

~ The Apollo Ensemble of Boston ~
Voyages



LIYUAN XIE,
VIOLIN

AVOYAGES

APOLLO ENSEMBLE

YVETTE JANINE JACKSON
MOZART
DVORAK

DVORAK'S
NEW WORLD
SYMPHONY

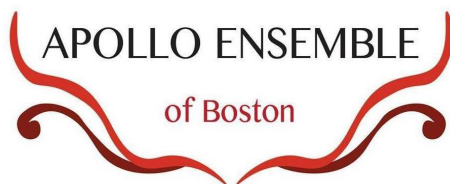
**SEP.
6TH**

7:30PM

**FIRST
CHURCH
CAMBRIDGE**

The Apollo Ensemble of Boston
Elias Miller, Music Director

Saturday, 6 September 2025 at 7:30PM
First Church Cambridge
11 Garden St, Cambridge, MA 02138



Violin I

KJ McDonald, Concertmaster
Julia Wong
Flora Hollifield
Anne Preis
Olga Myatieve
Mary Davis
Tiffany Rice
Andrew To
Jad Hilal

Violin II

Jimmy Nguyen, Principal
Jenny Smythe
Stephanie Doong
Meghan Titzer
Angela Shih
Chris Brown
Toshi Motoyama
Nikola Chubrich
Christine Ko

Viola

Emily Tardiff-Rodriguez,
Principal
Laura Avila
Jeff Bigler
Amy Sexauer
Timothy Chen
Elisabeth Ngo

Cello

Sophia Knappe, Principal
Iverson Eliopoulos
Meghan Leong
Yoon Jung Lee
Danielle Hall
Guillermo del Angel
Sam Marder
Amy Nolan

Bass

Brett Sawka, Principal
Dylan Rader
Martha Davis
Rainbow Chen
Rebecca Pasley

Flute

Michael Tabak (D)
Kristyn Morey (J)

Piccolo

Kirstyn Morey

Oboe

Mia Fasanello (D)
Joel Bard (J, M)

English Horn

Joel Bard

Clarinet

Yhasmin Valenzuela (D, J)
Brian Schaefer

Bass Clarinet

Brian Schaefer

Bassoon

Laura Reyes (D)
Adrian Jojatu (J)

Horn

Ryan Blaine (D)
Cassandra Schiff
Drew Lingenfelter (J)
Steve Eddins
Nick Davidson (M)

Trumpet

George Goodwin (D)
Emily Languedoc (J)

Trombone

Sam Hausman (D)
Kyle Pinto (J)

Bass Trombone

Steven Benson

Tuba

Tim Sliski

Timpani

Jeremy Lang

Percussion

Eric Cortell
Dave Penn

Assistant Conductor

Reuben Stern

Orchestra Manager

Michael Tabak

D = Principal, Dvorak

J = Principal, Jackson

M = Principal, Mozart

The Apollo Ensemble of Boston

Elias Miller, Music Director

~ Program ~

Atlantic Crossing

Yvette Janine Jackson

Reuben Stern, Conductor

Concerto No. 5 in A major “Turkish”

W.A. Mozart

I. Allegro aperto – Adagio

II. Adagio

III. Rondeau: Tempo di Menuetto – Allegro

Liyuan Xie, Violin

Elias Miller, Conductor

Symphony No. 9 "From the New World"

Antonín Dvořák

I. Adagio – Allegro molto

II. Largo

III. Scherzo: Molto vivace – Poco sostenuto

IV. Finale: Allegro con fuoco

Elias Miller, Conductor

~ Biographical Notes ~

Composer:

Yvette Janine Jackson is a composer and installation artist who draws on her background in theatrical sound design to create “radio operas,” an aesthetic of narrative soundscape composition described by The Guardian as “immersive non-visual films.”

Recent projects include [*Hello, Tomorrow!*](#) for orchestra and electronics co-commissioned by Carnegie Hall and American Composers Orchestra; and [*T-Minus, A Radio Opera*](#) commissioned by the International Contemporary Ensemble. Her permanent installations [*Underground \(Codes\)*](#) and [*Destination Freedom*](#) can be experienced at Wave Farm in Acra, New York, and the International African American Museum in Charleston, South Carolina.

Jackson is a recipient of the [2025 Herb Alpert Award in the Arts](#) and the Giga-Hertz Production Award presented by ZKM Center for Art and Media Karlsruhe and SWR Experimentalstudio. She has contributed to the bilingual publication *Composing While Black: Afrodiasporische Neue Musik Heute / Afrodiasporic New Music Today* (Wolke Verlag, 2023). She is an associate professor in Creative Practice and Critical Inquiry in the Department of Music at Harvard University.

