VALLEY CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS™
con·ser·va·to·ry
OF THE ARTS

2026–2027 SEASON

The Summit Series

ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE



Boris Slutsky
PIANO



Michelle Cann
PIANO



Kevin Zhu
VIOLIN



Sterling Elliott
CELLO



Nancy Zhou
VIOLIN



Elliot Wuu
PIANO

Valley Christian Schools Conservatory of the Arts
100 Skyway Drive, San Jose, CA 95111
All events are open to the public.

vcs.net/summitseries
Tickets, RSVPs and Applications

ABOUT THE SERIES

Learn from world-renowned artists

The Summit Series brings world-class artists and master teachers to VCS Conservatory for a season of one-on-one lessons, masterclasses, workshops, and performances spread across the school year rather than a single summer intensive. Selected students across the Bay Area will work directly with GRAMMY® Award winners, faculty from the country's leading conservatories, and the world's top soloists.

SCAN HERE
Apply, RSVP and Event Information

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

MASTERCLASSES

Open to every Bay Area student

All Bay Area students through 12th grade are invited to apply to perform. Selected participants work one-on-one with our Artists-in-Residence before a live audience, exchanging ideas, examining interpretive choices, and preparing repertoire for the concert stage.

All masterclasses are **free and open to public attendance**. **Seating is limited, and RSVP is required.**

HOW TO APPLY

- Submit video recordings of at least two repertoire selections. List your submitted works in order of performance preference; these are the works considered for the masterclass.
- A recommendation letter from your primary teacher is required.
- Deadlines vary by residency; see vcs.slideroom.com.

WORKSHOPS

Our Artists-in-Residence sit down with the audience to talk about the work behind the playing. Topics range from how their careers took shape to how a repertoire gets built, along with what they have learned from competitions, auditions, and years on the concert stage.

Workshops are **free and open to public attendance**. **Seating is limited, and RSVP is required.**

CONCERTS

The Summit Series brings world-renowned artists to campus for an unforgettable evening of music. A reception follows each concert, with light refreshments and a chance to meet the artists. Advance pricing applies to tickets bought online before the concert day.

Advance · $20 Student / $50 Adult

At the door · $30 Student / $60 Adult

EXCLUSIVE TO VCS CONSERVATORY STUDENTS

PRIVATE LESSONS

Selected VCS Conservatory students will receive private lessons with the Artists-in-Residence at no cost.

WHAT TO EXPECT

- One-on-one instruction
- Dedicated space for questions and advice
- Individual guidance from world-class faculty
- Resume-enhancing opportunities
- Personalized connection building

AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

The Ambassador Program recognizes outstanding VCS piano and string (violin, viola, and cello) students in Grades 6–12. Ambassadors serve as the student representatives of *The Summit Series* throughout the school year, working alongside internationally acclaimed guest artists.

WHAT AMBASSADORS RECEIVE

- **$1,000 stipend**
- Media package: professional headshots and recordings
- Unique educational mentorship
- Dedicated performance opportunities, including Prelude Concerts in *The Summit Series* and community outreach



Boris Slutsky

FACULTY

Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University • Yale School of Music

Since his orchestral debut at **Carnegie Hall** with the New York Youth Symphony in 1980, Slutsky has appeared on nearly every continent as soloist and recitalist, with orchestras including the **London Philharmonic**, the Stuttgart State Orchestra, Korea's KBS Symphony and the Baltimore, Utah and Toronto Symphonies. He has been heard in recital at the **Kennedy Center**, Kaufmann Concert Hall, Bunka Kaikan in Tokyo, the **National Concert Hall** in Taipei and the Teatro Colón in Bogotá.

He has taken first prizes at the **Kosciuszko Foundation Chopin, San Antonio International** and **William Kapell International** competitions, and major prizes at **Busoni**, Pozzoli, **Gina Bachauer** and Glenn Gould/Bach.

RESIDENCY EVENTS

4:30 PM

Masterclass

Open to all Bay Area students to apply and perform, and free for anyone to attend.

RSVP Required · Limited Spots Remaining

7:30 PM

Workshop | What Nobody Tells You: Honest Answers on Competitions, Auditions, Practice, and more

A conversation with pianist Boris Slutsky, moderated by Elliot Wuu, Artistic Director of The Summit Series. Audience Q&A to follow.

RSVP Required · Limited Spots Remaining

BETWEEN EVENTS

Food will be provided

Light dinner will be provided between the masterclass and the workshop; light refreshments will follow Boris Slutsky's workshop.



Michelle Cann

FACULTY

Curtis Institute of Music, Eleanor Sokoloff Chair • Manhattan School of Music

Lauded as "exquisite" by *The Philadelphia Inquirer* and "a pianist of sterling artistry" by ***Gramophone***, Cann is one of the most sought-after artists of her generation. Recent engagements include the **Chicago Symphony**, **The Cleveland Orchestra**, **The Philadelphia Orchestra**, the **Los Angeles Philharmonic** and the National Symphony Orchestra.

A recognized interpreter of **Florence Price**, she gave the Philadelphia premiere of Price's Piano Concerto in One Movement with Yannick Nézet-Séguin; her recording of the concerto won a **GRAMMY** in 2023, and ***Beyond the Years***, recorded with soprano Karen Slack, won again in 2025. She is a recipient of the **Sphinx Medal of Excellence** and the Andrew Wolf Chamber Music Award.

RESIDENCY EVENTS

4:00 PM

Masterclass

Open to all Bay Area students to apply and perform, and free for anyone to attend.

RSVP Required · Limited Spots Remaining

8:00 PM

Concert | Chopin, Price, Brahms, and more

Tickets at vcs.net/summitseries.

Advance · $20 Student · $50 Adult

At the door · $30 Student · $60 Adult

Light refreshments will be provided following Michelle Cann's concert.

