

Violist **Willy Sucre** is a member of the New Mexico Philharmonic and is the driving force behind the "Willy Sucre & Friends" concerts. Born in La Paz, Bolivia, Sucre studied at the Conservatorio Nacional de Música in La Paz; Colby College Chamber Music Institute in Waterville, Maine; Mannes School of Music in New York; and the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, Maryland.

He was conductor and music director of the Albuquerque Philharmonic Orchestra, assistant conductor and principal violist of the Canada Symphony Orchestra in Montreal, assistant conductor and assistant principal violist of the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra, and principal violist and guest conductor of the National Symphony of Bolivia, the Chamber Orchestra of La Paz, and the Albuquerque Chamber Orchestra. As a chamber musician, Sucre was the founder of the Cuarteto Boliviano, guest violist with various chamber music ensembles, and for ten years the violist of the Helios String Quartet.

Sucre's experience includes extensive chamber music concerts, lectures, school demonstrations, CD recordings, and television performances throughout South, Central, and North America. He spends most of his summers in South America looking for new works of chamber music by modern composers and encouraging composers to write new pieces, especially piano quartets. He enjoys performing with ensembles of diverse instrumentation.

Pianist **Awadagin Pratt** is acclaimed for his musical insight and intensely engaging performances in recital and with symphony orchestras. He has played many recitals throughout the U.S. including performances at Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in Los Angeles, and Chicago's Orchestra Hall. His orchestral performances include appearances with the New York Philharmonic, the Minnesota Orchestra, and the Pittsburgh, Atlanta, Baltimore, St. Louis, National, Detroit, and New Jersey Symphonies. Summer festival engagements include performing at Ravinia, Blossom, Wolf Trap, Caramoor, Aspen, the Hollywood Bowl, and the Mostly Mozart Festival in Tokyo. Internationally, Pratt has toured in Japan, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Poland, Israel, Columbia, and South Africa.

Pratt won the Naumburg International Piano Competition in 1992 and was awarded an Avery Fisher Career Grant two years later. In addition to his stellar achievements as a pianist, Pratt has also excelled at conducting and music education. He has participated in the American Symphony Orchestra League, the National Conducting Institute, and Conductor's Guild workshops, where he worked closely with Leonard Slatkin. He has conducted the National Symphony at the Kennedy Center, the Toledo, New Mexico, Vancouver, Winston-Salem, Santa Fe, and Prince County Symphonies.

He graduated from the Peabody Conservatory of Music, the first student in the school's history to receive diplomas in three performance areas: piano, violin, and conducting. In recognition of his wide-ranging achievements, he recently received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Johns Hopkins. Pratt is currently Professor of Piano and Chair of the Piano Department at the College Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati.

Cellist **James Holland** is a native of Pensacola, Florida. He holds degrees in cello performance from the University of Alabama and the Eastman School of Music. For two years, James was a member of the New World Symphony, a Miami-based training orchestra under the direction of Michael Tilson Thomas. In 1996, Holland was appointed principal cellist of the Charleston (South Carolina) Symphony Orchestra, a position he held until his relocation to Albuquerque in 2007 with his wife, violinist Megan Julyan Holland. He performs frequently with most of New Mexico's musical organizations, including Albuquerque Chamber Soloists, Chatter, The Figueroa Project, the Placitas Artists Series, Santa Fe Symphony, and Santa Fe Pro Musica. He spends his summers in Breckenridge, Colorado as principal cellist of the Breckenridge Music Festival orchestra, a position he has held since 1998. He can also be heard performing the music of Duke Ellington with jazz legends Eddie Daniels and Roger Kellaway on the 2013 IPO Recording release, *Duke at the Roadhouse: Live in Santa Fe*, which was recently named Best Jazz Album of the Year by L'Académie du Jazz in Paris, France. Holland was invited by Daniels and Kellaway to perform with them again at the 2013 Detroit Jazz Festival. He maintains a large, active private teaching studio.

**Justin Pollak**, a native of Santa Fe, first studied the violin under Catherine Nichols. As a student at the University of New Mexico, he studied with Leonard Felberg and Bernard Zinck, as well as Kimberly Fredenburgh on the viola. From 2001 to 2011, he was a violinist with the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra. Justin is currently a member of the Santa Fe Symphony Orchestra and the New Mexico Philharmonic. He frequently performs with Chatter on both violin and viola. In the winter and spring of 2012, he played concerts with the Figueroa Project and Opera Southwest.