons from Historical Recordings: What I learned from Golden Age Pianists” was published in California Music Teacher, the official journal of the Music Teachers Association of California.

In 2017, Anli Lin Tong was recognized for her professional achievements and inducted to “ACME” (“Artist, Composer, Musicologist, Educator”) by Mu Phi Epsilon International Honorary Fraternity of Musicians. In November of 2017, she was awarded “Outstanding Woman in Music” by the Los Angeles Chinese Women’s Association. She is a frequent adjudicator of competitions and has given lectures for Music Teachers of California and the California Professional Music Teachers Associations. Her articles, “In Search of Mieczyslaw Munz”, and “Lessons from Historical Recordings: What I learned from the Romantic Tradition of Golden Age Pianists” were published by The California Music Journal.

Anli Lin Tong holds Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees in Piano Performance from the Juilliard School. Her DMA from UCLA culminated in a final recital entitled, “A Tale of Two Codas: from Tumult to Luminous Repose”, which explored the penultimate sonata of Frédéric Chopin and the final piano concerto of Béla Bartók, was dedicated to the memory of her late parents, Dr. and Mrs. En-Kwei Lin, for imparting to her a profound love of music and the recognition of the arts as the impetus for the good in humanity. To that end, Ms. Tong has endeavored in giving of her energy and artistry in support of worthy causes through her concert performances.