



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 22, 2024**

**Media Contacts:**

Jason Posnock, President & CEO, Brevard Music Center, [jposnock@brevardmusic.org](mailto:jposnock@brevardmusic.org) | (828) 862-2110

Cally Jamis Vennare, BMC Strategic Marketing & Communications Advisor | [publicity@brevardmusic.org](mailto:publicity@brevardmusic.org)

**BREVARD MUSIC CENTER APPOINTS NICHOLAS TZAVARAS AS  
SENIOR DIRECTOR OF ARTISTIC PLANNING & EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS**

**Former Shanghai Quartet Cellist Joins BMC's Leadership Team Beginning June 1**

**Brevard, North Carolina** — One of America's premier music festivals, **Brevard Music Center (BMC)**, today announced the appointment of **Nicholas Tzavaras** to the position of **Senior Director of Artistic Planning & Educational Programs**, effective June 1, 2024. Tzavaras will be a key member of BMC's senior leadership team and will direct a department responsible for the planning and execution of all educational programs, concert performances, and student recruitment and enrollment.

"On behalf of the BMC Board of Trustees and Artistic Director Keith Lockhart, I am delighted to welcome Nick to the Brevard Music Center family," said **Jason Posnock, President & CEO of Brevard Music Center**. "His dedication to artistic excellence, coupled with his distinguished international career as a concert musician and a respected educator, form the perfect combination of administrative and artistic expertise required to excel in this leadership position. We have enjoyed his presence here as a guest artist with the Shanghai Quartet many times, and I can't wait to reintroduce Nick to our faculty, students, and the Brevard community in this new role."

"As an individual who has dedicated my career to music performance and arts education, I am so proud to join the Brevard Music Center," said **Nicholas Tzavaras**. "My appearances here working alongside the stellar BMC artist faculty have been among my favorite in my career. Everyone at Brevard is fully engaged with the mission, reflecting the organization's deep commitment to excellence and to transformative student experiences. And, of course, the beauty of the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina provides an inspiring backdrop to an institute and festival that continues to grow and distinguish itself in its stature and reputation. I am thrilled to be part of the Music Center's future vision and world-class legacy."

**ABOUT NICHOLAS TZAVARAS**

A native of East Harlem in New York City, cellist Nicholas Tzavaras has toured the globe as a chamber musician, soloist, and educator for more than two and a half decades. He has performed over 1600 concerts worldwide, from Cartagena, Columbia to Christchurch, New Zealand. In 2000, Tzavaras became the cellist of the internationally renowned Shanghai Quartet, a venerable chamber ensemble currently celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Festival engagements have included the Brevard, La Jolla, and Taos festivals, the Casals Festival in Prades France, the Melbourne Music Festival in Australia, and the Marlboro Festival. Tzavaras has recorded more than 26 albums for the

Naxos, Delos, Bis, Centaur, Camerata, and New Albion labels, including the complete Beethoven String Quartet Cycle and Bright Sheng's songs for pipa and cello.

Formerly on the faculties of the University of Richmond, Montclair State University, and the Longy School of Music, Tzavaras currently serves as the Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs, Chair of Strings, and Resident Faculty in Cello and Chamber Music at The Tianjin Juilliard School. His students have won numerous competitions including a Gold Medal at the 2023 International Tchaikovsky Cello Competition. Tzavaras has also held the position of guest principal cellist of the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra since 2009.

Tzavaras began the violin at the age of two with his mother, Roberta Guaspari, and moved to the cello when he was seven. A graduate of the Bronx High School of Science, he went on to receive music degrees from the New England Conservatory and the State University of New York at Stony Brook, and a Master of Business Administration degree from Montclair State University. Tzavaras can be seen in the Academy Award-nominated documentary "Small Wonders" and the motion pictures "Music of the Heart" and "Melinda and Melinda."

#### **ABOUT BREVARD MUSIC CENTER | SUMMER INSTITUTE AND FESTIVAL**

Founded in 1936, the Brevard Music Center stands as one of this country's premier summer classical music training programs and festivals. Each summer, over 700 gifted students come to the Music Center from across the United States and around the world to study with a distinguished faculty and renowned guest artists. Brevard's hallmark is the powerful sense of community that re-emerges each year as faculty and students present remarkable concerts and events to summer audiences.

For more information visit [brevardmusic.org](http://brevardmusic.org), "like" the Brevard Music Center on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/brevardmusic), follow @brevardmusic on [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/brevardmusic), stream season highlights via [SoundCloud](https://www.soundcloud.com/brevardmusic), and visit the Brevard Music Center [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/brevardmusic) channel to enjoy performance videos from previous festival seasons.

# # #