

## Mei-Chun Chen

*“...her quartet’s performance was one of the finest playing of my own compositions that I have ever heard...”* John Corigliano, American classical composer, 2015

*“Chen brought and exuberance to the performance that was non-the-less disciplined, especially in the opening where Chen delicately caressed the rich tonal qualities from her instrument...Chen’s performance was stunning and the audience was charmed and thrilled by her.”* Sarah Young, KC Metropolis, 2017

A native of Taiwan, Dr. **Mei-Chun Chen** began studying violin since age of seven and earned her Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in violin performance with Shien-Ta Su at Taipei National University of the Arts in 2006 and 2008. In 2012, she moved to the United States to pursue her Doctoral of Musical Arts in Viola performance and received her degree at the University of Missouri-Kansas City in 2017, under the tutelage of Scott Lee.

Chen performs internationally and appears as an active soloist, recitalist, chamber music and orchestral musician. Before moving to America, she has won many awards and competitions as a violinist. In 2004, she won the second prize at the fifth annual competition- Academy of Taiwan Strings of, and she was invited to perform as a concerto soloist with the ensemble in 2009, 2010, and 2012. In 2007, Chen was selected to be the graduate teaching assistant for the seminar of the American String Quartet, held at TNUA.

Chen shifted her gear and decided to pursue her career as a violist in 2012. Ever since then, she has appeared as an enthusiastic and active violist of orchestral music and chamber music. During her study at UMKC, Chen won several competitions and was awarded many scholarships and fellowships. She was the violist of the Graduate Fellowship String Quartet and the principal viola of UMKC Conservatory Orchestra and the Conservatory Chamber Orchestra from 2012 to 2016. She was one of the winners of 2014 UMKC Concerto/Aria Competition and later she performed Walton Viola concerto with UMKC Conservatory Orchestra. In 2015, she won the second place at the American Protégé International Concerto Competition and gave her Carnegie Hall debut in December of the same year. In addition, Chen was invited to Kneisel Hall Chamber Music School and Festival in 2014 and Kent/Blossom Music Festival in 2015 and 2016.

As violinist and violist, Chen has worked with renowned soloists, chamber musicians, orchestral musicians, and conductors, including Ronald Patterson, Tanya Grindenko, Lynn Chang, Christophe Boulier, Gregor Sigl, American String

Quartet, Borromeo String Quartet, Jasper String Quartet, Miami String Quartet, Philharmonia Quartet Berlin, Eighth Blackbird, Time for Three, Stanley Konopka, Jonathan Vinocour, Charles Pikler, Robert Vernon, Seiji Ozawa, Brett Mitchel, Joseph Giunta, Gilbert Varga and Hans Graf, just to name a few.

Her recent solo engagement includes Walton's Viola Concerto with the Topeka Symphony Orchestra. She was the feature violist of the 2016 Washburn International Chamber Music Festival, in which she performed chamber recitals and taught masterclasses. Chen served as the principal viola of Topeka Symphony Orchestra (2014-2017) and Des Moines Symphony Orchestra (2016-2017). Currently, she is a member of Taipei Symphony Orchestra, and has been invited to the 14<sup>th</sup> Thailand International Composition Festival in summer of 2018 as one of the feature artists.