

The Juilliard School
presents

Suite No. 1, Prelude
Film Screening and Discussion

Monday, December 13, 2021, 7pm
Paul Hall

“Passion is one great force that unleashes creativity, because if you're passionate about something then you're more willing to take risks.” —Yo-Yo Ma (Pre-College '71, Professional Studies '72, cello)

This event features a screening of the 15-minute film, *Suite No. 1, Prelude*, followed by a discussion between Nicholas Ma and President Damian Woetzel.

Nicholas Ma—a producer of the Fred Rogers documentary *Won't You Be My Neighbor?*, which received Independent Spirit and Producers Guild awards—has directed a loving portrait of his father, Yo-Yo Ma. *Suite No. 1, Prelude* focuses on the nuances of craft and the drive for perfection, detailing the world-renowned cellist's endeavor, at age 61, to record Bach's Cello Suites for the third and, he says, final time. This film was co-produced by Jonathan Bays and Graham Willoughby, with cinematography by Matt Porwoll and editing by Jeff Malmberg.

Suite No. 1, Prelude has been on display at Juilliard since March 2020 as part of the JuilliART initiative. Launched in 2018, JuilliART aims to bring visual perspectives into common spaces, providing a rotating series of art works to advance the creative spirit at Juilliard. The initiative supports Juilliard's mission to provide the whole community with an environment of continual thinking, inquiry, and inspiration.

Special thanks to Nicholas Ma and the many members of the Juilliard community who helped bring the JuilliART exhibit and this event to life.

Juilliard is committed to the diversity of our community and to fostering an environment that is inclusive, supportive, and welcoming to all. For information on our equity, diversity, inclusion, and belonging efforts, and to see Juilliard's land acknowledgment statement, please visit our website at juilliard.edu.

Nicholas Ma

Nicholas Ma is an award-winning writer, director, and producer based in New York City. He produced *Won't You Be My Neighbor?*, the award-winning documentary on Fred Rogers. His feature directorial debut, *Mabel*, which he co-wrote with Joy Goodwin, was awarded the Sloan Prize and is in post-production. Previously, he directed the short documentary *Suite No. 1, Prelude*, which screened at festivals around the country, including the New York Film Festival. Ma was a 2020 Film Independent fellow and a 2019 DOC NYC fellow and received his MFA from NYU Tisch's Graduate Film Department. Prior to his career in film, he covered global economic policy for then-Senator John Kerry on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, after working as a consultant in New York and Shanghai. He is a graduate of Harvard College.

Damian Woetzel

Damian Woetzel is the seventh president of The Juilliard School. Since retiring in 2008 from a 20-year career as a principal dancer with New York City Ballet, Woetzel has taken on multiple roles in arts leadership, including artistic director of the Vail Dance Festival since 2007 and director of the Aspen Institute Arts Program (2011-18). As an independent director, choreographer, and producer, his recent projects include *DEMO* at the Kennedy Center; *Spaces* by Wynton Marsalis for Jazz at Lincoln Center; Kennedy Center Honors tributes to Natalia Makarova, Patricia McBride, and Carmen de Lavallade; an arts salute to Stephen Hawking for the World Science Festival; two Turnaround Arts performances at the White House and the White House Dance Series hosted by Michelle Obama. Woetzel has collaborated on numerous initiatives with Yo-Yo Ma, including the Silk Road Connect program in the New York City public schools. In 2009, Woetzel became the founding director of the Jerome Robbins Foundation's New Essential Works (NEW) Program, which initiates grants to support new dance works. President Obama appointed Woetzel to the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities in 2009, and he served throughout the Obama administration. Woetzel holds a master's in public administration from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and was a visiting lecturer at Harvard Law School. He received the 2015 Harvard Arts Medal and is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Woetzel serves on the boards of New York City Center, Sing for Hope, and Ava DuVernay's ARRAY Alliance.