

Cellist Lydia Rhea is currently attending the Cleveland Institute of Music studying under Dr. Melissa Kraut. Formerly a scholarship recipient Fellow at the Music Institute of Chicago Academy, Lydia studied with faculty member Hans Jørgen Jensen. Lydia has soloed with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, the Fort Wayne Philharmonic, the Muncie Symphony Orchestra, and the Carmel Symphony Orchestra, among others. She has appeared on NPR's *From the Top* with renowned jazz pianist Fred Hersch, where she performed one of his original compositions in Jordan Hall, Boston. Most recently, she was named the Gold Medalist and received the Agnew Prize for Bach at the 2020 Cleveland Cello Society Scholarship Competition.

In the summer of 2019, Lydia attended the Yellow Barn Young Artist Program in Vermont, the Zephyr Chamber Course in Italy, the Talis Festival and Academy in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Moritzburg Festival Academy in Germany. At Moritzburg, Lydia served as principal cellist of the Academy Orchestra and received the Akademiepreis for Best Performance of a 19th century work and the Akademiepreis for Best Performance of a 20th/21st century work with her chamber groups. In 2018, Lydia attended the Festival de Ecoles d'Art Americaines de Fontainebleau in France as the festival's youngest participant. While there, her string quartet was awarded the Premier Prix and the Prix du Château de Fontainebleau in the Prix Ravel, sponsored by the Maurice Ravel Foundation. Lydia has participated in master classes with Gary Hoffman, Philippe Muller, Robert Levin, Blaise Déjardin, Sharon Robinson, Amir Eldan, Merry Peckham, Jonathan Koh, and Richard Aaron.