
ALEA III
2018 – 2019 SEASON

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Memorial Gathering
Saturday, April 13, 2019, 1:00 p.m.
Annunciation Cathedral
514 Parker Street, Boston

A celebration of Theodore Antoniou's life and work.

Music from Ukraine and Russia
Friday, May 3, 2019, 8:00 p.m.
Marsh Chapel
735 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston
Admission is Free

Ukrainian pianist and conductor **Alex Poliykov**
presents a program featuring works by Ukrainian and Russian Composers.

Europe Day 2019
Thursday, May 9, 2019, 8:00 p.m.
Old South Church
645 Boylston Street, Boston
Admission is Free

Curated by the
Consulate General of Ireland in Boston

An evening with music to celebrate Europe Day, May 9th, 2019

ALEA III 2019 Summer Meetings
August 23 – September 1, 2019
Island of Naxos, Greece

A workshop for composers, performers, audio/visual and other artists
to present their work and collaborate in new projects to be
featured in 2019, 2020 and 2021 events.
Daily meetings and concerts.

Forty-first Season
2018 - 2019

ALEA III

Theodore Antoniou,
Founder

Contemporary Music Ensemble
in residence at Boston University since 1979

Pluck'n'Bow

Marsh Chapel
735 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston

Wednesday, April 3, 2019

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10 Country Lane
Sharon, MA 02067
(781) 793-8902

aleaiii@bu.edu

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855 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, MA 02215

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ALEA III was conceived by Boston University faculty and has been operating in affiliation with and with major intellectual, artistic and financial contributions from Boston University faculty, students and alumni.

ALEA III STAFF

Leonidas Raisis, *Office Manager and Concert Coordinator*

The Greek word *alea* taken from Homer, means "to wander." In Latin, it refers to "dice used for playing at games of chance." The term *aleatoric music* indicates music based upon the principles of indeterminacy as evidenced by certain random and/or statistical procedures of composition. In regard to the ensemble, *aleatoric* is concerned with the expression of a multiplicity of musical directions, historical styles, and performance practices.

- - Theodore Antoniou

www.aleaiii.com

ALEA III

2018 – 2019 SEASON

Young Composers Workshop 2019

February 15-24, 2019

Athens, Greece

The second phase of an ongoing project that started in August 2018 and will be completed with a USA tour in Spring of 2021.

Five young composers collaborate with the guitar duo **Alexandra Christodimou** and **Yannis Petridis** to produce new works for two guitars.

**Ty Katsarelis, René Nikolaou, Dimitris Makris
Maddie Stephenson, Aidan Ramsay**

Music from Portugal
Friday, March 22, 2019, 8:00 p.m.

Marsh Chapel
735 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston
Admission is Free

An evening featuring works by Portuguese composers from the early 20th century until our days, as part of the Instituto Camões 2019 season in the US.

Curated by pianist **Inês Andrade**

Pluck 'n' Bow
Wednesday, April 3, 2019, 8:00 p.m.

Marsh Chapel
735 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston
Admission is Free

An evening featuring music for guitar and strings

Dimitris Kotronakis, guitar

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ALEA III

Theodore Antoniou, *Founder*

Pluck 'n' Bow

Wednesday, April 3, 2019, 8:00 p.m.

Marsh Chapel
735 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston

An evening featuring music
for guitar and strings

PROGRAM

Toryanse Tales (2003)

Atanas Ourkouzounov
Bulgaria, b. 1970

La Espiral Eterna (1971)

Leo Brouwer
Cuba, b. 1939

Study no. 21

Study no. 9

Study no. 19

Mario Gangi
Italy, 1923-2010

Kaygorod (1997)

Balalaika (1989)

Štěpán Rak
Czech Republic, b. 1945

----- *Intermission* -----

The English Concerto (2000)

Vojislav Ivanovic
Bosnia and Herzegovina, b. 1959

- I. Another One Bites the Dust
- II. Angie
- III. Walking on the Moon
- IV. While my Guitar Gently Weeps
- V. Aqualung

Lament for the Balkans (1999)

