



Presents

A Concert at the Brookline Public Library
Wednesday, April 26, 2023
7pm, Hunneman Hall

Program

Duo for violin and cello (2015)

Jessie Montgomery

Meandering

Dirge

Presto

Sophia Szokolay, violin
Alan Toda-Ambaras, cello

String Quintet in C Major, D. 956

Franz Schubert

Allegro ma non troppo

Adagio

Scherzo: Presto - Trio. Andante sostenuto

Allegretto

Jean Huang, Sophia Szokolay, violin
Sergio Muñoz Leiva, viola
Alan Toda-Ambaras, Timothy Paek, cello

Suggested donation: \$30/adults, \$10/students
This concert will benefit the Brookline Food Pantry.
Please make donations at musicforfood.net/boston/schubertbrookline

About the Artists

Described as “a consummate artist,” Dr. **Jean Huang** has concertized throughout the United States and Taiwan. Praised for her poised and expressive playing, Jean enjoys playing both standard repertoire and new music: Huang is especially passionate about performing underplayed pieces; as a violinist living in the 21st century, she enjoys the process of looking for new color and extending the short history and limited geography of the violin repertoire. Huang believes music can provoke the wildest imagination, and she often looks for a three-way connection between the composer, the performer, and the audience while performing. Huang writes her own scholarly program notes for each concert, using her knowledge to enhance the musical experience.

Serving as the concertmaster of the Cape Cod Chamber Orchestra and co-concertmaster of the Phoenix Orchestra, Chu-Chun Jean Huang holds Bachelor's, Master's and Doctor in Musical Arts degrees (BM 12', MM 14', DMA 19') in Violin Performance with honors from the New England Conservatory (NEC). A native of Taiwan, Jean has studied in the United States since age fifteen. She graduated with honors from Walnut Hill High School of the Arts, while also studying at the NEC Preparatory School from 2005 to 2008, where she worked with the late Marylou Speaker Churchill. In addition, she participated and toured in China with the NEC Youth Symphony Orchestra conducted by Benjamin Zander. In 2014, Huang enrolled in the Doctor of Musical Arts program at NEC with a merit scholarship, studying with James Buswell, Jennifer Frautschi, and Peter Zazofsky. In fall 2016, she excelled and passed all her doctoral qualifying exams to become the youngest doctoral candidate in her class. Huang completed her Doctoral studies with the thesis topic “Performative Analysis and the Critical Edition of Francis Poulenc’s violin sonata”, in 2019.

Huang is passionate about teaching. Since 2006, she has served as a teaching assistant at the Walnut Hill Summer Music Festival held by the Chinese Performing Arts Foundation. She has also had the privilege to work as James Buswell’s teaching assistant at NEC, where she works with undergraduate violinists. Huang also teaches private violin lessons regularly, with students ranging from six years old to adults. Wishing to share her immense depth of scholarly knowledge, she also works as a teaching assistant in the music history and music theory departments at NEC. Starting from September 2017, she serves as the newest faculty at the New England Conservatory Continuing Education division, where she teaches violin lessons.

Canadian-born violinist **Sophia Anna Szokolay** is a Doctoral Candidate at the New England Conservatory and Chamber Music Faculty at NEC’s Preparatory School. Sophia has won top prizes and awards at international competitions and performs across Canada, the United States, and Europe as a recitalist and chamber musician.

This season, Sophia joined Portland-based *Palaver Strings* and LA-based *Delirium Musicum* as a guest artist, she premiered Sid Richardson’s *Tide Tiding Time* for Solo Violin in Jordan Hall, and will be a featured young artist at the Ravinia and Four Seasons Festivals.

Sophia held Teaching and Community Engagement Fellowships at The Juilliard School where she worked with violin and music theory students at *Opportunity Music Project* and at Thurgood Marshall Academy Lower School. In 2020, she performed online for ICU Covid-19 patients and their families across the United States with Project: Music Heals Us. She curated an online Music and Movement class for toddlers, and led music appreciation workshops at Lenox Hill Women's Shelter.

Sophia received her Bachelor of Music degree from the New England Conservatory, and her Master's Degree from Juilliard. Her teachers include Catherine Cho, Miriam Fried, and Donald Weilerstein.

