

**Illinois State University
Wonsook Kim College of Fine Arts
School of Music**

Guest Artist Recital
Mike Block, *cello*

This event is sponsored by the Harold K. Sage Foundation, the Illinois State University Foundation Fund and the Jerry Antonini Guest Artis Fund.

**Kemp Recital Hall
November 7, 2025
Friday Evening
7:30 p.m.**

This is the forty-fourth program of the 2025-2026 season.

Program

Please silence all electronics for the duration of the concert. Thank you.

Program will be announced from the stage.

About the Artist . .

Mike Block is a multi-style cello player, composer, singer, and educator, with a passion for cross-cultural collaborations. Hailed as “one of the bravest, most intriguing musicians on the American fusion scene.” (*Gramophone*), he was acclaimed by the *New York Times* for his "vital rich-hued solo playing", and “a true artist... a sight to behold” by *Salt Lake City Desert News*. In addition to solo performances, Mike touring bands include Biribá Union, Mike Block Trio, duo with Indian tabla player Sandeep Das, and a West-African fusion band with Balla Kouyaté. Since 2005, Mike has been a member of the Silk Road Ensemble, founded by Yo-Yo Ma, with which he earned a 2017 Grammy® Award.

As an innovator, Mike is among the first wave of cellists to adopt a strap to stand and move while performing using his own patented design, The Block Strap, and is the Musical Instrument Consultant for Forte3D, the world’s first 3D-Printed carbon fiber cello. In 2020, Mike founded Play For The Vote , which organizes musical performances at polling locations across the country on Election Days, with the goal of creating a more positive voting experience.

As an educator, Mike is dedicated to creating transformative experiences and is the Founder/Director of the Mike Block String Camp in Vero Beach, FL, *Silkroad’s* Global Musician Workshop in Boston, MA and Hangzhou, China, and teaches over 400 cello students online through his Multi-Style Cello School at ArtistWorks.com. Since 2018 he has been on faculty at the New England Conservatory.

www.MikeBlockMusic.com