



LOUIS MOREAU INSTITUTE
— FOR —
NEW MUSIC PERFORMANCE
NEW ORLEANS

2026 Louis Moreau Institute
Festival Program

THE LOUIS MOREAU INSTITUTE

FOR NEW MUSIC PERFORMANCE

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can reach us at **louismoreauinstitute@gmail.com**

We thank you for attending our performances.
Please join us in 2027 for our thirteenth season of
new music in New Orleans!

Wednesday, March 18, 2026 7:30PM

Café Istanbul

A Brave New World

Piano Sonata Op. 1 (1910) Alban Berg

Wesley Ducote, piano

Viola Sonata (1989) George Walker

I. ♩ = 63

II. ♩ = 66

Adam Savage, viola; Wesley Ducote, piano

String Trio (1982) Mario Davidovsky

Christopher Herz, violin; Adam Savage, viola; Dana Rath, cello

INTERMISSION

Aerial Silk Roads (2021) Sam Wu

- i. contrails
- ii. deserts
- iii. mountains
- iv. night

Dana Rath, cello

Winin' Boy Blues (1939) Jelly Roll Morton
arr. Wesley Ducote

structured improvisation by our Institute Artists

Scratch (2010) Melinda Wagner

Christopher Herz, violin; Adam Savage, viola; Dana
Rath, cello; Wesley Ducote, conductor

with guest performers Virginia McDowell, oboe;
Cassidy Franzmeier, violin

Sunday, March 22, 2026 7:30PM

The New Marigny Theatre

The King of the Sun

You are Still Here (2020) **Sarah Gibson**

Christopher Herz, violin

Evening at the Window (1988) **Konstantia Gourzi**

Adam Savage, viola

Lines in Motion (2022) **Karim Al-Zand**

1. on the open sea
2. in the big city
3. at the spirit dance

Christopher Herz, violin; Bree Ahern, cello; Wesley
Ducote, piano

INTERMISSION

Klee Musings Augusta Read Thomas
(2016)

- I. Triple Marionette
- II. Cathedrals
- III. Highways and Byways

Christopher Herz, violin; Bree Ahern, cello; Wesley
Ducote, piano

Winin' Boy Blues (1939) Jelly Roll Morton
arr. Wesley Ducote

structured improvisation by our Institute Artists

The King of the Sun Stephen Hartke
(2010)

- I. Personages in the night guided by the
 phosphorescent tracks of snails
- II. Dutch Interior
- III. Dancer listening to the organ in a Gothic
 cathedral
- IV. The Flames of the sun make the desert flower
 hysterical
- V. Personages and birds rejoicing at the arrival of
 night

Christopher Herz, violin; Adam Savage, viola; Bree
Ahern, cello; Wesley Ducote, piano

INSTITUTE ARTISTS

Bree Ahern, cello

Currently based in Dallas-Fort Worth, cellist Bree Ahern is a versatile performing artist committed to building community through performing, teaching, and collaborating across art forms. A passionate solo and chamber musician, she has dedicated herself to presenting innovative programs to diverse audiences and using music to serve and enrich her community. She currently performs with Kinetic Ensemble, a Houston-based conductor-less chamber orchestra committed to performing diverse, underrepresented, and newly composed classical music. Keen on interdisciplinary collaborations, she has worked with dancers, artists, and scientists in projects with Musiqqa, Loop38, and Da Camera of Houston, among others. In DFW, she performs regularly with the Fort Worth Symphony and has appeared with Opus Nova, Spectrum Chamber Music Society, and Broadway at Bass Hall. Her festival appearances include the Louis Moreau Institute for Contemporary Music, Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music, Round Top Festival Institute, Hot Springs Music Festival, and Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival, with select performances featured on WQXR and New Music USA. She is a graduate of Rice University, where she studied as a Brown Foundation Fellow under Norman Fischer on a full scholarship.

Christopher Herz, Violin

Christopher Herz is an internationally recognized violinist, performing as a soloist and chamber musician in Japan, Switzerland, and throughout the United States. He has collaborated with renowned artists including the JACK Quartet, Steven Schick, Todd Reynolds, Tony Arnold, Brad

Lubman, Juan Miguel Hernandez, Ben Hong, and members of the Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra.

Mr. Herz is an enthusiastic collaborator, performing a wide range of repertoire. He regularly appears with the Terre Haute, Columbus, Louisville, and Evansville orchestras, and has performed with the Jacobs School of Music New Music Ensemble. While at Eastman, he performed with Musica Nova, OSSIA, the Bach Cantata Project, Eastman Repertory Singers, and the Beal Institute Film Project. He has also performed as an artist fellow at the Bang on a Can and New Music on the Point festivals.

Dedicated to community outreach, Mr. Herz is a Beginning Strings Instructor for the Monroe County school district in Bloomington, Indiana and a Lead Instructor for the Fairview Violin Project. He previously taught violin at the Eastman Community Music School. He is also a co-founder and organizer of Overtuned Fest, a contemporary music and rock festival in Bloomington.

Mr. Herz is currently completing his Doctor of Music degree at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music under Professor Mark Kaplan, with minors in Music Education and Informatics from the Luddy School. He is currently working on his dissertation, titled "Confluence of Third Stream Jazz and Classical Violin Traditions: An Analysis and Performance Guide for David Baker's *Jazz Suite for Violin and Piano*."

In addition to his violin work, Mr. Herz performs as a guitarist in rock bands in Bloomington. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his cats, Choco and Pippa.