Sophia's passions include photography and distance running. She recently qualified for the 2024 Boston Marathon.

Chilean violist **Sergio Muñoz Leiva** is an advocate for dialogue, collaboration, and community building, which he realizes in music through his love for chamber music and education.

A curious and versatile performer, Dr. Muñoz Leiva is active in chamber music, solo, and orchestral settings. His repertoire spans from early Baroque to music that is fresh off the press, performed on both modern and baroque viola. He has premiered works by Paola Prestini and Nico Muhly, and has collaborated with artists such as Kinan Azmeh, Dinuk Wijeratne, Masaaki Suzuki, Rachel Podger, Monica Huggett, Robert Mealy, Daniel S. Lee, Emi Ferguson, Laurie Smukler, Catherine Cho, Natasha Brofsky, Areta Zhulla, Carol Rodland, Kim Kashkashian, Mikhail Kopelman, Renée Jolles, and Steven Doane. He is a member of the Providence Baroque Orchestra and has performed as a guest artist with A Far Cry, Palaver Strings, Carnegie Hall's Link Up Orchestra, the United Nations Chamber Music Society, the Princeton Symphony Orchestra, and the Chile Chamber Orchestra. He has appeared in venues such as Jordan Hall and Symphony Hall in Boston; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Alice Tully Hall, and Carnegie Hall in New York; and the Municipal Theater in Santiago de Chile. His musical mentors are Penelope Knuth, David Holland, Dimitri Murrath, Kim Kashkashian, and Carol Rodland. He is a graduate of the Interlochen Arts Academy and holds degrees from the New England Conservatory, the Eastman School of Music, and The Juilliard School. His doctoral dissertation is entitled "Paul Hindemith's Harmonic System and Its Application to a Structural Analysis of the *Schwanendreher* Variations." His research interests include musical analysis, Latin American folk music, and music as a catalyst for community building.

Dr. Muñoz Leiva joined the Department of Music of College of the Holy Cross as Interim Director of Chamber Music in September 2022. He also currently serves as Music Theory Instructor at Project STEP in Boston. Previous teaching appointments include serving as Studio Teaching Assistant to Carol Rodland at The Juilliard School, as Instructor of Viola for Non-Majors at the Eastman School of Music and the University of Rochester, and as Teaching Artist at City College Academy of the Arts in New York.

Recipient of the Prize for Most Promising Contestant at the 2005 Rostropovich International Cello Competition in Paris, **Alan Toda-Ambaras** is active as both a soloist and a chamber musician. He has performed with Midori; Yo-Yo Ma, Sandeep Das, and other members of the Silk Road Ensemble; the Parker Quartet; the Borromeo Quartet; and has appeared twice as a soloist with the North Carolina Symphony. Recent appearances include performances in Tokyo's Ohji Hall, Osaka's Phoenix Hall, National Academy of Music in Vietnam, Massachusetts State Hall, the Taos Music Festival, Harvard University's Paine Hall, and the New England Conservatory's Jordan Hall. He has been featured on French television and in several European documentaries due to his participation in the Rostropovich Competition; he has also been heard on NPR's From The Top program, New York's WKCR Classical station, and Boston's Neighborhood News Network.

Alan has a B.A. in History of Art and Architecture from Harvard and an M.M. from the New England Conservatory, where he studied with Laurence Lesser. He is a co-founder of the Eureka Ensemble, a young social action-oriented Boston music organization.

Cellist **Timmy Paek** is an enthusiastic musician with a passion for chamber music. He believes in and champions an ideal: chamber music can better the world. His current appointments include, principal cellist of the Cape Cod Chamber Orchestra, as well as section cellist of the Boston-based Phoenix Orchestra. Aside from those, he also shares the stage as a guest with other New England ensembles such as the Palaver Strings, Juventas New Music Ensemble, Caroga Lake Music Festival, and the New Bedford Symphony. Other than performing, he spends his time working as the recording engineer for various organizations in New England such as Boston University Tanglewood Institute, Atlantic Symphony Orchestra, and the Cape Cod Chamber Orchestra. Aside from music, Timothy loves to pursue culinary interests, golfing, tennis, and playoff NBA Basketball. Future concerts include an appearance with the Portland String Quartet, Cape Cod Chamber Orchestra, and the Boston based Phoenix Ensemble.