

~ The Apollo Ensemble of Boston ~



MAY. 9TH, 2026 AT 7:30 PM
ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

APOLLO ENSEMBLE
SOUNDS OF
SPRING

ETHAN CHAVES
– CLOUD OF UNKNOWING

BRUCH
– VIOLIN CONCERTO
(CALVIN ALEXANDER, VIOLIN)

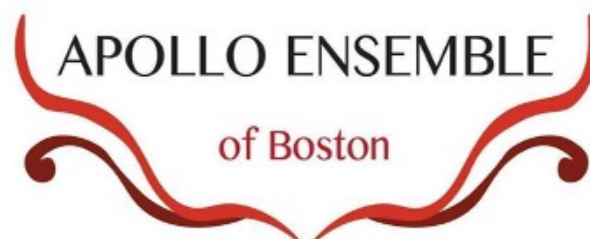
SCHUMANN
– SYMPHONY NO. 1 "SPRING"

The Boston Foundation
Mass Cultural Council

Sounds of Spring

Elias Miller, Music Director

Saturday, 9 May 2026 at 7:30PM
St. John's Episcopal Church
1 Roanoke Ave, Jamaica Plain, MA



Violin I

Thomas Cooper, Concertmaster
Julia Wong
Flora Hollifield
Michael Sherman
Elizabeth Cai
Jad Hilal
Mary Davis

Violin II

Sarah McGuire, Principal
Stephanie Doong
Andrew To
Sam Wiseman
Olivia de Geofroy
Yoko Nakatani
Chris Brown

Viola

Grace Wodarczyk, Principal
Hannah Hooven
Stephen Moss
Jeff Bigler
Peter Chew
Brandon Lam
Nicole Micheroni

Cello

Yoon Jung Lee, Principal
Iverson Eliopoulos
Maddie Tucker
Nate Steele (C)
Meghan Leong
Amy Nolan

Bass

Dylan Rader, Principal
Josiah Baiza
Martha Davis

Flute

Michael Tabak (S, B)
Emilia Lew (C)

Oboe

Lindsey Stein (S, C)
Joel Bard (B)

Clarinet

Yhasmin Valenzuela-Blanchard (S)
Danbi Jo Choy (B, C)

Bassoon

Sarah Prabala (S)
Susanna Dang (B, C)

French Horn

Jonathan McGarry (S, B)
Jang Soo Lee
David Simpson (C)
Kathleen Keen

Trumpet

Emily Languedoc (S)
Edward Mason (B, C)

Trombone

Sum Ho Tsui (S, C)
Rick Copeland
Liam Tierney

Timpani

Eric Cortell (S, B)
Dave Penn (C)

Percussion

Eric Cortell (C)
Dave Penn (S)

Assistant Conductor

Reuben Stern

Orchestra Manager

Michael Tabak

Orchestra Librarian

Mia Fasanello

S = Principal, Schumann

B = Principal, Bruch

C = Principal, Chaves

The Apollo Ensemble of Boston

Elias Miller, Music Director

~ Program ~

cloud of unknowing

Ethan Chaves

World Premiere

Violin Concerto No. 1 in G minor, Op. 26

Max Bruch

I. Vorspiel: Allegro moderato

II. Adagio

III. Finale: Allegro energico

Calvin Alexander, violin

~ Intermission ~

Symphony No. 1 in B-flat major, Op. 38, "Spring"

Robert Schumann

I. Andante un poco maestoso – Allegro molto vivace

II. Larghetto

III. Scherzo: molto vivace

IV. Allegro animato e grazioso

~ Biographical Notes ~

Composer:

Ethan Antonio Chaves (b. 2003) is a composer, performer, and improviser from Charlton, Massachusetts. He is currently a senior at Harvard College, where he concentrates in Music and Philosophy.

He has studied composition with Chaya Czernowin, Michael Gandolfi, John Harbison, and Julian Anderson, and violin and viola with Joel Smirnoff, Malcolm Lowe, and Genevieve Strosser.

Recent and upcoming projects include the premiere of his commissioned orchestral work *cloud of unknowing* with the Apollo Ensemble of Boston; new works for loadbang at Divergent Studio and the United States premiere of his Blodgett Composition Prize-winning string quartet *MIXED SIGNALS*—by the Parker Quartet in October 2026. He will also be featured at Bang on a Can at MASS MoCA this summer and will be in residence as a fellow at TAK LAB in New York City with the TAK Ensemble.

Chaves has attended the Valencia International Music Festival and the Darmstadt Ferienkurse, where he studied with Georges Aperghis and Genevieve Strosser and performed in Tyshawn Sorey's Autoschediasms improvisation orchestra.

His honors include the 2026 Louis Sudler Award, the 2025 Robert Levin Award—Harvard's highest honor for an undergraduate musician—and first prize in the Bach Society Orchestra Composition Competition. Additional distinctions include the Bohemians Club Award for Composition, the Davison Fellowship for Travel in Music, and recognition from the American Viola Society and National YoungArts.

Chaves has appeared as a performer across the United States, Europe, and Asia. Recent highlights include Hans Tutschku's *einst mit dir* at the Goethe-Institut Boston with soprano Tony Arnold and performances at the Darmstadt Ferienkurse. He is also active as an improviser, often performing on instruments of his own construction, including *CAN.space* (2025) for four amplified Diet Dr. Pepper cans.

Soloist:

Violinist **Calvin Alexander** is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Social Studies and Comparative Literature at Harvard University, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa as one of twenty-four juniors in his class and served as Concertmaster of the Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra and Assistant Music Director of the Harvard College Opera. He is also pursuing a Master of Music with Donald Weilerstein at the New England Conservatory on a full-tuition scholarship, where his quartet performed in Jordan Hall as an Honors Ensemble.

A top-prize winner of the Tibor Varga Junior, Cooper, and YoungArts competitions, Alexander has appeared as soloist with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra, Korean Chamber Orchestra, Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, Sion Festival Orchestra, Canton Symphony Orchestra, Longview Symphony Orchestra, Marshall Symphony Orchestra, and Shreveport

Symphony Orchestra. He has appeared at the Rockport Chamber Music Festival, Perlman Music Program, Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, and Nume Festival, where he collaborated with Itzhak Perlman, David Shifrin, and members of the Juilliard and Parker Quartets. He performed with the Boston-based chamber orchestra A Far Cry in 2026 and will join the Boston Chamber Music Society as a guest artist in the 2026–2027 season. His mentors include Catherine Cho, Merry Peckham, Itzhak Perlman, Jan Sloman, Mai Motobuchi, and the Brentano Quartet, whose influence he brings into his work with Harvard's HARMONY Mentoring program, a non-profit that provides free musical education to over 100 low-income students in Cambridge.

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

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