Apostolos Paraskevas
Greece, b. 1964

Dimitris Kotronakis
Guitar

Geneviève Leclair
Conductor

Ann-Marie Iacoviello
Soprano

Klaudia Szlachta
Violin

Aija Reke
Violin

Yoni Battat
Viola

Hyun-ji Kwon
Violoncello

Michael Hartt
Double bass

ALEA III

Alea III is the contemporary music ensemble in residence at Boston University, a group devoted to promoting, playing, and teaching music of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Founded in 1978, Alea III is the third such group organized by Theodore Antoniou. The ensemble is consistent with the music it embraces--flexible in size, open to experimentation and exploration. Over the years, Alea III has offered world-première opportunities for dozens of contemporary composers, often under the composer's direction, and with extended program notes or comments. The group has performed 1,538 works by 871 composers--most of them living. Frequent international touring has enhanced the relationships of American performers with their colleagues and composers from other parts of the world. With its inspiration, several other contemporary groups have been formed, offering growing opportunity to young composers and musicians to play and comprehend contemporary music.

-Theodore Antoniou, *Founder*

Theodore Antoniou, *Founder*



With great sadness we would like to share that Theodore Antoniou passed away in his sleep early in the morning of Wednesday, December 26, 2018, in Athens. A memorial gathering will take place on Saturday, April 13, 1:00 - 2:30 pm at the Annunciation Cathedral, 514 Parker Street, Boston, MA 02120. The Cathedral is located near the Museum of

Fine Arts and Northeastern University. Free parking is available.

We are gathering memorabilia to:

- Compile and print quotes by colleagues, students, performers, composers and friends of Theodore,
- Create a 10' film of short video clips (up to 30 seconds long) showing people talking about him (the recording could happen on a cell phone),
- Create a slide show of photos that will run as background during the memorial.

Should you wish to contribute to any of the above, please email your material until April 3 to aleaIII@bu.edu

Theodore founded ALEA III at Boston University in 1979, and served as the artistic director from its beginning until his passing. He was a rare and exceptional human being who embodied a selfless commitment to promoting the future of music, and whose influence was profound. With unlimited generosity and endless energy, he contributed in extraordinary and unprecedented ways to the training of thousands of composers and performers worldwide. Gifted, charismatic and always kind, he touched and changed the lives of everyone who had the good fortune to meet and work with him. As a composer of an artistically significant, extensive catalogue of compositions, he embraced a selfless vision of what it means to be a composer, performer and music educator. His vision will always inspire us and lead us to the future. We will miss him greatly.

Tonight's soloist



Dimitris Kotronakis is a classical guitarist and musicologist based in Athens, Greece. He was born in Heraklion, Creta (Greece) in 1973. He begun studies in classical guitar at the age of seven, and graduated from the International Conservatory of Athens with a guitar diploma in 1992. He attended post-graduate studies in classical guitar at the Athens Conservatory, graduating again in 1996. He also undertook advanced theoretical and musicological studies that led to a degree in Musicology from the University of Athens in 1996. He holds a doctorate from the same

University, while the particular focus of his doctoral studies was on the world of guitar in Greece.

He is a multiple prize winner in many guitar competitions in Greece, Spain and Romania. He also won the major honorary mention award at the 12th Web Concert Hall competition (USA – March 2011), among 39 competitors of all classical instruments. He has recorded seven albums of solo and concerto repertoire, mainly for Soundset Recordings, EMI Classics and Clear Note Records.

He has performed in numerous guitar recitals throughout Europe and North and South America; he has also co-operated as a soloist with the Philharmonic Orchestra of Kielce (Poland), the Orchestra Artave (Portugal), the Philharmonic Orchestra of Craiova (Romania), the National Symphonic Orchesta (Greece), the “Camerata” Orchestra (Greece), the “Orchestra of Colors” (Greece) and the “Nicolaoas Mantzaros” Orchestra (Greece).

He has so far recorded seven CDs for IDAIA records, MBI records, Clear Note, EMI Classics and Soundset Records.

No less than the prestigious publication based in the UK Classical Guitar Magazine said about Dimitris' recordings, “...the speed at which Kotronakis can “knock out” some of this music is quite breathtaking...this is a startlingly exciting recording which captures the amazing artistry of a very distinct player”. Dr Albert Kunze wrote in the Soundboard magazine: “...He sound like a one-man Quintet of the Hot Club of Paris...Kotronakis can really fly around the guitar”. The American Record Guide raved of him, “Fascinated Performance... Kotronakis plays with admirable conviction and control, with electrifying results”.

