

~ The Apollo Ensemble of Boston ~

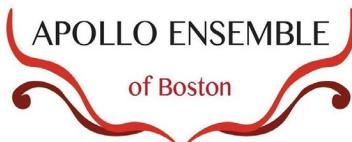
Keila Wakao Plays Barber



The Apollo Ensemble of Boston

Elias Miller, Music Director

Sunday, 27 April 2025 at 3:30PM
First Church Cambridge
11 Garden St, Cambridge, MA 02138



Violin I

Thomas Cooper, Concertmaster
Eun Joo Ahn
Nancy Goodwin
Skye Darling
Anne Preis
Kristin Qian
Mary Davis
Stephanie Doong
Jad Hilal
Hope Yuan
Nicholas Barbier

Violin II

Jimmy Nguyen, Principal
Ryan Urato
Brandon Enriquez
Flora Hollifield
Shu-Hong Lin
Toshi Motoyama
Haeun Moon
Chris Brown
Jessica Tsang

Viola

Sean Lee, Principal
Hannah Hooven
Stephen Jue
Jeff Bigler
Ruth Mangan
Timothy Chen
Henry MacDonnell

Cello

Nate Steele, Principal
Meghan Leong
Jacqueline Georgis
Iverson Eliopoulos
Wheeler Jarvis
Marc Pasciucco
Mia Tsai

Bass

Boris Lu, Principal
Dylan Rader
Martha Davis
Abby Hau
Rainbow Chen
Becca Pasley

Flute

Kristyn Morey (J)
Katie Berry (S)

Oboe

Joel Bard (J)
Ryoei Kawai (S)
Keisuke Wakao*

Clarinet

Max Reed (J)
Brian Schaefer (S)

Bassoon

Susanna Dang (J)
Laura Reyes (S)

Horn

Jonathan McGarry (J)
Portia Sirinek (S)
Cassandra Shiff
John Kessen

Trumpet

Emily Languedoc (J)
George Goodwin (S)

Trombone

Sum Ho Tsui (J)
Liam McDonald

Bass Trombone

Collin Good

Timpani

Jeremy Lang

Percussion

Jeremy Lang

Piano

Sayuri Miyamoto

Assistant Conductor

Reuben Stern

Orchestra Manager

Michael Tabak

J = Principal on Brahms

S = Principal on Barber

*Keisuke Wakao (assistant principal oboe of the Boston Symphony) will play principal on the second movement of Barber.

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~ Program ~

Droughts and Downpours for String Orchestra Gala Flagello (WORLD PREMIERE) (b. 1994)

Symphony No. 3 in F major

Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)

- I. Allegro con brio
- II. Andante
- III. Poco allegretto
- IV. Allegro — Un poco sostenuto

~Intermission~

Violin Concerto, Op. 14 Samuel Barber
1. Allegro (1910-1981)
2. Andante
3. Presto in moto perpetuo
Keila Wakao, Violin

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~ Biographical Notes ~

Composer:

Gala Flagello (b. 1994) is a composer, educator, and nonprofit director whose work is inspired by a passion for lyricism, rhythmic vitality, and fostering meaningful collaboration. Her music, described as "at times endearingly whimsical, at times ominous, but always moving" (*Cleveland Classical*), resonates with audiences through its emotional depth and dynamic expression. Flagello's collaborations with leading ensembles, artists, and institutions on national and international stages build impactful projects for audiences and performers alike.

Flagello's 2024/25 season features the European premiere of Vitality with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, including an international performance broadcast, along with orchestral performances of Bravado by Detroit Symphony, Chautauqua Festival, Lansing Symphony, Wichita Falls Symphony, Central Ohio Symphony, and Dearborn Symphony. She is a recipient of the 2024 Barlow General Commission, which will support a new work for the Thalea String Quartet. This season also includes consortium premieres of Flagello's Lore & Nature, a wind band work commissioned by 55 ensembles across the United States.

Flagello is a passionate educator and arts nonprofit leader. As the Festival Director and co-founder of the contemporary music festival Connecticut Summerfest, she champions the creation of new music and nurtures creative growth through collaboration.

Violin Soloist:

Keila Wakao made her Boston Symphony Orchestra debut for the BSO's Opening Night Gala concert in September 2024 under Andris Nelsons, in a concert also featuring world-renowned mezzo-soprano Susan Graham and pianists Lang Lang and Gina Alice Redlinger.

Keila won First Prize in the 2021 Menuhin International Violin Competition Junior Division and the composer award for outstanding performance of a commissioned work and was also awarded the Gold Medal and Bach Prize at the 2021 Stulberg International String Competition. In 2023, she was awarded the Aoyama Music Foundation Award in Japan for upcoming artists. She also won 1st prize in the Boston Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition, where she performed alongside the BSO and Thomas Wilkins in the BSO Family Concerto in October 2023, and is a recipient of Charlotte White's Salon de Virtuosi Career Grant in New York. In 2024, she was awarded the Next Generation Distinguished Cultural Achievement Award from the Japan Society of Boston and was also featured on CBS Boston's television news.

