



International Music Institute
heifetz
at Mary Baldwin University

The 2026 Heifetz Institute will be held on the campus of Mary Baldwin University in Staunton, Virginia. Nestled in the Shenandoah Valley between the Blue Ridge and Allegheny Mountains, Staunton is known for its historic and culturally vibrant downtown and stunning natural beauty. Staunton regularly appears on “Top 10” lists of the nation’s best main streets and small cities in such publications as *Vogue*, *Travel & Leisure*, *USA Today*, and *Architectural Digest*.

“At the Heifetz Institute, we have the privilege of welcoming generations of truly gifted young artists into a thrilling arena of discovery. As Artistic Director, I am proud of all that our community has achieved over three decades of summers—through the extraordinary dedication of our faculty, the inspiring artistry of our alumni, and the unforgettable performances of our students. What a joy it is to celebrate 30 years of sharing this music together!”
— Nicholas Kitchen, Artistic Director



TOURING THE AREA?
Visit our Heifetz Music Shop in the heart of historic downtown Staunton at 11 S. New St., conveniently located at the junction of I-81 & I-64.

For lodging, dining, and recreational activities in the area please explore VisitStaunton.com

2026 SUMMER PROGRAM

The Heifetz summer program is an immersive, intensive, and often transformative musical experience for our students, built upon the Institute’s decades-long record of leadership and innovation in high-level musical instruction, Performance and Communication Training, practice analytics, personal coaching and mentoring, and industry-leading multimedia production.

The Institute’s 2026 Summer Program is open to outstanding string players who generally range in age from 8 to 30. Successful applicants aged 14 or younger are generally assigned to the Junior Division, while those 15 and older are placed in the Senior Division. Students aged 14 or 15 may be considered for both Junior or Senior Divisions, with placement determined by the Artistic Director. Senior Division applicants 18 and above may also apply to the Heifetz Chamber Music Seminar. Successful Chamber Music Seminar applicants will participate in all Senior Division AND Chamber Music Seminar activities.

For both Junior and Senior Division students, the Heifetz Summer Program includes:

- Two private lessons per week
- One studio performance class per week
- A rigorous chamber music component featuring two coachings per week and scheduled performances
- Our signature Heifetz Performance & Communication Training modules
- Seminars, masterclasses, lectures, fine instrument exhibitions, and audition opportunities, including *From The Top*
- A School Fair featuring representatives from the nation’s leading conservatories and music schools
- Industry-leading HD audio and video productions, including live streams, studio recordings, and concert videos on the Heifetz Institute’s popular YouTube, Instagram, and Facebook pages
- Practice & performance analytics and coaching with professional consultants
- Days of Play! Organized hikes, field trips, and outings for Heifetz students to explore the natural beauty and local attractions of Virginia’s Shenandoah Valley
- Daily public concert performance opportunities per week, including:
 - › *Stars of Tomorrow* concerts twice per week
 - › Faculty & student chamber music collaborations
 - › Free afternoon concerts in downtown Staunton venues
 - › Junior Division Solo and Chamber Music Showcases
 - › *Celebrity Series* concerts featuring Heifetz faculty and select students
 - › Private house concerts and Institute Board and fundraising events.
 - › Extensive outreach performance opportunities in area churches, libraries, and civic events

IMPORTANT DATES

December 31, 2025	Early Application Deadline (\$25 discount on application fee)
February 1, 2026	Final Application Deadline
March 2, 2026	Admissions Notices Begin
March 13, 2026	Final Admissions Notices
June 19, 2026	Arrival for Senior Division & Junior Division Session I
July 11, 2026	Departure for Junior Division Session I
July 12, 2026	Arrival for Junior Division Session II
August 2, 2026	Departure for Senior Division & Junior Division Session II

Applications

Apply online at heifetzinstitute.org/apply by February 1, 2026. Late applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The application fee is \$125 and is not included in the tuition rate. Apply by December 31, 2025 to receive a \$25 discount on your application fee. The Institute also offers an Application Fee Assistance Program; details at heifetz.institute/AppFee26