Michelle Cann is represented by Curtis Artist Management at Curtis Institute of Music.



Kevin Zhu

HONORS & AWARDS

First Prize, Menuhin Competition • First Prize, Premio Paganini • Avery Fisher Career Grant • Prizewinner, Queen Elisabeth

Zhu first drew worldwide attention at eleven, taking First Prize at the **2012 Yehudi Menuhin Competition** in Beijing; six years later he won the 55th **Paganini Competition** in Genoa. His playing has been praised for its "infinite delicacy" and "wild intensity" by RTBF Belgium.

He has performed at **Konzerthaus Berlin**, London's Royal Festival Hall, the **Kennedy Center** and Beijing's Forbidden City Concert Hall, with orchestras including the Prague Philharmonia, the Hong Kong Philharmonic and the China Philharmonic. Zhu performs on the **c. 1700 "ex-Petri" Antonio Stradivari violin**, on loan from the **Ryuji Ueno Foundation** and **Rare Violins In Consortium**, Artists and Benefactors Collaborative. He studied with **Itzhak Perlman** and Li Lin at **The Juilliard School**.

RESIDENCY EVENTS

2:00 PM

Masterclass

Open to all Bay Area students to apply and perform, and free for anyone to attend.

RSVP Required · Limited Spots Remaining

7:30 PM

Concert | The Complete 24 Paganini Caprices, Op. 1

Tickets at vcs.net/summitseries.

Advance · $20 Student · $50 Adult **At the door · $30 Student · $60 Adult**

Light refreshments will be provided following Kevin Zhu's concert.

Kevin Zhu is represented by Sheldon Artists.



Sterling Elliott

with Elliot Wuu, piano

HONORS & AWARDS

BBC New Generation Artist • Avery Fisher Career Grant
Bowers Fellow of Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center

Acclaimed for his stage presence and joyous musicianship, Elliott won the Senior Division of the **2019 National Sphinx Competition** and received an Avery Fisher Career Grant in 2021. Sterling has appeared with the **Philadelphia Orchestra**, the **San Francisco Symphony**, the **New York Philharmonic**, the **Boston Symphony**, the **Cleveland Orchestra**, the **Los Angeles Philharmonic** and the Detroit and Dallas Symphonies, working with conductors including Yannick Nézet-Séguin and Thomas Wilkins.

In 2024 he received the **Sphinx Medal of Excellence**, the organization's highest honor, and was named a **BBC New Generation Artist**. Born into a musical household, he completed the Elliott Family String Quartet, an ensemble with a taste for bluegrass, gospel and funk. He performs on a **1741 Gennaro Gagliano** cello.

RESIDENCY EVENTS

Sun 7:30 PM

Concert | Ravel, Strauss, and Rachmaninoff

With Elliot Wuu, piano. Tickets at vcs.net/summitseries.

Advance · $20 Student · $50 Adult

At the door · $30 Student · $60 Adult

Light refreshments will be provided following Sterling Elliott's concert.

Sterling Elliott is represented by Colbert Artists Management.



Nancy Zhou

with Elliot Wuu, piano

FACULTY

The Juilliard School (Tianjin) • San Francisco Conservatory of Music

Known for her probing musical voice and searing virtuosity, Zhou seeks to invigorate appreciation for the art and science of the violin. More than twenty years since her orchestral debut, she has collaborated with the **Royal Stockholm Philharmonic**, the Munich Symphony, the Hong Kong Philharmonic, the New Jersey Symphony and the San Diego, Milwaukee and Kansas City Symphonies, and has performed at the **Verbier**, Tongyeong and Marvão festivals.

Her interest in cultural heritage has produced a string of collaborations across the US and China, among them the US premiere of Unsuk Chin's "Gran Cadenza" for two solo violins with **Anne-Sophie Mutter**. In 2025 she released her debut solo album, ***STORIES (re)TRACED***. She studied with Miriam Fried at the **New England Conservatory** and plays a **1725 Carlo Bergonzi** violin.

RESIDENCY EVENTS

Mon 4:30 PM

Masterclass & Q&A

Open to all Bay Area students to apply and perform, and free for anyone to attend.

RSVP Required · Limited Spots Remaining

Tue 7:30 PM

Concert | Debussy, Stravinsky, and Beethoven *Kreutzer*

With Elliot Wuu, piano. Tickets at vcs.net/summitseries.

Advance · $20 Student · $50 Adult **At the door · $30 Student · $60 Adult**

Light refreshments will be provided following Nancy Zhou's concert.

Nancy Zhou is represented by Kanzen Arts.



Elliot Wuu

Artistic Director, The Summit Series

HONORS & AWARDS

Young Steinway Artist • Gilmore Young Artist • Steinway Recording Artist

Praised for his "power, speed and finesse of artists twice his age" (*Tribune Star*), Wuu is a **2018 Gilmore Young Artist** and a winner of the Salon de Virtuosi Career Grant. In 2026 he took First Prize at the Lloyd Piano Competition with the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, and released ***Onward*** on the Steinway & Sons label.

He has performed at **Carnegie Hall's Stern Auditorium**, the **United Nations Headquarters** and the **Fondation Louis Vuitton** in Paris, and appeared as soloist with the Minnesota Orchestra and the **Indianapolis Symphony**. He grew up in the Bay Area, studying at the San Francisco Conservatory Pre-College and the Valley Christian High School Conservatory of the Arts, and is a Kovner Fellow of **The Juilliard School**, where he earned both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees under Robert McDonald.

RESIDENCY EVENTS

Oct 22, 2026	Moderator | In Conversation with Boris Slutsky
Jan 24–25, 2027	Residency 04 with Sterling Elliott
Apr 19–20, 2027	Residency 05 with Nancy Zhou