

# ~ The Apollo Ensemble Presents~

## The Music of Beethoven, Mendelssohn, and Brahms



## The Apollo Ensemble of Boston

### Elias Miller, Conductor

Saturday, 21 January 2023 at 8:00PM  
St. John's Episcopal Church – Boston, MA

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## Violin I

Eun Joo Ahn (Concertmaster)  
Kristin Qian  
Martha McGee  
Emily Spector  
Tiffany Rice  
Christine Lin  
Nancy Goodwin  
Elizabeth Cai  
Ruta Nikitska  
Meghan Titzer

## Violin II

Demi Fang (Principal)  
Anne McKee  
Lorenzo Gallegos  
Kristen Barrett  
Tom Nikiper  
Sam Wiseman  
Regina Cheung  
Leah Benrubi  
Sean Lee  
Antony Karacic

## Viola

Ken Allen (Principal)  
Arjun Mudan  
Josue Negrete  
William Shipley  
Stephen Jue  
Lucy Caplan  
Chris Palmer  
Jeff Bigler

## Cello

Haeju Song (Principal)  
Hwakyung Jang  
Enrique Hernandez  
Julian Gau  
Sam Marder  
Amy Nolan  
Bruce Casillas  
John Walsh

## Bass

Yizhen Wang (Principal)  
Ray Lesser  
Nicolette Kindred  
Olive Haber  
Martha Davis

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## Flute

Michael Tabak<sup>δω</sup>  
Courtney Regester<sup>ψ</sup>

## Oboe

Joel Bard<sup>δ</sup>  
Daniel Meza<sup>ψω</sup>

## Clarinet

Yhasmin Valenzuela-Blanchard<sup>δ</sup>  
Danby Cho<sup>ψω</sup>

## Bassoon

Shu Satoh<sup>δ</sup>  
Lauren Landry<sup>ψω</sup>

## Horn

Jessica Appolinario<sup>δ</sup>  
Jimmy Zhou<sup>ψ</sup>  
Ryan Ramey<sup>ω</sup>  
Portia Sirinek

## Trumpet

George Goodwin<sup>δ</sup>  
Emily Languedoc<sup>ψω</sup>

## Trombone

Sam Hausman<sup>δψ</sup>  
Steven Benson  
Andrew Conway

## Tuba

Peter Belknap

## Timpani

Jeremy Lang

## Assistant Conductor

Reuben Stern

δ – First in Brahms

ψ – First in Beethoven

ω - First in Mendelssohn

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## ~ Program ~

### **Leonore Overture No. 3**

Ludwig van Beethoven

(1770 – 1827)

### **Violin Concerto in E minor**

Felix Mendelssohn

I. Allegro molto appassionato

(1809 – 1847)

II. Andante

III. Allegretto non troppo – Allegro molto vivace

*Lijuan Xie, Violin*

~Intermission~

### **Symphony No. 2 in D major**

Johannes Brahms

(1833 – 1897)

I. Allegro non troppo

II. Adagio non troppo

III. Allegretto grazioso (quasi andantino)

IV. Allegro con spirito

## ~ Biographical Notes ~

### Conductor:

Music director of the Apollo Ensemble of Boston since 2018 and of Festival Theater Hudson since 2021, **Elias Miller** has established a reputation as a leading young conductor and orchestra builder. Recent highlights include a critically acclaimed series of outdoor concerts with the Apollo Ensemble in Massachusetts state parks, a production of Philip Glass' *La Belle et la Bête*, which Miller co-conducted at the University of Houston's Moores Opera Center, an appearance with Hudson Festival Orchestra, a performance with the Pro Arte Orchester in Vienna, Austria, and a production of Wagner's *Die Walküre* (Act I) and the U.S. premiere of Ittai Shapira's *Magyar*: Concerto for Two Violins with FTH. During the past year, Miller has served as a cover conductor for Gemma New and Scott Yoo with the Minnesota Orchestra, JoAnn Falletta with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, and David Alan Miller and Erina Yashima with the Albany Symphony. In the coming months, Miller will serve as a cover conductor on concerts with the New York Philharmonic and the Minnesota Orchestra and conduct performances with the Upbeat New Hampshire Youth Orchestra and the Apollo Ensemble.