Auditions

All applicants are required to submit a minimum of three videos: 1) A piece showcasing technical brilliance; 2) A piece displaying lyrical beauty, and 3) A movement of a solo work by J.S. Bach. No audio-only submissions will be considered. Students applying to be String Scholars or Chamber Music Fellows (see below) will be required to submit additional video performances. Please find complete audition guidelines at heifetzinstitute.org/apply

Scholarships & Financial Aid

The Heifetz Institute will award up to 24 full scholarships to Chamber Music Seminar Fellows and String Scholars (available to Senior Division students only). There are additional audition requirements for these awards. **All applicants** are eligible for merit and tuition assistance awards of up to \$3,000. To apply for need-based assistance, please fill out the Financial Aid form in the online application and supply supporting documents.

Tuition & Fees

TUITION, ROOM & BOARD

- A minimum of two private lessons, two chamber coachings, and one studio class per week for all students.
- Access to all other Institute instruction, Communication Training classes, master classes, seminars, as well as guaranteed rehearsal time with pianists, and a full ‘Tape & Listen’ dress rehearsal in a private audience with the Artistic Director and/or other senior artistic faculty members.
- Room & Board, including air-conditioned single- or double-occupancy dorm rooms, dedicated practice rooms, rehearsal areas, dining facilities, and parking permits on the Mary Baldwin University campus in Staunton, VA

STUDENT ACTIVITIES & TRANSPORTATION

- Guaranteed transportation to and from IAD, CHO, or SHD airports and STA or CVS train stations
- Transportation to and from student activity locations

MEDICAL SERVICES, HEALTH & SAFETY, TESTING, & CLEANING FEES

- 24/7 assistance and transportation to and from local health care facilities, including emergency room service
- Quarantine facilities, if necessary

TECHNOLOGY FEES

- Access to campus-wide wireless internet (*Must have U.S. cell phone number*)
- Access to the Heifetz Institute music library and photocopying privileges, including payment of compulsory license fees to music publication agencies
- Access to Heifetz Institute software and peripherals, including page-turning pedals.

MULTIMEDIA

An archive of all of the Heifetz Institute’s state-of-the-art concert live streams will be available for all students. Single-camera video and HD audio of any concert performances may be available upon request.

HEIFETZ STUDENT ID

- Mandatory for access to on-campus dining facilities
- Grants free admission to all Heifetz events
- Enables discounts on purchases at the Heifetz Music Shop and other downtown Staunton businesses

TUITION AND FEES

Please visit heifetzinstitute.org/apply for a full breakdown of all tuition and fees for the 2026 Junior and Senior Division Programs.



Successful applicants under the age of 10 will be required to live off-campus with at least one parent or guardian. A housing credit is provided to partially offset the Room & Board fee. Students must be 10 years of age or older by June 1, 2026 in order to live on campus. All other students are required to live on campus.

Necesitas ayuda con tu aplicación? No dudes en comunicarte con nosotros enviando un correo electrónico a admissions@heifetzinstitute.org. Hablamos Español y estaremos encantados de ayudarte!

需要帮助申请吗? 请发送电子邮件至 admissions@heifetzinstitute.org。我们将为您提供中文翻译。

신청하는 데 도움이 필요합니까? admissions@heifetzinstitute.org 로 이메일을 보내 주시기 바랍니다. 한국말 통역을 도와드리겠습니다

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11 South New Street | Staunton, VA 24401 | 540.907.4446
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Heifetz International Music Institute | @heifetzmusic
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1996-2026



THE HEIFETZ INSTITUTE SUMMER PROGRAM

INTENSIVE SOLO & CHAMBER MUSIC STUDY

June 19 – August 2, 2026

Mary Baldwin University
Staunton, Virginia

VIOLIN • VIOLA • CELLO

HEIFETZINSTITUTE.ORG

2026 HEIFETZ INSTITUTE STRING FACULTY

NICHOLAS KITCHEN - ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, New England Conservatory; Borromeo Quartet
BORROMEO STRING QUARTET, Ensemble In Residence