Dana Rath, Cello

Cellist Dana Rath is a passionate performer and chamber musician from Kansas, now based in Houston, Texas. She is currently completing her Artist Diploma at Rice University's Shepherd School of Music under Valentin Radutiu, where she

also earned her Master's degree studying with Desmond Hoebig. She holds a Bachelor of Music from the University of Michigan, where she studied with Richard Aaron, and her previous teachers include Daniel Veis and Martin Storey.

Rath has appeared as a soloist with the Kansas City Symphony performing Tchaikovsky's *Variations on a Rococo Theme*, and with the University of Michigan Philharmonia Orchestra as winner of the school's concerto competition performing Schumann's *Cello Concerto in A minor*. In 2024, she won the Shepherd School's concerto competition and performed Dvořák's *Cello Concerto in B minor* with the Shepherd School Symphony Orchestra.

She has participated in numerous festivals, including the Lucerne Contemporary Festival, Bowdoin International Music Festival, and Aspen Music Festival. Rath also serves as 3rd chair cellist with both the Houston Ballet Orchestra and the Houston Grand Opera.

Adam Savage, viola

Stephen "Adam" Savage is 21 years old and has been playing the viola for 13 years. A native of Port St. Lucie, FL, Adam has performed recitals, chamber music, and has been a member of prestigious orchestras throughout the world. Most recently, he participated in the 2025 Lionel Tertis Viola Competition where he received the Karl Doktor prize for "best performance of a work in the Austro-German tradition". Adam has also been invited to other prestigious viola competitions around the world, including the 2025 Concours de Geneva Viola Competition and the 2023 ARD International Music Competition. He was also a fellow as part of the International Program at Music@Menlo and performed as a guest chamber musician in the 72nd Ljubljana Festival in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Adam has recently graduated from The Juilliard School with his undergraduate degree in the studios of both Toby Appel

and Paul Neubauer. He will be continuing his studies at The Juilliard School for a graduate degree in the same studios. Adam has additionally received an associate in arts degree from Indian River State College and, as a 2021 YoungArts Winner, he was nominated and later chosen to become a 2021 U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts.

Stephen Adam Savage is a proud recipient of a Kovner Fellowship at The Juilliard School.

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Wesley Ducote

A versatile pianist with roots in New Orleans and Lake Charles, Wesley Ducote regularly performs works dating from the Renaissance to the current decade as well as the standards in between. As an enthusiastic contemporary musician Mr. Ducote has performed many of the pillars of 20th/21st century repertoire from Wuorinen's New York Notes to the Ligeti Piano Concerto. He is often seen collaborating with some of today's brightest stars including composer/vocalist Kate Soper, Emmy winning composer and Vietnamese folk musician Van Anh Vo, flutists Leone Buyse and Carol Wincenc, soprano Ana Maria Martinez, and many others. Highlights of this season include premieres by composers Karim Al Zand, Anthony Brandt, Theo Chandler, and a new piano concerto by Max Vinetz. Ducote holds graduate and undergraduate degrees in music from Rice University, where he studied with Brian Connelly, as well as an undergraduate degree in mathematics. He currently resides in St. Petersburg, FL as an active freelancer and frequent keyboardist with the Florida Orchestra.

ABOUT THE LMI

The Louis Moreau Institute is a non-profit arts organization formed, in part, to honor Louis Moreau Gottschalk, the 19th century New Orleans composer who bridged cultural and musical worlds himself. Directed by Wesley Ducote—Principal Keyboard of the Houston Symphony Orchestra—the LMI combines love of the city and music into an exciting series of musical events.

For some 200 years, New Orleans has been widely identified as a vital center of musical life. It has invented, encouraged, and sustained a number of genres that have influenced musical thinking and practice worldwide. To date, forward-leaning New Music has not enjoyed the prominence or identity of the opera, rags, multicultural concert music, jazz, blues, and funk conventionally associated with the city's rich cultural heritage. The Louis Moreau Institute is poised to do so, adding to the vitality and diversity of the city's musical life, do so in a unique way, and give the future of music a desitively rite place to grow and prosper. The Louis Moreau Institute also supports emerging, young performing artists from around the country, giving them the opportunity to perform challenging repertoire in non-traditional venues and to providing them with media from these performances to boost their early career development.

The Louis Moreau Institute presented its first one-week season of performances in 2015, performing a collection of new works from the last 100 years, including compositions by regional composers, and improvisations utilizing nontraditional techniques, based upon a foundation of traditional regional material

The Louis Moreau Institute is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND THANKS

The Louis Moreau Institute gratefully acknowledges the generosity of its **donors**:

Mark Ciccarello, Dale Fleishmann, Alan Gerson, Julie Schwam-Harris & Seth Harris, Laura & Jon Klein, Beth Meyer, Renée Monrose, and Mary Jane Ciccarello & Morris Rosenzweig.

We thank **Café Istanbul** and the **New Marigny Theatre** for providing such wonderful venues for our 2026 festival.

Additional big thanks for their **friendship and support** to Peggy Errol-Laborde and Alan Smason.

We deeply thank the gracious **hosts of our performers**:

Julie Schwam Harris & Seth Harris, Casey Hero King & Dr. Andrew King, Julianne Nice & Herb Larson, Beth Meyer & Alan Gerson.

We especially thank the **Albert and Elaine Borchard Foundation** for a very generous grant that made the 2026 season a reality. We also thank our sponsors at the **Alice M. Ditson Fund** at Columbia University.

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