

EVAN MITCHELL

PERCUSSION



OCTOBER 8, 2021
7:00 P.M.



FEBRUARY 19, 2022
7:00 P.M.

Evan Mitchell is a full-time percussionist born and raised in the Cleveland area. He is currently percussion faculty head at the Fine Arts Association, and manages the Clevelander Drum Company, where he hand makes and distributes percussion products worldwide. Evan studied at the Cleveland Institute of Music, an affiliate of Case Western Reserve University. He has studied percussion with Richard Weiner, Paul Yancich, Marc Damoulakis, Roger Carter, Jamey Haddad, Pete Korpela, Kevin Raczka, and Arthur Lipner. Evan enjoys a freelance career playing all styles of music, including Andrea Bocelli, the Cleveland Pops Orchestra, the Buffalo and Erie Philharmonic Orchestras, touring circus bands, and a variety of local theater and jazz groups. Evan is particularly passionate about the “Afrobeat” genre, a style that blends together traditional Nigerian percussion instruments onto the drum set.

Faculty Artist Recital Series

**PURCHASE TICKETS AT [FINEARTSASSOCIATION.ORG](https://www.fineartsassociation.org)
OR BY CALLING 440-951-7500**

DR. MATTHEW SAUNDERS

TROMBONE



**JANUARY 12, 2022
7:00 P.M.**



Dr. Matthew C. Saunders (born 1976, Austin, Texas, USA) is a Northeast Ohio composer, conductor, trombonist, husband, and father. He finds inspiration from the vastness of space, the waterways and forests, mountains and prairies of America, the motion of atoms, and the mysteries of existence, and from collaboration with other musicians and his students. After a hard day's work, he relaxes with his wonderful wife, who is the love of his life and his teammate in the extreme sport of parenting. Dr. Saunders is a lover of solitude and camaraderie, Cincinnati-style chili and Carolina barbecue, road trips, movies, and random facts. His favorite dinosaur is the Parasaurolophus. He gets excited about music that he would never write or perform, and does what he can to share that with the world. Dr. Saunders is Professor of Music at Lakeland Community College, where he directs the Lakeland Civic Orchestra.

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CLIFF HABIAN

PIANO



**FEBRUARY 19, 2022
7:00 P.M.**



The late jazz critic, Leonard Feather of the Los Angeles Times, said that "Cleveland has an engaging eclectic in Habian, everything switches around from cut to cut: the size of the band, the genre of the music, the source of Habian's inspiration". That was twenty years ago, and since then, Cliff has remained true to those words.

He began piano lessons at the age of nine and was composing music just a few years later. With both classical and jazz music being strong influences, he decided early on to integrate the two genres into his own unique style. A multifarious pianist, Cliff can play in virtually any style, and he performs comfortably in group settings as well as solo performances. After attending the Cleveland Institute of Music as a composition major, Cliff accepted a position as Director of American Music and Department Head of Keyboard Studies at the Cleveland Music School Settlement, a post he held for 13 years. Cliff has worked with such greats as Joe Lovano, Freddy Cole, Frank Morgan, Jane Ira Bloom, Trent Reznor of Nine Inch Nails, Dion, Jamey Haddad, Wayne Newton, Bobby Vinton, Eliot Zigmund, Ernie Krivda, Dominick Farinacci, Greg Abate and many others. In addition to appearing on "Good Morning America", Cliff has opened for such jazz legends as Mel Lewis and Dave Brubeck. He has performed for celebrities ranging from Wilt Chamberlain to Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward, to Hal Holbrook, David Byrne, Joe Russo, and Larry King. Impressed upon hearing Cliff perform, the great pianist Lang Lang commented, "I can't believe how versatile you are."

The full bio can be found on the "Faculty" page of The Fine Arts Association website.

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SKIP EDWARDS

CELLO



**FEBRUARY 19, 2022
7:00 P.M.**



Johnathan (Skip) attended CIM and the Berkeley College of Music. In addition to cello, Skip teaches piano and guitar as well as the upright & electric bass. In addition to teaching at Fine Arts, Skip also teaches at a neighboring organization, the Rainey Institute. He has worked as a professional musician all of his life; living and traveling all over the country!

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FEROZA LABONNE

PIANO



**MAY 6, 2022
7:00 PM**



Piano Teaching Diplomas from both the Royal Schools of Music and the Trinity College of Music, London, UK. Her Masters Degree in Music Education from Case Western Reserve University-Cleveland Institute of Music Joint Program. She was awarded the Permanent Professional Certificate from the Music Teachers National Association. Forty years of successful teaching have proven that an individualized approach to technique, interpretation and appropriate repertoire, including performance and audition opportunities, ensures the success of every student.

Ms. LaBonne was formerly an adjunct piano faculty member in upstate New York's Union College and concurrently the music critic for the TIMES UNION daily newspaper of Albany, New York. Ms. LaBonne is the National Winner (1992) of a grant given by the Music Teachers National Association to one Nationally Certified Piano Teacher chosen from across the fifty states. She is also the recipient of a fully funded National Fellowship from the Music Critics Association.

She is a third generation pianist, her mother being India's leading piano teacher. International Welsh composer Hilary Tann dedicated her two-piano work, "Waters Edge" jointly to Feroza Dubash LaBonne and her mother Farida Dubash. It was published by Oxford University Press and premiered by Feroza's students in New York. Feroza's students have placed at the state, regional and national levels in solo and concerto competitions. They have gone onto professional careers, receiving scholarships to such prestigious schools as the Moscow Conservatory of Music, the Juilliard School, and Eastman School of Music to name a few. Recently former student concert pianist Pervez Mody was named a Steinway Artist, and Wei-jen Yuan was a semi-finalist at the Cleveland International Piano Competition.

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