2021 Music Discovery Workshop Faculty

Cynthia Keiko Black (violin) Born in Dallas, Texas, Cynthia Keiko Black enjoys performing as a violinist and violist playing music from several centuries at home in the Bay Area and across the United States. She is a founding member of the Costanoan Trio, a period instrument piano trio, and performs in California with groups like the American Bach Soloists, Valley of the Moon, Ars Minerva, and Voices of Music, and will be making guest appearances this season with Pacific MusicWorks, Incantare, the Atlanta Baroque Orchestra, and at the Helicon Foundation. She currently teaches young people at the Crowden School's Community Program and in her free time, she enjoys being in the kitchen making ice cream and bundt cakes and trying to make people laugh. She holds modern viola degrees from the Cleveland Institute of Music and holds a doctorate in Historical Performance Practice from Case Western Reserve University.

Jennifer Hobbs (arts and crafts), M.S., M. Ed., is a visual arts teacher currently teaching high school level art in Memphis, TN. She holds two master’s degrees in education (Cross Cultural Education and Educational Leadership) and a BFA from California Institute of the Arts, where she studied painting, graphic arts, filmmaking, world music and dance. Prior to this, she has taught private piano, voice, and guitar lessons and performing arts workshops for youth in San Diego. Before her teaching career, Jennifer performed as an original performance artist and songwriter in venues in Los Angeles and San Francisco and worked as a free-lance artist. Jennifer also loves to invent recipes, to cook for groups of people and create homemade gifts and crafts.

Vicki Melin (recorder and flute) has been teaching flute and recorder to young people for over 20 years. She finds introducing children to early music and period instruments using an interdisciplinary and historical approach one of the most inspiring and fulfilling things in being a musician. She joined the faculty of the Music Discovery Workshop in 2019. Specializing in Baroque and Renaissance Flutes, she has performed in early music groups in Bay area such as the American Bach Soloists, Voices of Music, Live Oak Baroque Orchestra, California Bach Society, MUSA, and her ensemble, Nash Baroque. Ms. Melin attended Boston University for her Master of Music, studying with Christopher Krueger and The Royal Conservatory of Music in Den Hague, The Netherlands, where she received an Advanced Diploma in Performance, studying with Wilbert Hazelzet. She had the honor and pleasure of studying Medieval and Renaissance practice with Margriet Tindemans at the University of Washington and studying Renaissance flute with Nancy Hadden in London. She has performed with early music orchestras and chamber ensembles in the United States, The Netherlands, Italy, and is a frequent a guest soloist with International Organ and Chamber Music Festivals in Poland. Visit: the YouTube video of the ensemble Cantica Sacra for the 2013 International Organ and Chamber Music Festival Krakow, Poland. Ms. Melin lives in San Francisco and teaches privately and at UC Berkeley.

Jennifer Meller (Baroque dance) has been teaching and performing early dance since 2012. She especially enjoys working with children and collaborates with Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra's Educational Program to bring Master Classes in Baroque and Renaissance music and dance to
schools and community centers throughout the Bay Area. As Co-Artistic Director of Dance Through Time she has recently taught and performed at the Carey School in San Mateo and looks forward to working with Lisa Grodin each year to lead prospective young students in Baroque dancing for the opening of the Junior Bach Festival. Ms. Meller has taught master classes at The Wooden Floor, UC Davis, UC Berkeley, St. Mary’s College, Dominican University, and College of the Pacific.

Farley Pearce (*cello, viola da gamba and guitar*) is a San Francisco freelance musician who plays cello, viola, violone, and contrabass. He has played with the baroque orchestras of Vancouver, Portland, San Francisco, and Los Angeles, and is a member of the Voice of Music ensemble and Sex Chordae Consort of Viols. He also has appeared with American Bach Soloists, Archetti, Magnificat!, Musica Pacifica, Marin Baroque, and the Albany Consort, as well as symphony orchestra in the Bay Area. His frequent recitals have featured old and new music for period contrabass as well as late 18th century music for viol and fortepiano. He has taught at Music Discovery Workshop for 15 years.

