

MARTA SZLUBOWSKA is the Founder, Director and the Violin Soloist of the Marta Szlubowska Ensemble. She is also the Concertmistress of the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra, the position she has held since 2004. In addition to being the Concertmistress of MSO, Ms. Szlubowska is an active soloist, chamber musician and a teacher.

Ms. Szlubowska, a native of Warsaw, Poland, gave her first public performance at the age of seven at the Warsaw Philharmonic Hall. In 1983 Ms. Szlubowska came to the United States on a full scholarship to study at the Peabody Conservatory of Music, where she received Bachelor of Music and an Artist's Diploma performance degrees. She received her Master's in Violin Performance from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst under the mentorship of Prof. Charles Treger. She was chosen as the Teaching Assistant of Prof. Treger, the only American to ever win the 1st Prize in the Henryk Wieniawski International Violin Competition in Poland (1962).

A winner of numerous awards and prizes in Europe and USA, Ms. Szlubowska has appeared as a soloist with the Mississippi Symphony, North Carolina Symphony, Tacoma Symphony, and many others. She has given numerous performances at music festivals around the USA such as Tanglewood and Colorado Music Festivals. Ms. Szlubowska has also served on the faculty of the Eastern Music Festival as well as the Marrowstone Music Festival. She has performed under the baton of Leonard Bernstein and Seiji Ozawa at Tanglewood, and Alexander Schneider at Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Ms. Szlubowska has performed and taught masterclasses in US, Europe and South America. Very active chamber musician and educator, she has toured Peru and Chile with the Mississippi Fine Arts String Trio and has traveled to Colombia with the Tango Rendezvous Ensemble that performs the music of Astor Piazzolla. As the Concertmistress of the Mississippi Symphony, Ms. Szlubowska leads the Mississippi Symphony String Quartet, whose main mission is to educate the children of Mississippi about the string instruments as well as the general importance of music in their lives. Ms. Szlubowska is currently on the faculty of the Millsaps College (as the member of the Trio-in-Residence, Mississippi Fine Arts String Trio), and the newly formed (2014) Millsaps Conservatory of Music in Jackson, MS.

Ms. Szlubowska described MSE: "Marta Szlubowska Ensemble has been a dream come true for me. I am very thankful to my parents, Danuta and

Janusz Szlubowski for helping me realize this dream. I chose my favorite pieces and melodies from around the world, which I know the audience will enjoy. With MSE I am able to direct the performances and be the soloist. We perform without a conductor, which puts more demand on all of the musicians. It helps us be better leaders and be more involved in listening and watching each other in order to create a perfect blend of ensemble and expression. We hope you will come to hear us play again and again! We are here to entertain you and make you happy with our music!".

Janusz Szlubowski, a Polish pianist and accordionist is also the Co-Director of the Marta Szlubowska Ensemble. He has a vast repertoire encompassing many eras and genres of music, from classical, easy listening jazz, ragtime, folk, international tunes to standards, Dixieland and Broadway favorites. Mr. Szlubowski received his Master's of Music in Piano Performance and Piano Pedagogy in 1965 from the renowned Chopin Music Academy in Warsaw, Poland.

Mr. Szlubowski performs in the Szlubowski Piano Duo with his wife Danuta Szlubowska, who is on the piano faculty at Millsaps College in Jackson, MS. Mr. Szlubowski has performed at the Edison-Walthal Hotel in Jackson, Mississippi Museum of Art, Thalia Mara Hall in Jackson, Fairview Inn, Yacht Club, and many others. He has also performed accordion with the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra in Jackson and Vicksburg, MS during the 2004/05 MSO season.

Mr. Szlubowski's performing took him on several tours to Finland and Germany while still living in Poland. Since 2002 he has made United States his home and has performed in Washington, Minnesota and all around Mississippi. Mr. Szlubowski has always been able to make any event memorable by offering a high quality performance combined with great spirit and enthusiasm.

Milena Rusanova, violinist, is a native of Bulgaria and joined the Mississippi Symphony in 2010. She began studying the violin at age of five at the School of the Arts in Ruse, Bulgaria. She graduated from the Bulgarian National Conservatory with a Bachelor's Degree and from the Southeastern Louisiana University with a Master's Degree in Violin Performance. Ms. Rusanova's principal teachers include Dr. Yakov Voldman and Prof. Espen Lillenslatten. During her study in Bulgaria she was a Finalist of the National Violin Competition " Dobrin Petkov."

While pursuing her Master's Degree, Milena was a National Finalist of the MTNA Young Artist String Competition in Canada, Toronto. In 2008 she was one of the winners of the Monroe Young Concerto Competition and Southeastern Concerto Competition. Milena has participated at different prestigious music festivals and concert series throughout the United States, Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia, and her native Bulgaria. She also has been a member of Baton Rouge Symphony, Louisiana Sinfonietta, Acadiana Symphony, Mobile Symphony Orchestras, and in Bulgaria Chamber Orchestra "Orpheus" and New Symphony Orchestra.

Emily Williams, violinist, began studying violin at the age of 4. When she was 13 she began formal training with Linda Sinanian, an international solo performer and faculty member of the Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College in NY. Ms. Williams earned her MM in Violin Performance from the University of Akron in 2007 under the instruction of Alan Bodman, and her BA in Music from Cedarville University in 2004 studying with Stacey Woolley. She currently plays with the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra and with various chamber ensembles in the Clinton/Jackson area.

