

Matthew Allen, cello

Matthew Allen, age 16, from Tallahassee, Florida began studying cello at the age of four. He attended the Florida State University String Orchestra Camp from 1997-2003 and performed on the FSU Honors Solo Recital in 2003. Matthew served as principal cellist of the Big Bend Community Orchestra from 2002-2005, first serving in that capacity at age ten. In 2005, at age thirteen, Matthew became the youngest member ever selected to the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra (Miriam Burns, Music Director) and achieved tenure status in 2006. He received the National Federation of Music Clubs Gold Cup Award, and was selected to the Florida All-State Orchestra in 2005, 2006 and 2007, serving as principal cellist all three years.

Matthew has performed in master classes for Janos Starker, Andres Diaz, Thomas Carroll, Ross Harbaugh, Brent Wissick, and Matt Haimovitz. He has appeared as soloist with the Big Bend Community Orchestra and the Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra. Additionally, he won the Grand Prize in the 2007 Cobb Symphony Orchestra Young Artist Competition, the Second Prize in the 2008 Blount-Slawson Young Artist Competition, the Grand Prize in the 2008 LaGrange Symphony Orchestra Young Artists Competition, and he was selected as a semifinalist in the 2008 Stulberg International Competition. He has studied chamber music with Carolyn Bridger, Kathryn Votapek, Karen Clarke, Beth Newdome, Melissa Kraut, Patricia McCarty, and members of the Audubon String Quartet. Matthew's former cello teachers include David Bjella, Owen Carman, and Lubomir Georgiev. During the school year he studies cello with Greg Sauer at Florida State University and is a student of Hans Jorgen Jensen at the Meadowmount School of Music.