GABRIEL MARTINS, CELLO
Winner, 2020 Concert Artists Guild Competition

I. All Bach
Johann Sebastian Bach - Cello Suites 1-6, BWV 1007-1012

The Bach Cello Suites (c. 1720) are unparalleled in their spiritual, transcendental, and profoundly human qualities. An opportunity to spend an evening with this music gives us a chance to reflect on what it means to be human, and what brings us together as people. The Suites continue to heal me every day, and they will always be a lifelong partner to me and my cello (c. 1690).

The full cycle (Suites 1-6) can be presented in two 90-minute programs, or a half-cycle (Suites 1-3) can be presented in a 60-minute program.

II. All Beethoven
Ludwig van Beethoven - Cello Sonata No. 1 in F Major, Op. 5
Cello Sonata No. 2 in G Minor, Op. 5
Cello Sonata No. 3 in A Major, Op. 69
Cello Sonata No. 4 in C Major, Op. 102
Cello Sonata No. 5 in D Major, Op. 102
7 Variations on 'Bei Männern, welche Liebe fühlen', WoO 46
12 Variations on 'Ein Mädchen oder Weibchen', Op. 66
12 Variations on 'See the conqu'ring hero comes', WoO 45

The Beethoven Cello and Piano Cycle is one of the most riveting and extraordinary concert experiences in chamber music. These eight works, spanning practically Beethoven’s entire career, take the listener through the composer’s trademark heroism to his most incredibly intimate whispering of the soul. For me, the Beethoven Cycle is a journey through life on earth, with all of its honesty, grit, sadness, beauty, wonder, and magnificence. The full cycle can be presented in two 90-minute programs, or selections can be made to serve a single program.
In this program, listeners are taken on an experience through several centuries of music, showcasing the most unforgettable classics of the cello repertoire. Beginning from Bach, and ending with The Song of the Birds, which cellist Pablo Casals famously played as a peace offering at the United Nations Assembly in 1971, this program displays the beloved and soulful qualities of the cello through its place in history. Listed above is the full, 90-minute program. A pre-concert talk is offered and suggested in adjunction with the event.