Tonight's conductor



Canadian conductor **Geneviève Leclair** was appointed Music Director of *Parkway Concert Orchestra* in 2013 and Assistant Professor at *Berklee College of Music* in 2016. She is also a guest conductor with *The National Ballet of Canada* and *Northern Ballet* (UK), and a member of the Board of Directors of the *Conductors Guild*.

Equally at home in the symphony, ballet and opera worlds, she was Assistant Conductor and later Guest Conductor for *Boston Ballet* from 2010 to 2017, where she conducted main stage productions on a regular basis.

Ms. Leclair was awarded the 2017 American Prize in Conducting, college/university division and took 2nd place in the professional orchestra division. In 2010, she was honored to receive the Sir Ernest MacMillan Memorial Foundation Award in Orchestral Conducting.

In recent years, she has had the opportunity to guest conduct various orchestras both in Canada and the United States, including *Orchestre symphonique du Saguenay-Lac-St-Jean*, *McGill Chamber Orchestra*, *Symphony New Hampshire*, *Syracuse University Symphony Orchestra* and *New England Conservatory Chamber and Youth Philharmonic Orchestras*. Her performances have been hailed as “impeccable” (Boston Phoenix), “ravishing” and of “exemplary pacing and reading” (Hugh Fraser) while her conducting style is praised for its “verve and precision”, “confident dynamics and tempos, crisp rhythms, and crystalline phrasing creating powerful forward momentum” (Carla DeFord).

Ms. Leclair holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Orchestral Conducting from Boston University under the tutelage of Maestro David Hoose. She had previously obtained Bachelor's and Master's degrees in flute performance at Université de Montréal, the latter under the supervision of Mr. Denis Bluteau, former associate principal flutist of *Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal*. She also studied choral conducting with Dr. Ann Howard Jones and perfected her art through public and private master classes led by Boris Brodt, Kenneth Kiesler, Carl Topilow, Susan Hoepfner, Camille Churchfield, Lise Daoust and Jeanne Baxtresser. In November 2010, she was invited by the *National Arts Center Orchestra* (Ottawa) to attend the first edition of their Canadian Conductors Workshop.

In addition to her career as a performer and teacher, Ms. Leclair is also a published author of music literature and theory exercise books, *Les Devoirs du prof Rémi / Prof. Solfa's Workbooks*, through Les Éditions École de musique Vincent-d'Indy.

www.genevieveleclair.com

Tonight's program

Atanas Ourkouzounov is one of most interesting personalities in the Bulgarian contemporary music. Guitar player and composer with a rich musical background, he is considered one of the main authors in the domain of the new generation's music for guitar. The wide inspiration of his musical language is the result of a subtle use of the forms, an endless and original rhythmical search and a color work which leads the guitar to explore new territories and sonorities.

Atanas Ourkouzounov grew up in Sofia, Bulgaria, where he began guitar studies with Dimitar Doitchinov. Starting 1992 he continued his studies in France with Arnaud Dumond, Alexandre Lagoya and Olivier Chassain. He studied guitar, chamber music, analysis, ethnomusicology and improvisation at the Paris Conservatory and graduated in 1997 with unanimous vote the first prize in guitar.

As composer he has been awarded several prizes (Michele Pittaluga – Città di Alessandria - Italy, 1997; Paolo Barsacchi - Italy, 1997; I fronimo – Suvini Zerboni - Italy, 1998; Ciudad de Montevideo - Uruguay, 1998; Carrefour mondial des guitares - Martinique, 1998). Ourkouzounov has written over 100 works for guitar—solos, duos, trios, quartets, instrumental ensembles, and four concerti—a number of which have won important prizes, and a majority of which have been published by leading publishers (Doberman-Yppan, Henry Lemoine). Several internationally recognized performers have played his works. Among them Zoran Dukic, Denis Azabagic, Goran Krivokapić, Scott Tennant, Shin-ichi Fukuda, Alberto Vingiano, Eduardo Isaac, Pablo Marquez, Antigoni Goni, Duo Gruber-Maklar, Miscelanea Guitar Quartet, Los Angeles Guitar Quartet, Thibault Cauvin, Dimitri Illarionov, Jérémy Jouve, Gabriel Bianco, Carlos Perez, Juan Carlos Laguna, Thomas Muller-Pering, Duo Palissandre, Ensemble Nomad, Kostas Tosidis, Dimitris Kotronakis, Patrick Kearney, etc.

