



D U K E M U S I C

## Duke University Musical Instrument Collections Rare Music series

Presents

### Gut Instinct

Nicholas DiEugenio, violin  
Jessica Troy, viola  
James Wilson, cello  
Mimi Solomon, fortepiano

September 7, 2025

4:00 pm

Baldwin Auditorium

### Program

Piano Quartet in A-flat Major (1822)  
Allegro moderato  
Larghetto  
Tempo di Minuetto

Fanny Mendelssohn (1805–1847)

Piano Quartet No. 2 in E-flat Major, op. 44.  
Introduzione: Maestoso--Allegro: Moderato  
Scherzo: Allegro vivace  
Adagio  
Finale: Allegro

Leopoldine Blahetka (1809–1885)

- Intermission -

Piano Trio in E-flat Major, op. 70 No. 2  
Poco sostenuto: Allegro ma non troppo  
Allegretto  
Allegretto ma non troppo  
Finale: Allegro

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827)

*To give each audience member the opportunity to enjoy the performance fully, please silence all electronic devices. Flash photography, recording, food, and beverages are not permitted.*

*The Rare Music series is presented with the support of the Carrabina Endowment and DUMIC (Duke University Musical Instrument Collections).*

## About Gut Instinct

The Gut Instinct Chamber Music Project, now in its second season, is a concert series in the Triangle area which brings UNC-Chapel Hill and Duke University's historical instrument collections together with artists committed to presenting inspired, visceral, historically informed performances of the 19th-century chamber music repertoire. Both the 2024-25 and 2025-26 season's programming features music of female composers and their artistic circles. The name "Gut Instinct" is a play on words. In 19th-century Europe, the violin, viola, and cello were strung with (sheep) gut.

All of the artists collaborating with the Pleyel and Graf pianos at UNC-Chapel Hill (built in 19th-century Paris and Vienna, respectively), as well as the Clementi piano at Duke (early 19th-century England) use these gut string materials. The turn of phrase "gut instinct" also refers to the visceral, accessible nature of the musical performances that the artists of this series will be presenting. We want to make "Historically Informed Performance" accessible, relatable, and culturally relevant! We also want to feature these special pianos that are rarely heard by the public, along with great music by female composers which has remained lesser known to the greater public for far too long!

In addition to today's performance hosted by the Duke Rare Music Series, Gut Instinct concert dates for this season are:

Friday, November 14, 2025, Person Recital Hall: Violin Sonatas of  
W.A. Mozart and J.B. Auernhammer

Sunday, March 1, 2026, Person Recital Hall: Featuring Jeanne Fischer, soprano

Sunday, April 19, 2026, Person Recital Hall: *Is it true?*  
The world of Mendelssohn's songs

Info is available at [www.nicholasdieugenio.com](http://www.nicholasdieugenio.com)

## About the Artists

Violinist **Nicholas DiEugenio** has been heralded for his “excellent...evocative” playing (The New York Times), full of “rapturous poetry” (American Record Guide). Nicholas is in-demand as a soloist, chamber musician, and ensemble leader, creating powerful shared experiences in music ranging from early baroque to contemporary commissions. His award-winning album *Unraveling Beethoven* with pianist and wife Mimi Solomon was released in 2018 by New Focus Recordings, and other recordings include the complete Violin Sonatas of Robert Schumann (Musica Omnia) as well as a tribute to Pulitzer prizewinner Steven Stucky (New Focus). Nicholas is a core member of The Sebastians as well as Associate Professor of Music at UNC Chapel Hill. He has performed as guest Principal Second Violinist with the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra. Nicholas plays a J.B. Vuillaume violin (1835) as well as a Karl Dennis baroque violin (2011). [www.nicholasdieugenio.com@dieu\\_violin](http://www.nicholasdieugenio.com@dieu_violin)

**JESSICA TROY** wears many freelance hats. Ensembles—period instrument and modern—with which she performs regularly include: Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, Trinity Baroque Orchestra, Handel & Haydn Society, the Sebastians, the Orchestra of St. Luke's, Festival Orchestra of Lincoln Center (formerly Mostly Mozart), NYC Opera, and the NY Pops. She has toured extensively as part of the Mark Morris Dance Group Music Ensemble, from Sydney to San Juan, including performances with Yo-Yo Ma across the US and Japan. She can be heard on the Marlboro Festival's 50th anniversary CD in György Kurtág's *Microludes*, which she prepared with the composer. She has played in numerous Broadway pits (ranging from *Porgy & Bess* to *Tootsie*) and on many film scores (including *Joker* and *Little Women*); she has recorded quartet tracks for Lou Reed and Ani DiFranco, performed on tv with Renée Fleming and Whitney Houston, and on film with David Byrne.

For more than thirty years, cellist **James Wilson** has nurtured and enjoyed an exciting and varied career as performer, educator, arts administrator, and composer. He has appeared in many of the world's most illustrious performing spaces, including America's Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, and Kennedy Center, Suntory Hall in Tokyo, the Sydney Opera House, the Basilica of Notre-Dame in Montreal, the Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg, and the Musikverein in Vienna. He has performed at music festivals such as the Hong Kong Arts Festival, the City of London Festival, the Deutches Mozartfest in Bavaria, the Kuhmo Chamber Music Festival in Finland, the Mostly Mozart Festival in New York, and the Aspen Music Festival in Colorado. Mr. Wilson is a member and Artistic Director/Programming Coordinator of the Grammy-winning Orpheus Chamber Orchestra and regularly serves as guest principal cellist of the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra. He is currently on the faculty of the Music Performance Program at Columbia University in New York.

American pianist **Mimi Solomon** brings warmth, sensitivity, and curiosity to her multifaceted career as a chamber musician, soloist, teacher, and artistic director. She has performed throughout the United States, China, Japan and Europe, has appeared as soloist with orchestras including Shanghai Symphony, Philharmonia Virtuosi, and Yale Symphony Orchestra, and has been featured on numerous radio and television broadcasts including the McGraw-Hill Young Artist's Showcase, France 3, France Inter, and National Public Radio. An avid chamber musician, she has appeared at music festivals on both sides of the Atlantic such as Santander, IMS Prussia Cove, Lockenhaus, Rencontres de Bel-Air, Ravinia, Taos, Norfolk, Yellow Barn, Charlottesville, and La Loingtaine.

She regularly performs and records with her husband, violinist Nicholas DiEugenio. Their award-winning duo project, "Unraveling Beethoven", includes a full cycle of Beethoven violin sonatas alongside five newly commissioned response works. Their first recording, released on New Focus, was praised as a "touching, committed tribute" (*I Care If You Listen*) to the late Steven Stucky.

She is also an enthusiastic and dedicated pedagogue: she is co-artistic director of MYCO Chamber Players, a pre-college chamber music program, and is on the faculty of UNC at Chapel Hill.

Mimi lived in Paris for several years, during which, in addition to being active as a chamber musician and soloist, she gained an assiduous understanding of where to find all the best French delicacies! She also fell in love with historic keyboard instruments during her time in Paris. She graduated from Yale and Juilliard and has worked with Peter Frankl, Robert McDonald, Ferenc Rados and fortepianist Patrick Cohen. She lives in Chapel Hill, NC with her husband, violinist Nicholas DiEugenio and their Plott hound Tengo.