Adam L Sussman (*theater*) is a theatre director and educator from Boston by way of San Francisco. He is a recent graduate of the University of Texas at Austin’s MFA program, and makes uniquely theatrical work for the stage. He’s thrilled to be returning for his third summer with Music Discovery Workshop & Youth Collegium. Recent directing work includes the West Coast premiere of Sarah Ruhl’s *How to Transcend a Happy Marriage* (“Leaping man [highest rating] the love and mating ritual we all need.” SF Chronicle), a re-imagining of Shakespeare’s *The Merchant of Venice* (UT Theatre and Dance (“One of the top productions of 2018” Austin-American Statesman, Best Production and Best Director nominations Austin Critics Table), and *The Tiny Banger* at Trinity Street Players (four B. Iden Payne Award nominations). As an educator, Adam has taught upper-level courses on acting and directing at the University of Texas at Austin, playwriting and acting at the Bentley School, and adult classes on devising with Playwright’s Center SF. As a mentor and teaching artist he has worked with the Berkeley Rep School of Theatre, Ragged Wing Youth Ensemble, New Conservatory Theatre Company and Children’s After School Arts in San Francisco where he co-directs the annual musical. Adam’s a founding member of the theater collective HATCH and the current Managing Artistic Producer at Custom Made Theatre Company. He served as The Berkeley Repertory Theatre’s 2014/2015 Bret C Hart Directing Fellow where he developed work with artists such as Liesl Tommy, Anna Deavere Smith and Tina Landau. Adam is a recipient of Theatre Bay Area’s Titan Award, a 2010 Best of SF Fringe Award, and a 2016 TBA award for Best Anthology Production.

Susan Swerdlow (*voice*) is thrilled to be on the teaching team for the Music Discovery Workshop. She retired a few years ago from the College Preparatory School in Oakland after several fulfilling decades teaching choral music. Since then, she has joined the teaching team at Little Opera in San Francisco, and has thrown herself into solo and choral singing, in Tactus SF, the San Francisco Bay Area Chamber Choir, the Berkeley Bach Cantata Group, and elsewhere. She was Level 3 Director at the SF Girls Chorus and taught elementary and middle school vocal music in public schools and with Oakland Parks and Recreation. She is a Junior Bach adjudicator. Susan, who holds an M.M. in choral conducting from Temple University, trained the choruses for many productions at Berkeley
Opera (now West Edge Opera) and Oakland Opera Theater, and is a former music director of Sacred and Profane Chamber Chorus.

Yuko Tanaka, DMA (artistic director, harpsichord and piano) is very passionate about educating the next generation of musicians. Long before joining the faculty of Music Discovery Workshop in 2011, she has maintained a busy private studio for over 20 years teaching harpsichord and piano to youth of all ages and levels. After taking the role of Director in 2015, Yuko has expanded the original program with the addition of Youth Collegium, a concurrent program for older and more experienced students, Introduction to Viols Class for all workshop attendees, and Vocal Studies to round out the experience. Yuko, a native of Tokyo, Japan, is active as soloist and chamber musician on harpsichord, fortepiano, and chamber organ. She performs and has recorded with ensembles including Bertamo, Archetti, Music of the Spheres, California Bach Society, Marin Baroque, Musica Pacifica, Philharmonia Baroque Chamber Players, San Francisco Symphony, San Francisco Ballet Orchestra, American Bach Soloists and Moscow Chamber Orchestra. For 15 years, Yuko has been a soloist at the Carmel Bach Festival. Some notable performances outside of the Bay Area include Frick Collection (New York City), Tage Alter Musik Regensburg (Germany), and the Istanbul International Music Festival. She also conducts master classes, and appears as guest lecturer at various universities. Oh, and if that wasn’t enough, she is a mother of two rambunctious boys, aged 12 and 10. Yuko received a doctorate in early music from Stanford University and has studied with Margaret Fabrizio at Stanford University, Gustav Leonhardt in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, and Ketil Haugsand in Oslo, Norway. Ms. Tanaka’s private studio collection includes a French harpsichord by John Phillips, a smaller French harpsichord by Kevin Fryer, an Italian harpsichord by John Phillips, a Mozart-style fortepiano by Janine Johnson, and a 1908 Parisian piano by Erard.