Ms. Williams is on faculty at Mississippi College where she teaches private violin and string methods classes. She also teaches out of her home and has a studio of 20+ students of all ages. An active violin pedagogue: she has created her own materials and teaching methods.

She is married to composer, Dr. Benjamin Williams, Assistant Professor of Music Theory and Composition, and Assistant Chair of the Music Department at Mississippi College. They reside in Clinton MS with their three cats. They are both active members at First Baptist Church Jackson, singing in the choir and co-teaching an adult Sunday School Class.

Julia Kirk, violinist and violist, is only 17 years old, but is already an award-winning young artist. In addition to violin and viola, she is also an accomplished pianist. Julia was born into a musical family with a Polish-American background. She studies piano with Mrs. Danuta Szlubowska (her grandmother and Millsaps College piano faculty) and violin with Ms. Marta Szlubowska, (her mother and the Concertmistress of the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra). Her other teachers have included Mr. Vince Massimino, Ms. Rachel Jordan and Mr. Song Xie.

Julia was selected to be the Concertmistress of the Mississippi All-State Invitational Orchestra for the last several years and also performs frequently in the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra. She has won scholarships to the Stringwood Chamber Music Festival (2012) and the prestigious Interlochen Arts Camp (2014). At Interlochen, Julia was selected to be the Concertmistress of the Interlochen Philharmonic (and performed the famous Rimsky-Korsakov's "Scheherazade" violin solos) as well as the Assistant Concertmistress of the World Youth Symphony Orchestra (WYSO).

In the summer of 2013 Julia won scholarship to perform on tour with Joshua Bell and the 1st Inaugural National Youth Orchestra of the USA (sponsored by Carnegie Hall in New York) at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC, Marinsky Hall in St. Petersburg, Russia and at the Royal Albert Hall (at BBC PROMS) in London, England.

Ausra Jasineviciute, violist, was born in Lithuania, where she began her violin studies at age 8. While in college, she switched from violin to viola and in 1997 earned her Bachelor of Music in Viola Performance at the Academy of Music in Vilnius. She received Master of Social Sciences from Vilnius Pedagogical University in 1999. In 2001 Ms. Jasineviciute came to the United States, where in 2004 she earned her Master of Music in Viola Performance from Southeastern Louisiana University and in 2011 her Doctorate in Music Performance from Florida State University.

Ms. Jasineviciute has performed as a member of the Acadiana and Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestras among others. As an accomplished chamber musician, Ms. Jasineviciute was a member of the award-winning SLU String Quartet. She was also a winner of the MTNA Chamber Music Competition in Florida. As a teacher, she has been affiliated with the Jackson's string program and has been on the faculty of Southeastern Louisiana University. She and her husband, the assistant violist of the Mississippi Symphony, teach at the Orpheus String Studio.

Since 2005 Ms. Jasineviciute has been the principal violist of the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra and during the summers she participates in the Summer Festival of the Missouri Symphony Society in Columbia, Missouri.

Emily Stromberg Baker, cellist, began studying music at the age of seven

in her native state of Connecticut. She took cello lessons with Emily Metcalf, formerly of the Hartford Symphony. At age eleven, she moved to Toulouse, France, and studied with Cecile Millet of the Paris Conservatory. She was principal cellist of the Toulouse Youth Symphony until her return to the United States in 1991. She resumed her cello lessons in Connecticut, this time with Laura Kane of the Hartford Symphony. In 1995 she began studying at Boston University with Michael Reynolds and George Neikrug. She was a member of the Boston University Concert and Symphony Orchestras, and assistant principal cellist of the school chamber orchestra.

In 1997, she transferred to Peabody Conservatory, where she studied with Jeffrey Solow of the Amadeus Trio and Mihály Virizlay of the Baltimore Symphony. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in 1999 and her Master's Degree at Peabody in 2001. She has proudly served as a member of the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra since August 2001. In January, 2003, she appeared as soloist with the Symphony on their Baroque Concert. She is married to Chris Allen Baker, news and sports editor of *The Scott County Times*, and lives in Forest. They have one son, Aaron Thomas Baker.

Richard Jess Brown, Jr., string bassist, earned his MM in String Bass Performance from DePaul University in 1988 and his BME from the University of Memphis in 1978. He was a full time member of the Memphis Symphony at the age of 19. He is an adjunct professor of string bass and electric bass studies (classical and jazz) at Belhaven University and Mississippi college. He is a freelance musician having performed on many international festivals with many legendary artists. He operates an educational internet radio station, teaches in Jackson Public Schools and performs frequently with the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra.

Mr. Brown has worked as a Cruise Ship musician touring throughout Alaska, the Caribbean and South America. He received his Master of Music degree under bassists, Warren Benfield and Joe Guastafeste of the Chicago Symphony. He was the original bassist for the internationally noted 8 Bold Souls of the Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians. He is a member of the Everett Robbins family who wrote Ain't No Body's Business, recorded by Columbia Records in 1920, which was also recorded by Billy Holiday and many other jazz legends. He resides in Jackson.