

## Polygon Trio Biography



**Kurt Sassmannshaus**, violinist, teacher, and conductor, is considered one of today's preeminent violin pedagogues. Chairman of the String Department at CCM since 1984, he was recently appointed to the school's distinguished Dorothy Richard Starling Chair for Classical Violin, a position previously held by the late Dorothy Delay.

Sassmannshaus has taught around the world, including master classes in Europe, the United States, Japan, China, and Australia, and has worked in close association with Dorothy DeLay both in Cincinnati and at the Aspen Music Festival and School where he is on the faculty and acts as a member of the Board. His students include prizewinners of major international competitions, prominent soloists and chamber musicians, and orchestra leaders in ensembles such as the London Philharmonic, Capetown, North German State Radio, Frankfurt Radio, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh and Cleveland orchestras. His former students also hold faculty positions in European and American conservatories and universities including Lübeck, the University of Michigan, University of Boulder, and the Peabody Conservatory.

After receiving his bachelor's degree from Cologne, where he studied with Igor Ozim, Sassmannshaus received a Master's degree from the Juilliard School as a scholarship student of Dorothy DeLay, and won first prize in the International Chamber Music Competition in Colmar, France. He taught at the University of Texas, Austin and at Sarah Lawrence College before joining CCM full time in 1983.

In addition to teaching conservatory students, Sassmannshaus is renowned for his method of training younger players with extraordinary talent. In 1987, he founded the Starling Preparatory String Project as an integrated pre-collegiate program for string players with prodigious ability. This program has earned a worldwide reputation for its unsurpassed offering of performance opportunities for young soloists, especially in the Starling Chamber Orchestra, which he conducts. In addition to a subscription concert series and concerto showcases in Cincinnati, the Starling Chamber Orchestra regularly records, commissions new works and tours internationally. They have appeared throughout Europe, Korea, China and at New York's Lincoln Center and have received rave reviews for their recordings and live performances. The orchestra was recently featured on the syndicated Public Radio International show *From the Top*, and has been the subject of feature articles in *The New York Times* and *Washington Post*. In 1996, Sassmannshaus expanded the Starling programs and founded "Starling Kids," a broad based community violin program at CCM and several local schools. This beginning violin program also functions as a teacher training program for college students. He is the author of [violinmasterclass.com](http://violinmasterclass.com), a comprehensive website which demonstrates his innovative teaching methods.



**William Grubb**, cellist, holds teaching posts at three of America's premier musical institutions: the Jordan College of Fine Arts at Butler University, the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, and the Aspen Music Festival and School. In the summer of 2005 he joined the faculty artists of the Great Wall International

Music Festival in Beijing where he performed at the Concert Hall of the Forbidden City. Educated at The Juilliard School where he earned three degrees, he became only the fourth cellist in Juilliard's history to earn the Doctor of Musical Arts degree. His cello teachers have included his father, Cassel Grubb at DePauw University, Fritz Magg at Indiana University, Ronald Leonard at the Eastman School of Music, and Harvey Shapiro at Juilliard. Upon his graduation from Juilliard, he won both the school's Alumni Award and the Victor Herbert Prize for outstanding cello performance.

Dr. Grubb made his professional debut as soloist with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra at the age of seventeen. While at Juilliard he won the Concert Artists Guild auditions in New York, and was presented in his New York debut recital at Carnegie Recital Hall. He has appeared in recitals in North America, Europe, Asia, and has appeared with artists such as Isaac Stern, Michael Tree, Sharon Isbin, Dawn Upshaw, and the Angeles and American String Quartets. His chamber music performances have taken him to all fifty states and to major concert venues including Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall and Washington's Kennedy Center. He has recently appeared on NPR's *Performance Today*, and was invited to join Juilliard's faculty and alumni to present a chamber music recital celebrating the 100-year anniversary of the Juilliard School in Aspen.

Dr. Grubb has served on the faculties of the Manhattan School of Music and the City University of New York. He has presented masterclasses at Berlin's Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler, the Peabody Conservatory, the University of Michigan, Temple University, and the University of Colorado. In addition to his musical activities, Dr. Grubb serves as a member of the board of trustees of the Aspen Music Festival and School. He has written his own cello method book and recorded for Monitor Records. He resides in Indianapolis and New York, and is married to Laurie Carney, violinist of the American String Quartet.



**Frank Weinstock**, pianist, grew up in Oberlin, Ohio, and went on to earn performance degrees from the Oberlin and New England Conservatories of Music. His piano studies were primarily with Emil Danenberg, Victor Rosenbaum, Claude Frank, Lilian Kallir, and Edith Oppens. In demand as a recitalist, concerto soloist, and chamber musician, Mr. Weinstock is also busy teaching master classes and judging piano competitions. His formal New York debut was in 1977, and tours have taken him throughout North America, and to Europe, Asia, and South America. He has appeared with such conductors as Keith Lockhart, Jesus Lopez-Cobos, Gunther Schuller, Luthero Rodrigues, and Jorge Mester, and as a chamber musician with the late Leonard Rose, Glenn Dicterow, Larry Combs, the Percussion Group Cincinnati, the Tokyo Quartet, and with members of the Guarneri, LaSalle, Manhattan, and Berkshire Quartets. His repertoire is wide-ranging, although he is particularly known for his penetrating interpretations of the Viennese classics.

In addition to teaching and performing, Professor Weinstock works as a software engineer, developing computer applications for the serious music performer and student. He is the creator and author of an important new piece of software, *In Concert*, published by Cakewalk Music Software, which provides an automatic intelligent accompanist for a keyboard player. This software, which has applications ranging from the elementary piano student to the professional pianist preparing a concerto performance, and even beyond the "classical" piano world, has been hailed as one of the best partnerships yet of the human musician and computer technology.

Frank Weinstock is Professor of Piano at the University of Cincinnati, and was featured in Benjamin Saver's recent book "The Most Wanted Piano Teachers in the USA". Coming from six continents, his former students, including Anton Nel and Michael Chertock, are themselves prominent performers and teachers--recording for many prestigious labels and teaching at universities around the world.

In the summers, Mr. Weinstock is a member of the piano faculty of the Aspen Music Festival, and he has played and taught at many other festivals, including the Eastern Music Festival, where he was chair of the piano department, and the Skaneateles Festival. Before coming to Cincinnati in 1980, he taught piano at Princeton University for three years.

Professor Weinstock has been a member of the artist faculty of the College-Conservatory of Music since 1980.