

# ASTA Alabama

*presents*

## Cello Palooza

March 21, 2020 10-4.00 p.m.

UAB Music Department

**Deadline to register - Feb. 16.**

Questions? Contact [chipgulbro@gmail.com](mailto:chipgulbro@gmail.com)

**What is Cello Palooza?** Cello Palooza (CP) is a one-day event for student cellists. CP will be taught by two nationally recognized cellists, Dr. Laura Usiskin, and Dr. Samuel Nordlund. See page two.

**Where is Cello Palooza?** The University of Alabama in Birmingham music department. Exact instructions for arrival will be given later.

**When is Cello Palooza?** March 21, 2020 from 10-4.00.

**Requirements? Who can attend?** All students aged 18 and under and who have begun at least level three of the Suzuki books. Must be comfortable in 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> position, including extensions. Proficiency in note reading through 3 sharps and two flats.

**What is the schedule?**

10.00-12.00 Activities will include cello choir, ensemble playing in parts, and masterclasses.

12.00-1.00 Lunch on your own. ASTA staff is not responsible for your child during lunch.

1.00-4.00 Continuation of above. The instructors will also give a short recital. The final schedule is to be arranged. The day will end with a group performance from student attendees.

**Will I be given music to read and practice ahead of time?** Yes.

**How much does it cost?** \$40.00 for teachers who are ASTA (American String Teachers Association) members. Or \$50.00 for students with teachers who are not members.

**When is the deadline to register?** All registrations forms must be **postmarked by Feb. 16.**

**Will there be a lunch provided?** No

**Why should I go to this event?**

- \* To improve my playing with others.
- \* To increase my skills in following a conductor.
- \*To meet new cellists my age.
- \*To learn from master teachers/cellists.
- \*To make beautiful music together as a cello choir!



Cellist LAURA USISKIN has performed solos and chamber music throughout North America and Europe in such venues as Alice Tully Hall, Palazzo Chigi Saracini, Weill Hall, Barge Music, and many others. In 2017, Usiskin released a solo album “Reimagining Bach” that features the 3rd Bach Suite alongside two works commissioned for the album. She is also the Founder of the Montgomery Music Project, an El Sistema strings program for students in Montgomery, Alabama, and she served as its inaugural Executive Director for 2 ½ years. The program has given intensive string instruction to hundreds of low-income children across three counties. Usiskin resides in Birmingham, AL, where she is on faculty at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham-Southern College, Alabama School of Fine Arts, and STEP Birmingham. Usiskin graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Neuroscience and Behavior from Columbia University, Master of Music from The Juilliard School, and Doctor of Musical Arts from the Yale School of Music.

Dr. Samuel Nordlund is instructor of cello and chamber music coordinator at Samford University in Birmingham, AL, where he is also cellist in the Samford Quartet. He frequently performs with the Alabama Symphony Orchestra and String Theory Birmingham and is a former member of the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra, Kalamazoo Symphony, and Illinois Philharmonic. Dr. Nordlund is Immediate Past President of the Alabama Orchestra Association, and teaches cello and orchestra at STEP Birmingham, the Alabama School of Fine Arts, and the Samford Academy of the Arts. He earned his DMA from the University of Alabama, and a Master of Music from Northwestern University. Samuel and his violinist wife Caroline started the Encore Strings Summer Academy in 2018. They have two gregarious children, Annelise, 8, and Henry, 2. Prior to moving to Alabama, Dr. Nordlund was a member of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, and a sub with the Chicago and Milwaukee Symphony Orchestras. He also served as Assistant Director of Performance Activities at the Music Institute of Chicago. For several summers he taught cello and directed the Early Music Ensemble at the Lutheran Summer Music Festival. He is a previous Music Director of the Metropolitan Youth Orchestras of Central Alabama, and currently serves on their board of directors.