An active conductor of opera and oratorio, Miller led the Harvard Early Music Society in several premieres of works between 2016 and 2019. These productions included the Boston premiere of J.A. Hasse's *Alcide al Bivio* in collaboration with the Harvard Baroque Chamber Orchestra, the North American premiere of Telemann's 1745 *Johannespassion*, a production that featured famed countertenor Charles Humphries and earned Miller an enthusiastic preview in the Boston Globe, and the North American premiere of J.A. Hasse's *Sanctus Petrus et Sancta Maria Magdalena*. Miller has also conducted performances of operas by Gluck (*Orfeo ed Euridice*, independent opera production), Stravinsky (*The Rake's Progress*, Harvard College Opera), William Grant Still (*Minette Fontaine*, graduate students at the University of Michigan), and Gilbert & Sullivan (*Ruddigore*, Harvard-Radcliffe Gilbert & Sullivan Players). Miller has also served as the assistant conductor at Opera Saratoga.

A distinguished pianist and cellist, Miller has performed solo recitals in the United States and in Europe on both instruments and has served as a vocal coach and rehearsal pianist for many operatic productions. He holds degrees from Harvard University (A.B. in Music, summa cum laude) and the University of Michigan (M.M. in Orchestral Conducting) and completed his postgraduate studies at the University for Music and Performing Arts, Vienna. Miller's mentors include Mark Stringer, Kenneth Kiesler, Federico Cortese, and his father, David Alan Miller.

## **Violin Soloist:**

Since his solo orchestral debut at age 11, **Liyuan Xie** has established a successful career as a violin soloist and has collaborated regularly with the Shanghai Philharmonic, Shanghai Opera Symphony, Nanjing Philharmonic, Qingdao Symphony, Shanghai Chamber Orchestra and Novus Classica Camerata. Recent engagements include performances of the Beethoven and Mendelssohn violin concertos with the Nanjing Philharmonic Orchestra, a marathon concert with the NCC Orchestra on which he performed all five Mozart violin concertos, and a performance of Vivaldi's "Four Seasons." The recipient of the 2022 Young Soloist grand prize, Liyuan will perform throughout the Northeast this fall, including playing the Bruch Violin Concerto with the Brookline Symphony Orchestra and the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto with the Apollo Ensemble of Boston as well as playing recitals in Providence, Randolph, New Britain, and Boston.

Liyuan has participated in numerous prestigious festivals including the Verbier Festival, Tanglewood Music Festival, Kneisel Hall Chamber Music Festival, Sarasota Music Festival, and the New York String Orchestra 50th Anniversary, and he has worked with the Juilliard, Mendelssohn, and Borromeo quartets among many others. He has served as concertmaster with the Verbier Festival Orchestra, Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra, Nanjing Philharmonic Orchestra, and NEC's Symphony and Philharmonia orchestras. He has performed as a guest violinist with the Boston Symphony Orchestra at the Tanglewood Festival, and he will serve as guest concertmaster with the Flagstaff Symphony in Arizona during spring 2023.

Born in 2000, Liyuan is currently pursuing his Master's Degree with Miriam Fried at the New England Conservatory. He holds a Bachelor's

Degree from NEC, and he previously studied with renowned violin educators Binyou Zhou and Lei Fang at the Shanghai Conservatory's Music Middle School.

## **About Apollo:**

Founded in 2018 by Elias Miller and Michael Tabak and conducted by Elias Miller, the **Apollo Ensemble of Boston** is a 60-member orchestra made up of some of the area's best musicians. In its first five seasons, the ensemble has already explored a diverse body of repertoire in a series of well-attended and well-received concerts throughout the Greater Boston Area. Its musicians have tackled everything from the small ensemble works of Stravinsky and Schoenberg to the symphonies of Beethoven, Brahms, Dvorak, and Tchaikovsky. The Apollo Ensemble brings together professional musicians, conservatory students, and amateur professionals, providing top-level players excellent performance opportunities and bringing outstanding music to Boston audiences in accessible, free community concerts.

## **A Note of Thanks~**

Elizabeth Cumberbatch and St. John's Episcopal Church for the use of their sanctuary as a rehearsal space and concert venue.

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