

Short Bio (253 words)

Jean Hatmaker is one of the most versatile and passionate cellists in the Chicago area, with a diverse portfolio of solo and collaborative projects across a wide range of musical and interdisciplinary styles. Recent projects include a two-part livestream performance series of all 6 Bach solo cello suites, and a studio album of contemporary music for soprano and cello with vocalist Josefien Stoppelenburg, *Modern Muses*, set for release in spring of 2021. Included on *Modern Muses* is Ms. Hatmaker's second composition for solo cello, a 6 minute work titled *ahimsa*.

Ms. Hatmaker is a founding member of the Chicago-based Kontras Quartet, former WFMT artists-in-residence, and also performs as principal cellist of the Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra as well as continuo on the Bach Cantata Vespers series of Grace Lutheran Church, River Forest IL. She is on faculty at the Oak Park String Academy as well as Elmhurst University, where she founded the Elmhurst University Cello Choir, and frequently teaches as a guest clinician at schools across the country. She is a passionate advocate for mental health among teens and young adults, and holds a certification in Mental Health First Aid.

Ms. Hatmaker currently serves on the board of directors for Chicago's Musicians Club of Women as Vice President, and Awards Officer. She received both Bachelor (with High Distinction) and Master of Music degrees in Cello Performance from Indiana University, in the studios of Helga Winold and Janos Starker, and plays on a European cello of unknown provenance circa 1880, using Hill and Bearden bows.