CHAMBER MUSIC SEMINAR

SHMUEL ASHKENASI, Curtis Institute of Music; Bard College Conservatory
RALPH KIRSHBAUM, USC Thornton School of Music
BORROMEO QUARTET, Ensemble in Residence - Heifetz Institute, New England Conservatory (Nicholas Kitchen, Kristopher Tong, Melissa Reardon, Yeesun Kim)

CHAMBER MUSIC: SENIOR DIVISION

BELA HORVATH, Manhattan School of Music Pre-College Division
RALPH KIRSHBAUM, USC Thornton School of Music
MICHAEL KLOTZ, Florida International University; Amernet String Quartet
BORROMEO QUARTET, New England Conservatory

VIOLIN: SENIOR DIVISION

IVAN CHAN, Hong Kong Academy for the Performing Arts
ARA GREGORIAN, New England Conservatory
JUDITH INGOLFSSON, Peabody Institute at Johns Hopkins University
ILYA KALER, Cleveland Institute of Music; Tempest Trio

GRIGORY KALINOVSKY, Indiana University Jacobs School of Music
MARK KAPLAN, Indiana University Jacobs School of Music
ANI KAVAFIAN, Yale School of Music
HYE JIN KIM, East Carolina University; Cooperstown Quartet
NICHOLAS KITCHEN, New England Conservatory; Borromeo Quartet
PATINKA KOPEC, Manhattan School of Music
KYUNG-SUN LEE, Indiana University Jacobs School of Music
DANIEL PHILLIPS, The Juilliard School; Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center
HAGAI SHAHAM, Buchman/Mehta Academy; Tel Aviv University; Stony Brook University
KYOKO TAKEZAWA, Toho Music School; Tokyo College of Music

KRISTOPHER TONG, New England Conservatory; Borromeo Quartet
VIOLA: SENIOR DIVISION
ATAR ARAD, Indiana University Jacobs School of Music
CAROLINE COADE, University of Michigan School of Music
LAWRENCE DUTTON, Stony Brook University; Mercer University
PATINKA KOPEC, Manhattan School of Music
MAI MOTOBUCHI, New England Conservatory

PAUL NEUBAUER, The Juilliard School; Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center
MELISSA REARDON, New England Conservatory; Borromeo Quartet
MARCUS THOMPSON, New England Conservatory

CELLO: SENIOR DIVISION

COLIN CARR, Stony Brook University
STEVEN DOANE, Eastman School of Music
ROSEMARY ELLIOTT, Eastman School of Music
RALPH KIRSHBAUM, USC Thornton School of Music
TOMMY MESA, Manhattan School of Music
AMIT PELED, Peabody Institute at Johns Hopkins University
HANNAH ROBERTS, Royal Academy of Music; RNCM (Manchester)
PETER STUMPF, Indiana University Jacobs School of Music

CHAMBER MUSIC: JUNIOR DIVISION

NICHOLAS KITCHEN, New England Conservatory; Borromeo Quartet
CHRISTIAN TREMBLAY, Peabody Preparatory at Johns Hopkins University
LUTHER WARREN, Merrimack College
YI QUN XU, The Juilliard School Pre-College

VIOLIN: JUNIOR DIVISION

REBECCA HENRY, Peabody Preparatory at Johns Hopkins University
BELA HORVATH, Manhattan School of Music Pre-College Division
WANCHI HUANG, James Madison University School of Music
CHLOE KIFFER, University of North Texas College of Music; Manhattan School of Music Pre-College
LI-MEI LIANG, New England Conservatory
DESIREE RUHSTRAT, Northwestern University Bienen School of Music
CAELI SMITH, Bard College & Conservatory; Orpheus Chamber Orchestra

VIOLA: JUNIOR DIVISION

BELA HORVATH, Manhattan School of Music Pre-College Division
CAELI SMITH, Bard College & Conservatory; Orpheus Chamber Orchestra