Soloist:

Chinese violinist **Liyuan Xie** was appointed by Maestro Franz Welser-Möst as First Associate Concertmaster of [The Cleveland Orchestra](#) and served as Concertmaster for the 2024–25 season. In this role, he has toured with the orchestra to the Lucerne Festival, Helsinki Festival, Berliner Philharmonie, Vienna Musikverein, Carnegie Hall and Orchestra’s Florida Residency. In February 2025,

he made his solo debut with the orchestra performing Schindler's List under conductor Keith Lockhart.

Highlights of his 2025–26 season include performing Shostakovich's Violin Concerto No. 1 with Maestro Yu Long and the Guangzhou Symphony Orchestra, appearances with the Sichuan Philharmonic Orchestra and Xiamen Philharmonic Orchestra, and the season-opening concert with the Apollo Ensemble of Boston. He has also been invited to give masterclasses at the Tianjin Juilliard School and the Xi'an Conservatory of Music.

Born in China, Xie began his studies at the Middle School Affiliated with the Shanghai Conservatory of Music under Binyou Zhou, and he earned his bachelor's degree studying with Miriam Fried at the New England Conservatory of Music.

Conductor:

Personal connection, identities, and the human capacity for empathy guide the music-making of young conductor **Reuben Stern**. Active in the Greater Boston area, they are the founder and music director of the [Orchestra Book Club](#), a volunteer ensemble dedicated to breaking down barriers to entry in orchestral music for players, composers, and audience members alike. Reuben also serves as assistant conductor for the [Apollo Ensemble](#), conductor of the Harvard Medical School Chamber Music Society, and has cover conducted for the Eureka Ensemble and Longwood Symphony Orchestra.

Passionate about music education, Reuben frequently rehearses students in the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras and served for a year as cover conductor for the Baltimore Symphony Youth Orchestra. During the 2023-2024 academic year, Reuben served as

the University of Connecticut's interim Symphony Orchestra director.

Reuben completed their graduate work at the Peabody Institute under the tutelage of Marin Alsop and Joseph Young, and their undergraduate work at Harvard University, where they studied conducting with Federico Cortese and earned a degree in mathematics. Reuben's other important mentors include Aram Demirjian and Lina Gonzalez-Granados. Reuben was the second person ever to hold a three-year tenure as music director of Harvard's famed Bach Society Orchestra. They were also student conductor for the Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra from 2017 to 2019.

As a bassoonist, Reuben has performed internationally with the National Youth Orchestra of the USA, under the direction of David Robertson, Christoph Eschenbach, and others.

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 Utah Symphony, the Nashville Symphony, the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Albany Symphony. 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 already saw Miller lead the Columbus Symphony in ten concerts – including five full classical programs – and guest conduct the Utah Symphony in two concerts.

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. He 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~

Temple Beth Zion for the use of their sanctuary as a rehearsal venue
First Church Cambridge for the use of their sanctuary as a rehearsal
and concert venue

M. Christian Brown & The Marilyn Mason Foundation, Martha Davis, David Alan Miller and Andrea Oser, Shu Satoh, Jeff Bigler & Nancy Gilman, Benjamin Betik, Rolf and Nancy Goodwin, Elizabeth & Henry Harrison, Christopher Goessling, Guillermo del Angel, Joel Bard, The Lin-David family, Janice Oser, Michelle Miller-Adams, Anita & Albert Colasante, Andrew Cohn, John Walsh, Pfizer Inc. & the American Online Giving Foundation, Sanofi S.A. & the Givinga Foundation, Jeremy Lang, Edward L. Burke & the Edward L. Burke Charitable Gift Fund, Sheila Tucker, Marc Pasciucco, Elias Miller, 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, Anonymous, Susan D. Lutwak, Al and Mary Tedesco & the Tedesco Family Fund, Dr. Steven Sewall, Dan Lewis & Jan Fleischner, John Kafalas, Peter Belknap, Shapiro-Dogan Family Fund James Little, Drew Benson, Simeon Morrow, and Dana Lee for their support.

STAFF:

Elias Miller, Michael Tabak, Emily Langedoc, Mengqiao Sun, Sarah Porter, T"Yara Lesueur, & Mia Fasanello

DIRECTORS & OFFICERS

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

M. Christian Brown; Christopher Goessling; Nancy Goodwin; Rolf Goodwin; Dana Lee; Elias Miller

GIVE NOW

Make a tax-deductible contribution today to help us continue to offer life-changing musical experiences for musicians and audiences alike.

Banner Design: Mengqiao Sun

Liyuan Xie Photo Credit: Roger Mastroianni

Yvette Janine Jackson Photo Credit: Stephanie Mitchell