



Meadowmount School of Music
(518) 962-2400

office@meadowmount.org
www.meadowmount.org

Meadowmount School of Music Awards Second Annual Gurrena Fellowship to Cellist Luiz Fernando Venturelli



Westport, NY - Meadowmount School of Music, the summer program for young string players founded by legendary violin teacher Ivan Galamian in Westport, NY, has awarded the second annual Gurrena Fellowship, worth \$50,000, to Brazilian cellist Luiz Fernando Venturelli, as announced by Meadowmount Artistic Director Janet Sung.

The Gurrena Fellowship was created in 2022 in memory of David A. Barnebl, an educated, passionate music lover, by his wife, Linda Gurrena Barnebl, of Panton, VT. The purpose of the Fellowship is to support and encourage exceptionally talented students to become abundantly

successful in their professional journey. This generous fellowship enables its recipients to continue to pursue their careers with vigor and passion without the burden of financial constraint. Funds from the fellowship are reserved, whenever possible, to support postgraduate students who will benefit from financial assistance as they transition from their musical training to independent careers. During the Fellowship year, the recipient receives a generous housing allowance, professional artist management consulting, featured concert engagements supported by Meadowmount School of Music, and continued collaborations and training with the Meadowmount faculty for the upcoming year and 2024 summer session.

Luiz Fernando Venturelli said, “I’m truly honored to be the recipient of Meadowmount School of Music’s 2023 Gurrena Fellowship. A decade ago, as a 13-year-old from Brazil, stepping into Meadowmount opened doors to a new world of music and friendships. Meeting Hans Jensen, my mentor, set my life on its current course. Now, through this fellowship, I’m excited to continue my education and further build a career in the US. Meadowmount’s impact has been life-changing for me and many others. I accept this award with gratitude and a commitment to share its influence in the future. My thanks to Meadowmount and everyone involved, I am excited for what comes next.”

“We are thrilled to award the 2023 Gurrena Fellowship to cellist Luiz Fernando Venturelli,” said Artistic Director Janet Sung. “An accomplished soloist and chamber musician, Luiz is a fantastic cellist with a uniquely creative voice and the ideal recipient of this award. We look forward to working closely with Luiz and supporting his future musical endeavors as he embarks on this next phase of his musical career.”

Luiz Fernando Venturelli, cello

Brazilian cellist Luiz Fernando Venturelli is a young artist who is rapidly gaining international recognition as one of the most promising young musicians of his generation. He has spent eight summers at the Meadowmount School of Music, under the guidance of cellist Hans Jensen and other esteemed faculty.

Luiz has performed as soloist with numerous orchestras, including the Symphony Orchestra of São Paulo, the Bahia Symphony, the Goiás Philharmonic, the Espírito Santo Symphony, the Campinas Symphony, the Piracicaba Symphony, the Heliópolis Symphony, the São Paulo University Symphony, and the SESI Chamber Orchestra.

Luiz has been a top prize winner in multiple competitions including the 2023 Astral Artists Competition, the Paulo Bosisio competition, the Samuel and Eleanor Thaviu String competition, the Solo Competitions of the Orquestra Filarmônica de Goiás, Orquestra Sinfônica do Estado de São Paulo, and Northwestern University, as well as the 24th Annual Sphinx Competition. A passionate chamber musician, Luiz is also a member of the award-winning Galvin Cello Quartet, formed in 2021 at the Bienen School of Music at Northwestern, which recently won the silver

medal at the 2021 Fischhoff Competition and the Concert Artists Guild's 2022 Victor Elmaleh Competition.

Born and raised in a musical family, Luiz began his musical studies at the age of 3 and began playing the cello when he was 8. He studied at the Instituto Baccarelli, a non-profit organization that offers free music lessons to children, from the time he was 8 until he came to the United States when he was 17. He received his Bachelor's degree in 2021 and his Master's degree in 2023 from Northwestern University under Professor Hans Jensen. Luiz is also a huge enthusiast of other kinds of music, having led a rock band and played and recorded with multiple artists in Brazil.

Meadowmount in Brief

Founded in 1944 by legendary violin teacher Ivan Galamian, Meadowmount School of Music is a seven week summer program for young violinists, violists, and cellists whose approach of intensive study and practice has helped mold some of the greatest artists of our time. Musicians ages 13 to 30+ from around the world gather at the school's campus in the Adirondack Mountains of upstate New York to further their musical skills with, in Mr. Galamian's words, "a special spirit that is conducive to total concentration on excellence in musical performance," aided by a faculty of renowned artists.

The stellar array of alumni over the school's 79-year history includes Itzhak Perlman, Yo-Yo Ma, Pinchas Zukerman, Jaime Laredo, Lynn Harrell, Kyung-Wha Chung, Ani and Ida Kavafian, Joshua Bell, James Ehnes, Rachel Barton Pine, and Jessie Montgomery. Meadowmount alumni are well represented internationally among soloists and chamber musicians, principal players of leading orchestras, and distinguished teachers.

With a capacity enrollment of 200 on the 52-building, 240-acre campus, the school retains an intimacy that provides for personal attention and fosters camaraderie among the students. Many of the school's alumni return as members of the faculty, ensuring the continuity of the Meadowmount teaching tradition. The faculty roster that has over the years included Gregor Piatigorsky, Josef Gingold, Isaac Stern, Leonard Rose, Sally Thomas, and Dorothy DeLay, has recently featured cellist Hans Jørgen Jensen and violinists Ann Setzer and Kikuei Ikeda – a lineage that is unmatched in the field.

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