

Benjamin R. Wensel is a native of Western New York. He received a Bachelor of Music from the Cleveland Institute of Music and Master of Music from the Eastman School of Music where he was Assistant to Professor Alan Harris. While in school, Ben studied chamber music with Peter Salaff and members of the Audubon and Cavani Quartets. In his time in Rochester, Ben taught chamber music and had a private studio at the Hochstein School of Music. In addition to teaching, Ben was the cellist of the Hochstein String Quartet, founder and coach of the Hochstein Adult Cello Choir, and initiated monthly reading parties for participants in the school's string chamber music program. Ben endeavors to bring contemporary music to the public with the members of the Tarab Cello Ensemble, an octet of cellists who are responsible for numerous commissions from emerging and established American composers.



Prior to moving to the DC area, Ben played alongside musicians in the cello sections of the ProMusica Chamber Orchestra and the Syracuse Symphony. Now resident of Northern Virginia, Ben performs as a member of the United States Army Orchestra, The United States Army Contemporary Music Ensemble the Army Strolling Strings, the Army String Quartet. As an Army musician, he has toured across the country and performed for foreign and national dignitaries at the White House, State Department, and Pentagon. In addition, Mr. Wensel is the cellist with the Piano Trio-in-Residence of the National Gallery of Art. Ben has recorded for Bridge, Harmonia Mundi, and Summit Records. He performs on a cello built in 1885 by Vincenzo Postiglione.