

Vannophat “Tau” Kaploykeo (cello)

Vannophat Kaploykeo began his musical journey in Bangkok, Thailand, where he began learning the cello with Yukihisa Nakagawa. Soon after, he entered the Young Artists Music Program (Pre-College) of the College of Music, Mahidol University, where he studied cello performance under Juris Lakutis and chamber music with Stefanie Waegner, graduating in 2019 with his bachelor’s degree in cello performance. Further significant musical influences include Frank Dodge (Spectrum Concerts Berlin), Leslie Tan (Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, formerly of T’ang Quartet), and Eleonora Testeleca (Jazeps Vitols Latvian Academy of Music), among others.

In 2015, Vannophat was awarded the 1st Prize at the Princess Galyani Vaddhana International String Ensemble Competition as principal cello of the Salaya Chamber Orchestra. He most recently distinguished himself at the University of Victoria’s Annual Solo Bach Competition 2023 where he was awarded the 1st Prize.

Throughout his career Vannophat has performed as soloist with the Mahidol Symphony Orchestra, the Mahidol Pops Orchestra, and most recently with the Million Wind Philharmonic, where he holds the distinction of being the ensemble’s first string-instrument soloist. He served as a member of the Thailand Philharmonic Orchestra from 2018-2022, and was concurrently appointed associate principal cellist at the Bangkok Metropolitan Orchestra from 2020-2022. Outside of orchestral settings, Vannophat is a keen chamber musician, sharing the stage with celebrated artists such as Rolf-Dieter Arens, Eddy Vanoosthuyse, and members of the Carmina Quartet and the Abegg Trio.

Vannophat is currently pursuing his master’s degree in cello performance at the University of Victoria, where he studies cello with Pamela Highbaugh-Aloni and chamber music with the Lafayette String Quartet.