**Michael Finckel, Music Director**

Having served as principal cellist during its early years in the 1970's, and later as commissioned composer and soloist, Sage City Symphony's Music Director Finckel continues the unique traditions and musical standards of the orchestra's founder, [Louis Calabro](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louis_Calabro).

A native of Bennington, Michael's formative studies were with his parents, both prominent musicians well known throughout the state. He later attended [Oberlin College Conservatory of Music](http://new.oberlin.edu/conservatory/) and Bennington College, where he studied composition, conducting, and orchestration with Louis Calabro and [Henry Brant](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Brant). He has taught cello and composition at Bennington and Marymount Colleges, and at Princeton and Cornell Universities. As a member of the faculty of the [Vermont Governor's Institute on the Arts](http://emergentmediacenter.com/giv/), he taught gifted junior and senior high school students from around the state.

Currently living in New York City, he is engaged in an active multiple career as soloist, chamber musician, composer, teacher and conductor. As a cellist he has performed with orchestral and chamber ensembles in venues from coast to coast and across Europe.

He performs and coaches each summer at the [Composers Conference and Chamber Music Center](http://www.composersconference.org/) in Wellesley, Massachusetts, and the [Chamber Music Conference and Composers Forum of the East](http://cmceast.org/) at Bennington College.