

~ **The Apollo Ensemble Presents** ~
The Music of Mozart, Bach, and Haydn

Elias Miller
CONDUCTOR

Christopher Grills
HARPSICHORD

Liyuan Xie
VIOLIN

Michael Tabak
FLUTE

HAYDN
BACH
MOZART

APOLLO ENSEMBLE
of Boston

THE APOLLO ENSEMBLE

Saturday, December 3, 2022 8:00PM

Location:
St. John's Episcopal Church
1 Roanoke Ave, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

Program:
Haydn: Symphony No. 44 in E minor "Trauersymphonie"
J.S. Bach: Brandenburg Concerto No. 5
Mozart: Symphony No. 40 in G minor

ST. JOHN'S

f Apollo Ensemble of Boston

https://apolloensembleofboston.com/

The Apollo Ensemble of Boston
Elias Miller, Cofounder & Conductor
Michael Tabak, Cofounder

Saturday, 3 December 2022 at 8:00PM
St. John's Episcopal Church – Boston, MA

The Apollo Ensemble of Boston

Elias Miller, Conductor

Violin I

Liyuan Xie (Concertmaster)
Amanda Wang^ω
Martha McGee
Anne McKee
Nancy Goodwin

Violin II

Darwin Chang (Principal)
Lorenzo Gallegos
Regina Cheung
Sam Wiseman
Yoko Nakatani

Viola

Ruth Mangan (Principal)
Yen-Chi Chen^ω
Jeff Bigler

Cello

Lin Georgis^ω (Principal)
Amy Nolan

Bass

Ray Lesser^ω (Principal)

Flute

Michael Tabak^δ

Oboe

Joel Bard^δ
Abigail Murphy^ψ

Clarinet

Yhasmin Valenzuela-Blanchard^δ
Kiera Thompson

Bassoon

Laura Reyes^δ
Dawn Kumiega^ψ

Horn

Jessica Appolinario^δ
Nicholas Kneupper^ψ

δ – First in Mozart: Symphony No. 40

ψ – First in Haydn: Symphony No. 44

ω – First in Bach: Brandenburg Concerto No. 5

The Apollo Ensemble of Boston

Elias Miller, Conductor

~ Program ~

Symphony No. 44 in E minor

Joseph Haydn

I. – Allegro con brio

(1732 – 1809)

II. – Menuetto e Trio

III. – Adagio

IV. – Presto

Brandenburg Concerto No. 5 in D major

J.S. Bach

I. Allegro

(1685 – 1750)

II. Affetuoso

III. Allegro

Christopher Grills, Harpsichord

Liyuan Xie, Violin

Michael Tabak, Flute

~Intermission~

Symphony No. 40 in G minor

W.A. Mozart

I. – Molto allegro

(1756 – 1791)

II. – Andante

III. – Menuetto. Allegretto – Trio

IV. – Finale. Allegro assai

~ 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 and co-director Christopher Grills 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, Laurie Rogers, and his father, David Alan Miller.

Cofounder and Flute Soloist

Michael Tabak studied flute, theory, and ensemble at the Juilliard School of Music Preparatory Division where he was rated "Exceptional" by the woodwind faculty jury and was principal flute and soloist multiple times with the orchestra. He has been principal flute of orchestras including the National High School Symphony at Interlochen, the Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra, the Fine Arts Symphony, the Boston Chamber Symphony, the Apollo Ensemble of Boston, and others. An avid chamber musician, he is a founding member of the Weston Wind Quintet, the Atrium Winds, and the Aujourd'hui Ensemble. He has displayed a talent for assembling orchestras and chamber music groups from scratch. While in high school, he organized and was flutist of the Long Island Wind Quintet, whose oboist became principal oboe of the Munich Philharmonic and whose clarinetist became principal clarinet of the Atlanta Symphony. He recruited the members of the Boston Chamber Symphony from its inception in 2012 through 2016, and has recruited the members of the Apollo Ensemble of Boston since its inception in 2018. He often expands his chamber music groups to play pieces for larger ensembles. Live recordings of many of those concerts are available, free of charge at <https://soundcloud.com/wwq/sets>.

Harpichord Soloist

One of The Diapason magazine's "20 [leading musicians] Under 30", **Christopher Grills** is leading a multifaceted career as clavichordist, harpichordist, church and chamber musician, music director, and tuning and temperament scholar. He is easily identified by the white cotton gloves he wears while playing the keyboard to mitigate the effects of palmar

hyperhidrosis (excessive hand sweat) from which he has suffered since childhood. Grills has directed and produced critically-acclaimed North American premiere performances of large-scale 18th century masterworks with his good friend Elias Miller, through the Harvard Early Music Society. Among these include the period instrument premiere of Hasse's opera *Alcide al Bivio*, for which Grills composed the cadenzas and da capo ornaments, and Telemann's *Johannespassion* TWV 5:30, the performance of which was featured in the Boston Globe and positively reviewed by the Boston Music Intelligencer.

Grills' affinity for the clavichord has brought him attention on the international music scene. In 2013, he performed on the clavichord at Musica Antiqua a Magnano in Italy, debuted with the Boston Clavichord Society in March 2017, and performed three concerts at the Nordic Historical Keyboard Festival in Finland in May 2017. He earned his Master of Music in Historical Performance at Boston University under the tutelage of Peter Sykes, and received a full-tuition scholarship to pursue his Doctor of Musical Arts at the same institution. He is the first and only student on the North American continent to pursue graduate studies specifically in clavichord, and has been featured in interviews and articles on the instrument in the Joplin Globe and BCS Tangents. He has studied with early keyboard masters from around the world including John Moraitis, Skip Sempé, Mitzi Meyerson, Anna Maria McElwain, Bernard Brauchli, Charlotte Mattax-Moersch, Arthur Haas, Vivian Montgomery and Jory Vinikour.

Grills maintains a busy schedule as a collaborative keyboardist and performs harpsichord continuo with the Harvard Baroque Chamber Orchestra. His performance with Harvard College Opera's production of *Le Nozze di Figaro* was praised by the Intelligencer as "playful and inventive continuo playing [that] bridged the gap between pit and stage, allowing the harpsichord to become nearly an extra on the set through tasteful improvisations that mirrored the characters' moods." He has collaborated with such names as Robert Mealy, Phoebe Carrai, Celine Ricci, Edicson Ruiz, and Sarah Darling. As Acting Director of Music at Plymouth Congregational Church in Belmont, Massachusetts, he reinstated a church orchestra and a children's choir. He has been hired to tune harpsichords for such names as Nicholas McGegan and Jory Vinikour, and for numerous

organizations including Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra, Illinois Symphony Orchestra, Illinois Wesleyan University, Longy School of Music of Bard College, Amherst Early Music and Boston Opera Collaborative.

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.

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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Elizabeth Cai and Community Music Center Boston for the use of their school as a rehearsal space.

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