



DALLAS STRING QUARTET
- ELECTRIC -

Bios

Ion Zanca

Violist Ion Zanca was born in Romania in 1980. He began studying piano at the age of five and viola at the age of nine. He attended the National Conservatory of Music in Bucharest from 1999-2001, where he studied under the direction of Marian Movileanu. From 2001-2003 Mr. Zanca studied with Dr. Jerzy Kosmala at Louisiana State University and graduated with his Bachelors in Music Performance from Southern Methodist University. He has his Masters Degree in Music Performance from SMU with violist Ellen Rose -principal of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra.

Ion Zanca performed with numerous orchestras in Europe as well as in the States. Some local orchestras include Plano Symphony, Irving Symphony, and East Texas Symphony. Recently he had a solo performance with Meadows Symphony Orchestra after winning SMU's 2005 concerto competition. Mr. Zanca was also invited to play principal viola in Philadelphia with the Atlantic Coast Opera in 2005 and he was a finalist in the Doria International Competition in Japan in 2004.

Melissa Priller

Melissa is from Chicago, Illinois where she began studying the violin at the age of four. Melissa earned her Bachelor of Music in Violin Performance with a minor in Arts Entrepreneurship from Southern Methodist University where she studied with performing artist, Chee-Yun Kim. Melissa plays classical and electric violin with the Dallas String Quartet. In addition to DSQ, Melissa teaches violin at the Dallas Academy of Music and Performing Arts.

Eleanor Dunbar

Violinist Eleanor Dunbar is an accomplished and commanding artist, performing regularly as a soloist, chamber music enthusiast, and concertmaster. A graduate of Southern Methodist University, she earned her Bachelor's of Music degree in Violin Performance under the direction of Emanuel Borok. During her education at SMU, she was awarded the prestigious Presser Undergraduate Scholar Award, given to an outstanding music major each year.

A native of California, Eleanor began her musical education at the young age of three. Under the tutelage of violinist Gail Gerding Mellert, she began her performance career throughout California, entered and placed in many competitions, and appeared as a soloist with symphonies such as the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra. From a young age, she attended music festivals such as the Aspen Music Festival and the New York String Orchestra Seminar. At the age of sixteen, she began her undergraduate studies at Southern Methodist University. Eleanor has been honored to share the stage with incredible artists such as Roberto and Andrés Díaz,

the Escher Quartet, Chee-Yun Kim, Alessio Bax, and many more. She continues to perform throughout the country presenting recitals and performing with esteemed orchestras. Also as an avid chamber musician, Eleanor is a founding member of the Cézanne Quartet with whom she performs regularly. The quartet was named the Peak Fellowship Ensemble-in-Residence at Southern Methodist University in the fall of 2015. Eleanor plays on a violin made in 1896 by Joseph Anthony Chanot in London, England.

Young Heo

Young Heo is a professional jazz bassist based in Dallas, Texas. Young had the opportunity to play in a professional setting with Ellis Marsalis, Adonis Rose, Delfeayo Marsalis, Stefan Karlsson, Shelly Carroll and Bernard Wright, and recorded over twenty albums including One O'clock Lab Band 2013.

Originally from Seoul, South Korea, Young Heo moved to United States when he was 16 years old. Young attended University of Texas at Arlington in 2007 and started playing intensively with the UTA Jazz Orchestra and top jazz combo. By the time he finished his bachelor degree in 2010, he had received multiple jazz scholarships and awards including Bill Snodgrass Endowed Jazz Scholarship Award.

In 2011, Young was accepted on scholarship into the graduate jazz program at the University of North Texas. At the North Texas, Young performed with school's top ensembles including the Two O'clock Lab Band and the Grammy-nominated One O'clock Lab Band. While in the band, he had opportunities to play with such players as Peter Erskine, Bob Moses, Mike Stern, and many other jazz artists around the world. Young was awarded by UNT music faculty as the Outstanding Graduate Jazz Studies Student for 2013.

Anthony Plant

Anthony Plant has been playing in the rich music scene of Dallas/Ft Worth since his early teens. His guitar playing has given him the opportunity to play with many legends, such as Michael W Smith, Antonio Sanchez (Pat Metheny Group), Randy Brecker, Ronnie Laws, the Temptations, Bucky Pizzarelli, and Snarky Puppy to name a few. He studied guitar on scholarship at the *University of North Texas* with Fred Hamilton and Joe Lee, and in Dallas, TX with the masterful Jason Bucklin. Equally at home playing Brazilian bossa nova on classical nylon guitar, playing bebop lines in a straight-ahead acoustic jazz setting on his archtop, or playing soaring leads on electric guitar, he is in high demand in the DFW studio scene and has recorded on well over 100 albums. His own solo album, *The Colour out of Space*, was released in 2012 with his original compositions and arrangements. He keeps a busy schedule playing locally in DFW, touring nationally with the Dallas Strings Quartet, recording in studio sessions, teaching a select group of students, and he is the Musical Director at St John Catholic Church. When he doesn't have a guitar in his hands, you might find him playing soccer or walking the Camino de Santiago in Spain. AnthonyPlantMusic.com

Efren Guzman Jr.