Atanas Ourkouzounov performs widely as soloist and with the Japanese flautist Mie Ogura. In addition to eight CDs on which Ourkouzounov plays, more than 60 CDs of his music performed by others are currently available. Ourkouzounov is also in demand as a teacher and juror at conferences and conservatories in Europe, USA and Japan and he holds a full-time position at the Conservatoire “Maurice Ravel” in Paris.



Composer, guitarist and music director, **Leo Brouwer** was born in Havana, Cuba in 1939. He studied with Isaac Nicola, Pujol's pupil and specializing in composition, completed his studies at the Julliard School of Music and at Hartt College of Music. In 1987 Brouwer was selected, along with Isaac Stern and Alan Danielou, to be honorable member of UNESCO in recognition for his music career - an honor that he shares with Menuhin, Shankar, Karajan, Sutherland and other musical luminaries.

Brouwer has conducted orchestras around the world including the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, the Scottish National Symphony Orchestra, the BBC Concert Orchestra and the Mexico National Symphony Orchestra. He has been heard as both composer and classical guitarist at many major international music events and his *Cancion de gesta* (Epic Poem) has been performed by orchestras throughout the world.

His discography comprises over a hundred commercial recordings and his works have been recorded by John Williams, Julian Bream, Franz Bruggen and Harry Sparnay as well as The Toronto Festival, the London Sinfonietta and the Liège festival. Brouwer has also written many film scores including *A Walk in the Clouds* and Alfonso Arau's internationally acclaimed *Like Water for Chocolate*.

He has served as General Manager of the Cuban National Symphony Orchestra for ten years and since 1992 conducted the Córdoba Orchestra in Spain. In 1998 Brouwer was awarded the Manuel de Falla prize and in 1999 the National music prize for Cuba. In recent years, Brouwer has continued his unique series of guitar concertos (Concierto No.7 "La Habana", Concierto No.8 "Concierto Cantata de Perugia", and "Concierto de Benicassim") as well as writing for a rich variety of other ensembles, most notably his horn trio of 2002, *Pictures of Another Exhibition*. His latest concerto for guitar is his *Double Concerto* (Book of Signs), premiered by John Williams and Costas Cotsiolis on 27th January 2004 at the Megaron in Athens. Leo Brouwer has now returned to live in Havana. <http://www.musicalesclassical.com/composer/long-bio/leo-brouwer>



The Italian **Mario Gangi** (1923-2010) was a pupil of his father Alfredo, a musician and painter. He studied guitar and double bass in Rome and performed extensively in Italy. His recordings are under Cetra and R.C.A. Victor. He taught guitar in the conservatories of Naples and then Rome. Many important performers and composers can be mentioned among his pupils. His best-known works are the *Suita Italiana* and the *Suita Spagnola* for two guitars as well as a larger number of pieces inspired by jazz-blues idioms. He composed the *22 Studies for Guitar* towards the climax of his professional career as one of the most renowned

guitarists in postwar Italy. The *Studies* were given first performances by his fellow Italians Ennio Porrino and Goffredo Petrassi among others.



Štěpán Rak (born August 8, 1945) is a Rusyn, Ukraine-born Czech classical guitarist and composer, Professor of Guitar at the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague. A world-class virtuoso, his life and artistic path has been well documented in encyclopedias, TV interviews in the Czech Republic and abroad, as well as radio programs and in many other printed publications. He maintains an active performing career which has taken him to over 75 countries around the globe. He is well known for the technical innovations that he uses in his compositions.



The music of **Vojislav Ivanovic**, composer and guitarist, is one of astonishing diversity, ranging from contemporary classical and jazz thru fusion and rock to traditional music of the world. Born in Sarajevo where he started playing guitar at the age of 10, Vojislav acquired highest academic degrees both in guitar at the Athens Conservatory with Costas Cotsiolis and in composition at the University of Sarajevo with Vojin Komadina. From the early 1980s he performs regularly both home and abroad, solo and with orchestras including Trinity College Strings (UK), St. George Strings, Camerata Serbica and Macedonia Jeunesse Musicale Symphonic.

