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Kenneth Slowik

Lecturer, Cello & Viola da Gamba

String Division

B.M. Chicago Musical College, M.M. Roosevelt University, D.M.A. Peabody Conservatory



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Emeritus

Artistic Director of the Smithsonian Chamber Music Society, Kenneth Slowik first established his international reputation primarily as a cellist and viola da gamba player through his work with the Smithsonian Chamber Players, Castle Trio, Smithsonian String Quartet, Axelrod Quartet, and with Anner Bylisma's *L'Archibudelli*. Conductor of the Smithsonian Chamber Orchestra since 1988, he became conductor of the Santa Fe Bach Festival in 1998, and led the Santa Fe Pro Musica Chamber Orchestra from 1999-2004. He is now devoting increasing amounts of time to conducting orchestral, oratorio, and operatic repertoire with modern- and period-instrument ensembles on both sides of the Atlantic.

Slowik has been a featured instrumental soloist and/or conductor with numerous orchestras, among them the National Symphony, the Baltimore Symphony, *l'Orchestre Symphonique de Québec*, the Vancouver Symphony, and the Cleveland Orchestra. A frequent guest artist with prominent chamber groups as well as with most of the leading U.S. early music ensembles, he enjoys providing the organ or harpsichord continuo for performances of large-scale baroque works at various festivals in the United States and abroad, and appears in recital both as harpsichord soloist and fortepiano collaborator for duo sonatas and Lieder.

Slowik's impressive discography comprises over sixty recordings featuring him as conductor, cellist, gambist, barytonist and keyboard player for music ranging from the Baroque (Marais, Corelli, Bach) through the Classical (Haydn, Boccherini, Beethoven, Schubert) and Romantic (Mendelssohn, Gade, Spohr) to the early twentieth century (Schönberg, Mahler, Richard Strauss). Of these, many have won prestigious international awards, including France's *Diapason d'Or and Choc*, the "British Music Retailers' Award for Excellence," Italy's *Premio Internazionale del Disco Antonio Vivaldi*, two GRAMMY® nominations, and numerous "Record of the Month" and "Record of the Year" prizes.

As an educator, Dr. Slowik has presented lectures at colleges and universities throughout the United States and has contributed to a number of symposia and colloquia at museums throughout the United States and Europe. He received the Smithsonian Secretary's Distinguished Research Lecture Award in 2011. He serves on the faculty of *L'Académie Internationale du Domaine Forget* in Québec, and was named Artistic Director of the Baroque Performance Institute at the Oberlin College Conservatory in 1993.

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Email

Position (for division):

Baroque Cello, Viola da Gamba

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