

Biographies

Tsuna Sakamoto, violist with the National Symphony Orchestra since 1998, was born in Tokyo. Before her arrival in Washington, D.C., she was a member of the violin section of the San Antonio Symphony Orchestra. She has also served as principal second violinist with the Richmond Symphony Orchestra (Indiana), associate concertmaster with the Mansfield Symphony Orchestra, assistant principal violist with the Aspen Chamber Orchestra, and, in the 2002-2003 season, she served as principal violist with the Kansas City Symphony Orchestra. In addition to her duties with the National Symphony, Ms. Sakamoto was co-principal violist of the Eclipse Chamber Orchestra. She is also a founding member of the Potomac String Quartet. Critically acclaimed 11 string quartets of David Diamond and 9 string quartets of Quincy Porter were released by the Albany Records label. Ms. Sakamoto maintains a private teaching studio, and also teaches in the NSO Youth Fellowship program. She is assistant for the American Youth Symphonic Orchestra conductor, and is an adjunct faculty member at the Catholic University of America. She has given master classes at universities and high schools throughout the United States and Japan. As an energy worker / healer, she assists each individual student to get in touch with who they truly are and express life through music.

Ms. Sakamoto studied at the Toho Academy School of Music, Cincinnati Conservatory, and the Ohio State University. Her teachers include Edward Adelson, Allyson Dawkins, Heidi Castleman, Masumi Ogawa, Kenji Kobayashi, Naoko Tanaka, Kurt Sassmannshaus, Dorothy DeLay, Larry Shapiro, and Michael Davis.

Carole Bean is the Piccoloist with the National Symphony Orchestra. Before joining the NSO, she performed with the Xalapa Symphony Orchestra in Mexico and the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra. She also performs with the Eclipse Chamber Orchestra, Verge Ensemble, and Fessenden Ensemble. Ms. Bean has presented numerous children's concert performances as part of the Outreach Program of the NSO. She also has performed with the Grand Teton Music Festival in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, since 1992. A native of Columbus, Ohio, Ms. Bean attended Bowling Green State University and Northwestern University, where she studied with Judith Bentley and Walfrid Kujala, respectively.

Michelle Myers Lundy is a professional harpist who performs throughout the Washington, DC area. She has performed at the Kennedy Center, Strathmore Hall and Mansion, the Capitol, Supreme Court, National Archives, Lyceum Museum, Alden Theatre and several of the Smithsonian Museums. Ms. Lundy is currently principal harpist with the Manassas Ballet Theatre Orchestra, Amadeus Orchestra, Tysons McLean Orchestra, Arlington Philharmonic and the New Orchestra of Washington. She has played with the National Philharmonic and Maryland Symphony Orchestra and regularly works with the Thomas Circle Singers.

As a proponent of chamber music, Ms. Lundy is the founding member of Beau Soir Ensemble (BSE), a flute, viola and harp duo formed in 2007. Beau Soir Ensemble has premiered music written for the Trio in the Washington D.C. area. The trio has performed at a variety of esteemed venues throughout the region including the Millennium Stage at the Kennedy Center, Lyceum Museum in Alexandria, DACOR Bacon House, and the Anderson House.

Ms. Lundy began her musical studies in St. Louis on piano at the age of six. She spent five summers at National Music Camp in Interlochen, Michigan, where she began her harp studies. She received her Bachelor of Music degree from Northwestern University in harp performance. While at Northwestern she was a member of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago. Ms. Lundy continued her studies at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor where she received a Master of Music degree.