Born in 2006 in Chestnut Hill, MA, Keila began playing the violin at age 3. Former BSO concertmaster Joseph Silverstein accepted her as a student when she was 6 years old. At age 9, she began studying with Donald Weilerstein. She worked with Itzhak Perlman and participated in the Perlman Music Program in summers 2018-2022. Currently, she is completing her first year at the New England Conservatory as a Starling Foundation Full Scholarship recipient and a student of Miriam Fried. She was also accepted to Harvard College and has deferred her first year of enrollment.

Named a "VC Artist" by Violin Channel, Keila has performed as soloist and in recital throughout the United States, Japan, Germany,

Singapore, and the United Kingdom in venues such as Cadogan Hall (London), Victoria Concert Hall (Singapore), Jordan Hall (Boston), and Carnegie Weill Recital Hall (New York City). She made her solo debut with an orchestra at age 9 and has since performed as a soloist with ensembles including the Adelphi, Baden-Baden, Boston, Chattanooga, Eugene, Kalamazoo, Lexington, Reading, and Richmond symphony orchestras as well as the Boston Civic Symphony, Tokyo Philharmonic, New Philharmonia, Resound Collective, and Baltimore Chamber Orchestra. In 2017, Keila was invited to speak and perform at TEDxBoston.

Keila plays on the Cremona 1690 “Theodor” Stradivarius violin on loan from the Ryuji Ueno Foundation and Rare Violins InConsortium, Artists and Benefactors Collaborative.

Conductor:

Music Director of the [Apollo Ensemble of Boston](#) since 2018, Assistant Conductor of the [Columbus Symphony](#), and Music Director of the [Columbus Symphony Youth Orchestra](#), **Elias Miller** has established a reputation as a leading young conductor and orchestra builder. He has worked with numerous orchestras across the United States including the New York Philharmonic, the Minnesota Orchestra, the Nashville Symphony, the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Albany Symphony, assisting notable conductors including Giancarlo Guerrero, Thomas Wilkins, Juanjo Mena, JoAnn Falletta, Scott Yoo, Carlos Miguel Prieto, and Eun Sun Kim. Miller made his Carnegie Hall debut in the fall of 2023 guest conducting the [New York International Symphony Orchestra](#). Now the orchestra's principal conductor, Miller returned to conduct them in another program in February 2025, this time in the Harvard Club of Boston. As the Columbus Symphony's assistant conductor, Miller regularly conducts education, pops, and community concerts with the

esteemed orchestra. Summer 2025 will see Miller lead the symphony in several full classical programs, conducting three "Summer Night" concerts and the symphony's annual performance in Ash Cave.

An active conductor of opera and oratorio, Miller conducted Festival Theater Hudson's inaugural performance: a staged production of Wagner's *Die Walküre* (Act I) in 2021 and co-conducted a production of Philip Glass' *La Belle et la Bête* at the University of Houston's Moores Opera Center in 2022. Between 2016 and 2019, Miller led the Harvard Early Music Society in several premieres of operatic works including the Boston premiere of J.A. Hasse's *Alcide al Bivio*, the North American premiere of Telemann's 1745 *Johannespassion*, 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, Stravinsky, William Grant Still, and Gilbert & Sullivan and has served as Assistant Conductor on a staged production of West Side Story - a collaboration between Opera Columbus, BalletMet, CAPA, and the Columbus Symphony - in 2025 and as the Assistant Conductor of Opera Saratoga in summer 2020.

A distinguished pianist and cellist, Miller has performed solo recitals in the United States and in Europe on both instruments and has worked as a vocal coach and rehearsal pianist on 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 with Mark Stringer at the University for Music and Performing Arts, Vienna.

A Note of Thanks~

First Church Cambridge for the use of their sanctuary as a rehearsal and performance venue

St. John's Episcopal Church for the use of their sanctuary as a rehearsal venue

Community Music Center Boston for the use of their school as a rehearsal venue.

Apollo Ensemble Staff: Michael Tabak, Mengqiao Sun, Emily Languedoc, T'Yara Lesueur, & Sarah Porter

M. Christian Brown & The Marilyn Mason Foundation, Martha Davis, David Alan Miller and Andrea Oser, Shu Satoh, Benjamin Betik, Rolf and Nancy Goodwin, Guillermo del Angel, Joel Bard, The Lin-David family, Janice Oser, Michelle Miller-Adams, Andrew Cohn, John Walsh, Pfizer Inc. & the American Online Giving Foundation, Sanofi S.A. & the Givinga Foundation, Jeremy Lang, Christopher Goessling, Edward L. Burke & the Edward L. Burke Charitable Gift Fund, Sheila Tucker, Marc Pasciucco, the Harte Family Fund at the Foundation for Metrowest, Anna Porter and Nate Haggett & the Bright Funds Foundation, Jey Auritt and Les Schlessinger, Jean Bae, Susan D. Lutwak, Al and Mary Tedesco & the Tedesco Family Fund, Dr. Steven Sewall, John Kafalas, James Little, Drew Benson, Simeon Morrow, and Dana Lee for their support.

OFFICERS:

Jeff Bigler, President; Dr. James Nguyen, Vice President; Emily Languedoc, Treasurer; Benjamin Betik, Secretary

DIRECTORS:

Jeff Bigler; M. Christian Brown; Christopher Goessling; Nancy Goodwin; Rolf Goodwin; Dana Lee; James Nguyen; Elias Miller

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