

A prominent international cellist and educator, Simona Barbu has traveled to Europe, Asia, South America and the United States as a soloist, chamber musician and clinician, and she held residencies at conservatories and universities in Colombia, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Germany, Hungary and Romania. She has collaborated with world class musicians such as Edward Auer, Emilio Colón, Emile Naoumoff, Lydia Artymiw and Milton Masciadri. She appeared as a featured soloist with Wenzhou Symphony Orchestra, Eroica Ensemble, New Philharmonic Orchestra of Irving, Starkville Symphony Orchestra, Greater Grand Forks Symphony Orchestra, and many others.

Dr. Barbu began her musical studies at age five and she made her solo debut in Tchaikovsky's *Variations on a Rococo Theme* with the Music Conservatory's orchestra in her native Timisoara, Romania. She earned a Master of Music in Cello Performance at Southern Methodist University under the tutelage of Nathaniel Rosen and Christopher Adkins, and subsequently, a Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the University of Memphis where she studied with cellist Leonardo Altino. She has performed in master classes with Janos Starker, Lynn Harrell, Aldo Parisot, Pieter Wispelwey, Carol Ou, Timothy Eddy, Amit Peled and Yehuda Hanani.

A dedicated teacher, Dr. Barbu was appointed Professor of Cello and Burgum Endowed Chair at the University of North Dakota in 2011. Previously, she has served as a faculty member at Mississippi State University for four years, where she taught strings, coached string chamber ensembles, and conducted the symphonic orchestra.