His diverse compositional output, which includes music for solo and accompanied instruments, choral, chamber and orchestral works, has been featured in programs of distinguished guitarists all over the globe as well as orchestras such as the New Russia Symphony-Yuri Bashmet, Zagreb Soloists, Vienna Pons Artis Orchestra and the Tijuana Festival Orchestra. As a film composer Vojislav has several documentaries and feature films to his credit out of which *Halda* (1991) won the prestigious "Prix d'Italia" award.

He has recorded with world renowned Jazz musicians such as double-bass player Arild Andersen, saxophonist Bendik Hofseth, drummer Paul Vertico (ex Pat Metheny group) and trumpeter Paolo Fresu. In 2008 he founded the "Levante Guitar Duo" with his wife Aleksandra Ivanovic who accompanies Vojislav in a program that includes works specially written for the Duo. They have appeared all over Europe and Ivanovic released their highly praised CD *Levantine Journey* (GAF 2011). The Duo's American debut is due with extensive tours throughout 2019/2020.

In addition to his performance tours, composing and recording, Vojislav Ivanovic is highly sought after for his teaching and master classes in composition and guitar and is a member of juries at international festivals and competitions. Currently he is teaching guitar at the Music Academy of East Sarajevo. Vojislav is founder and director of the International Guitar Festival Guitar United held every year in Sarajevo East since 2016. Besides his own releases various artists have released over 20 CDS world-wide that include his works. His music is published by Chanterelle Zimmerman and Doberman Yppan. <http://www.vojislavivanovic.com/about/>



Apostolos Paraskevas is a classical guitarist and composer as well as an award-winning film director and producer. He has received multiple international awards for his compositions and was nominated for a Grammy Award. He is the only guitarist ever to have a major orchestral piece performed at Carnegie Hall under the direction of Lukas Foss—and the only musician who has performed there in a Grim Reaper outfit. He has made over a dozen recordings of his music and his orchestral music has been performed around the world by numerous symphony orchestras including Albany, Boston Landmarks, Boston University, Newton, National Festival, Atlantic, Odessa, National Greek, Cyprus, Florida International University, Thessaloniki Municipal Symphony orchestras. He was the founder and served for 16 years as the artistic director of the International Guitar Congress-Festival of Corfu, Greece. He is a voting member of the Recording Academy (Grammys).

After his undergraduate music studies in Volos he pursued advanced studies in classical guitar with Costas Cotsiolis (diploma, 1990) and Leo Brouwer (Havana 1984, 1988), as well as postgraduate studies in composition with Lukas Foss and Theodore Antoniou (DMA in composition, Boston University, 1998). Paraskevas embarked on a successful career as a guitar soloist and contemporary composer, achieving distinctions in both disciplines: Grammy nomination for *Chase Dance* (Bridge Records, 1999); first prize for *Night Wanderings* (Lukas Foss Composition Competition, 2000); first prize for *Phygein Adynaton* (National Composers Conference, 1997); and numerous prestigious commissions, performances, and publications. Following teaching posts at Northeastern and Boston Universities, Paraskevas has taught since 2001 at the Berklee College of Music in Boston (professor of composition and classical guitar). Although he was struck by focal hand dystonia in 2009, he recovered in 2013 after reconstructing his playing technique.

His eclectic compositional style arises as an idiosyncratic integration of seemingly conflicting influences – from avant-garde approaches to harmonic structure, form, and timbre, to pop-folk modal and rhythmical concepts – amalgamated into a personal evocative musical language, characterized by rhythmic verve, melodic grace, dramatic (and sometimes unexpectedly humorous) gestures, and ritualistic or theatrical elements. The latter feature has also led Paraskevas to the creation of films, notably the acclaimed *I Finally Did It* (Gold award, California Film Awards 2010), dealing wittily with Death, a recurring extra-musical theme in his music.

Publishers: Bèrben (Ancona, Italy), Clear Note (USA), Santerelle/Allegra Musikverlag (Erzhausen, Germany), Papagrigoriou-Nakas (Athens, Greece), Centaur Records, Bridge Records (USA).