CELLO: JUNIOR DIVISION

EUNGHEE CHO, Moores School of Music at the University of Houston
ANDREW MARK, Boston Conservatory at Berklee
TOMMY MESA, Manhattan School of Music
YI QUN XU, The Juilliard School Pre-College

COLLABORATIVE PIANO FACULTY

BEILIN HAN - PIANO FACULTY COORDINATOR, Shepherd School of Music at Rice University

MIKI AOKI, Arizona State University
YANDI CHEN, New England Conservatory
ROHAN DE SILVA, The Juilliard School
ALLISON FREEMAN, Peabody Institute at Johns Hopkins University
ELIZABETH HILL, Meraki; Balance Campaign; Symphony Number One
TAE KIM, Peabody Institute at Johns Hopkins University; Baltimore School of the Arts
SHENG-YUAN KUAN, Lynn University Conservatory
MINJI LEE, Shenandoah Conservatory
SEONMI LEE, Colburn School; USC Thornton School of Music
YOON LEE, SUNY Purchase College; The Juilliard School
YADI LIANG, New York Music School
HSIAO-YING LIN, Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University
LYNNE MACKEY, Mary Baldwin University
KYLE ORTH, New England Conservatory
JESSICA X. OSBORNE, Longy School of Music of Bard College
JEREMIAH PADILLA, Coker University
PEIPEI SONG, The Boston Conservatory at Berklee; New England Conservatory
LORENA TECU, New England Conservatory; Boston University
TING-TING YEN, University of Virginia

FACULTY ARTISTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. SEE FULL FACULTY ROSTER & COLLABORATIVE PIANISTS ONLINE.



“My time at Heifetz taught me how to communicate not only with my fellow musicians, but also with the audience. It reshaped how I think about performance—as a shared conversation, not a one-way expression.”



THE HEIFETZ PROGRAM SUMMER 2026

Faculty–Student Collaborations

Each and every Senior Division student has the opportunity to collaborate, rehearse, and perform alongside our world-renowned faculty. The weekly Chamber Music Showcases feature masterworks of the literature in cross-generational performances led by Artistic Director Nicholas Kitchen and other members of the Heifetz string faculty.

Performance & Communication Training

The Heifetz Performance & Communication Training program is a cornerstone of our curriculum, designed to help young musicians unlock their full expressive potential—on stage and beyond. Through singing, movement, and dramatic exercises, students learn to connect their musical performance to the emotional depth of human expression, exploring how voice, body, and instrument work together to communicate powerfully. Whether channeling the passion of Bach, the rhythm of a gigue, or the cadence of a compelling public speech, students discover that true artistry lies in the union of expression, musicianship, and emotion. In addition, modules in Practice Techniques & Behavioral Analytics will help you develop successful practice and performance strategies designed for you to make significant strides in your growth as an artist.

Heifetz Institute Summer Fellowships Tuition-free for accepted applicants

CHAMBER MUSIC SEMINAR

The Heifetz Institute Chamber Music Seminar is a program of intense and highly focused study of masterworks of chamber music literature with some of the most renowned instructors in the field.

- Limited to no more than 16, who will receive full scholarships and be recognized as Heifetz Chamber Music Fellows
- Two private lessons per week
- Open to Senior Division applicants only (suggested ages 18–30)
- Three 80-minute chamber coachings per week, plus a weekly Chamber Music Seminar class
- Two concerts will be dedicated exclusively to complete performances of assigned repertoire by Heifetz Chamber Music Seminar students.

STRING SCHOLARS

Reserved for a select group of exceptional Senior Division musicians (ages 18–30), the Heifetz String Scholar program recognizes top artists who exemplify the Institute’s mission of communication and artistry. Limited to up to eight participants, String Scholars receive additional performance and outreach opportunities, including regional and touring engagements before and after the summer session.



“I’m more confident than ever in my approach to learning and playing after my experience at the Heifetz Institute this summer.”

1996-2026



“*My time at Heifetz was one of the happiest summers of my life. I learned not only how to play music better, but how to express my heart through it. Playing chamber music and hearing others perform showed me the true joy of music, and I'll always treasure those memories.*”

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