

## **Syllabus -- OLLI 950**

### **Discover 16 New Geniuses in the Performing Arts**

*Monday, February 7, classical music*

cellist **Alisa Weilerstein**, class of 2011

cited for being "a consummate performer, combining technical precision with impassioned musicianship" and being "a tireless advocate for contemporary music."

violinist **Leila Josefowicz**, class of 2008

cited for "captivating audiences with her technically precise and emotionally resonant performances of both traditional and contemporary works."

pianist **Jeremy Denk**, class of 2013

cited for "masterfully performing some of the most technically demanding work of iconic masters as well as compositions of storied twentieth-century artists."

conductor **Marin Alsop**, class of 2005

cited because "in addition to her masterful conducting technique and visionary artistic programming" she has an "extraordinary ability to communicate both with her orchestra and with her audience."

*Tuesday, February 8, dance*

choreographer **Twyla Tharp**, class of 1992

cited for "demonstrating the potential for combining the modern vocabulary of movement with classical ballet."

choreographer **Arthur Mitchell**, class of 1994  
cited for founding Dance Theatre of Harlem and its associated dance school, multicultural institutions that bring "bold new forms of artistic expression to audiences" and provide opportunity for inner-city youth to study and have career in classical ballet and concert dance.

dancer **Kyle Abraham**, class of 2013  
cited for "probing the relationship between identity and personal history through a unique hybrid of traditional and vernacular dance that speaks to a new generation.

choreographer **Alexei Ratmansky**, class of 2013  
cited for "revitalizing classical ballet with a distinctive style that honors the past while infusing a modern sensibility to interpretations of the standard repertoire as well as his own works."

*Wednesday, February 9, jazz*

pianist **Jason Moran**, class of 2010  
cited for "mining a variety of musical styles to created adventurous genre-crossing jazz performances."

violinist **Regina Carter**, class of 2006  
cited for "marrying conservatory training with a broad range of eclectic influences to invent a modern repertoire for the violin in contemporary and improvisational music."

pianist **Vijay Iyer**, class of 2013  
cited for "forging a new conception of jazz and American creative music" by combining "core rhythmic, melodic, and structural elements

from a wide range of sources to construct richly varied, improvisation-driven solo and ensemble music."

guitarist **Mary Halvorson**, class of 2019

cited for playing "distinguished by her percussive picking style and the distinctive clarity of tone...experimenting with the intersection of jazz and rock."

*Thursday, February 10, vocal music*

theatre performer **Lin-Manuel Miranda**, class of 2015

cited for "expanding the conventions of musical theatre with a popular cultural sensibility and musical styles and voices that reflect the diverse cultural panorama of the American urban experience."

opera singer **Dawn Upshaw**, class of 2007

cited for "stretching the boundaries of operatic and concert singing and enriching the landscape of contemporary performance through her advocacy of established and emerging composers."

folk singer **Rhiannon Giddens**, class of 2017

cited for "stretching our understanding of American music by reclaiming African-American contributions to folk and country genres and revealing affinities between a range of musical traditions, from gospel to Celtic to jazz and R&B."

jazz singer **Cécile McLorin Salvant**, class of 2020

cited for using her four-octave range and "manifold powers of interpretation to infuse jazz standards and original compositions with a vibrant, global, Black feminist perspective."