Efren Guzman Jr. ("Chiquis") stands out among his peers for his amazing flexibility and impeccable rhythm. He is equally gifted in all musical styles: classical, pops, Broadway, Latin, Jazz, Big Band, studio recordings, etc. His finesse, elegance and command of all kinds of percussion instruments, make him truly unique in the world of music. A complete musician, his piano and composition gifts are added attributes to an already stellar career. Efren was born in Mexico City. He attended the National Conservatory of Music and began his early studies as a drummer with his father. He came to the USA as a scholarship student of Paul Guerrero (Stan Kenton's drummer) and later studied at the University of North Texas,

where he distinguished himself as a drummer and percussionist under the tutelage of Prof. Ed Soph, Dr. Robert Schietroma, Mike Drake and participated in master-classes with some of the world's finest musicians: Vinnie Colaiuta, Peter Erskine, Dennis Chambers, Jack Dejonette, Alex Acuna, Tito Puente, Don Famularo, Luis Conte and Giovanni Hidalgo. He toured the USA and Canada as a member of the **Grammy nominated "One O'Clock Jazz Band"** in 1991. He has recorded with artists such as Armando Manzanero, Placido Domingo, Arturo Castro, OV7, Edith Marquez, the Jarocho Project and Enrique Nery among many others and has been featured in live performances with Eugenia Leon, Alejandra Guzman, OV7, Andrea Bocelli, Steve Amerson, the late Marvin Hamlisch, Steve Lippia, Arturo Castro, Emmanuel and Mexican superstar Alejandro Fernandez with whom he recorded his latest DVD. He was the drummer of Mexican pop artist Reyli Barba and performed for the **"Latin American Grammy Awards"** in Las Vegas, November, 2011. He has also toured Europe and Japan as a drummer with the internationally known **Perez Prado Mambo Orchestra**. Personal projects include a Jazz CD and DVD recording with guitarist Alvaro Torres and continues to be active in Jazz Festivals in Mexico and the USA.

Today, Efred performs regularly with Dallas best jazz players, such as John Adams, Brian Piper, **Grammy nominated guitarist Russ Hewitt** and the Dallas String Quartet among others. He is also drummer for the Plano and Irving Symphony orchestras and principal percussionist of the San Angelo Symphony orchestra. During the 2013 and 2014 seasons, he has also performed as a featured soloist with the Plano Symphony orchestra, the Dallas Pops orchestra, featuring **Grammy award winner Kenny G**, guitarist and recording artist **Michael Thompson** (guitarist for Cher, Reba McEntire, Neil Diamond, Michael Jackson and Celine Dion), the world acclaimed **Canadian Brass** as well as a special concert at the 2014 Comic Convention in Columbus, Ohio with **"The Brehms"** jazz ensemble as well as participating in the 2014 International Jazz Festival in Catalina Island in California. In 2015 he also performed with the internationally renowned **Mariachi Vargas**, **"Time For Three"** and the legendary **Doc Severinsen**. His latest CD recording with jazz guitarist/composer **Andy Sparandeo** will hit the market in 2018 and his latest videos "Hello" and "Despacito" with the Dallas String Quartet are available on YouTube. Future engagements include a US tour with the Dallas String Quartet during 2017 as well as a new appointment as percussionist/drummer for singer Javier Aguilar.

Mugu Radu

Mugu Radu is the founder and music director of the Philadelphia String Quartet. He works with clients and companies all over the world to design meaningful music programs for concerts and events.

Mugu believes that music tells a story that words or any other form of art cannot tell. He started playing the violin when he was 6 years old in his native Romania and started touring Europe when he was 15.

He toured and recorded with Sao Paulo Orchestra in Brazil, Trossingen Symphony in Germany, Jeunesse Musicale in France, Bucharest Symphony, Philadelphia Virtuosi Orchestra, Harrisburg Symphony, Riveside Sinfonia.

Mugu holds music performance degrees from National University of Music in Romania and Rowan University in New Jersey.

Evin Blomberg

Violinist Evin Blomberg has won praise as a soloist for her “virtuoso technique” and “commanding musical presence”. At the age of 15, Evin was accepted into the studio of Robert Lipsett at The Colburn School Conservatory of Music in Los Angeles, California, where she received her Bachelor of Music degree at the age of 19. Evin continued her studies at The Colburn School as an Artist Diploma candidate, and graduated in 2015. After leaving Los Angeles, Evin went on to study at the Manhattan School of Music as a student of Pinchas Zukerman, and received a Master of Music degree as a student in the Pinchas Zukerman Performance Program. Evin has collaborated with many artists through numerous chamber music programs and educational institutions, with recent concerts including performances with Clive Greensmith, Viviane Hagner, Ronald Leonard, Robert Levin, and the Ebene Quartet. Throughout her time in Los Angeles and New York, Evin maintained an active performance schedule, and has also received international recognition as the 4th Prize winner of the 2016 International Irving M. Klein Competition. Evin is currently based in London, England.