The Groves Dictionary of Music - Costas Tsougras

“The **Lament for the Balkans for guitar, strings and mezzo soprano** is my third work with a concertante attitude towards the guitar. It was premiered at the Corfu Guitar Festival in 1999 under the direction of Theodore Antoniou with the composer as soloist.

The initial idea and inspiration came to me after the tragic events in the former Yugoslavia those years. The guitar has a narrative role while the string orchestra expresses visions of laments here and there. At the work a soprano is heard from almost far a way lamenting the victims of another war.

The tragic situation of all wars in this world compels me as a creator and performer to express feelings through my music. For this important reason and with the hope that my music would be able to transfer a message against war and to evoke feelings towards peace, I composed *Lament*. As a composer, I think that I have the obligation and, at the same time, the right to fight using my weapons against any war that causes violence, abandonment, and misery.”

Tonight's performers



Ann-Marie Iacoviello, soprano, has been praised for “church-bell purity and tonal richness” (South Florida Classical Review) and the “perfectly pointed voice” (Boston Musical Intelligencer). Ann-Marie is a Massachusetts native, and currently a graduate student at Boston University where she studies with Phyllis Hoffman. Ann-Marie received her Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance from Ithaca College. This June, Ann-Marie will make her role debut as Queen of the Night in *Die Zauberflöte* as an Apprentice Artist with the Miami Music Festival. Most recently, Ann-Marie was seen as Selena St. George in the New England premiere of Tobias Picker’s *Dolores Claiborne* with the Boston University Opera

Institute. Other credits with the Boston University Opera Institute include the unnamed Girl in Tom Cipullo’s *After Life*, Emmie (*Albert Herring*), and Ensemble (*Pelleas et Mélisande*). Other roles include Najade (*Ariadne auf Naxos*) with the Miami Music Festival, Flora (*The Turn of the Screw*) with DC Public Opera, and Johanna (*Sweeney Todd*) with Macabre Theater Ensemble. On the concert stage, Ann-Marie has performed the soprano solo in Ešenvalds’ *Passion and Resurrection* with the Boston University Symphonic Chorus and Symphony Orchestra Strings and was featured as the soprano soloist in the Bach Magnificat with the Ithaca Baroque Orchestra. Ann-Marie was a finalist in the 2017 Edward M. Murray International Competition of Voice with Opera Ithaca and received first prize in the CNYFL-NATS competition 4th/5th year division. Local scheduled events include *Pluck’n’Bow* with ALEA III, Cricket/Chicken/Cub in *The Cunning Little Vixen* with Boston University Opera Institute, and her Master’s Degree Recital at Boston University.



Klaudia Szlachta is an award-winning violinist who has both performed and taught internationally. A Polish national, Ms. Szlachta was a scholarship recipient, earning her Bachelor of Music degree from Boston Conservatory, summa cum laude, with Professor Magdalena Suchecka Richter as her teacher, and her Masters and Doctorate of Musical Arts degrees at Boston University under the tutelage of Professor Yuri Mazurkevich. Ms. Szlachta was invited by the Institute and Festival of Contemporary Performance in New York City to perform Luciano Berio’s *Sequenza* and Elliott Carter’s *Triple Duo*.

Recently, she returned to New York to give the World Premiere of *Six Miniatures*, composed for her by Thomas Weaver. Ms. Szlachta also appeared in the prestigious Convergence Ensemble Chamber concert series with Michelle LaCourse, performed *Tracer* by Richard Cornell, and showcased a new composition by Ketty Nez at the Festival of New Music in Florida. She has also had the privilege to collaborate on stage with Menahem Pressler, Joseph Silverstein, Lucia Lin and Gila Goldstein. Locally, she has performed with Victor Rosenbaum and Music for Peace, Alea III, Cantata Singers, Odyssey Opera and the Boston Modern Orchestra Project, the latter of which recently invited her to perform in a concertmaster position at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. Currently, Ms. Szlachta is on the faculty of the School of Music at Boston University, the New England Conservatory’s Preparatory School, the Rivers School Conservatory, the Intensive Community Program and BUTI’s summer program at Tanglewood. She is also the Director of the Violin Workshop at Tanglewood.



Aija Reke is a violinist, chamber musician and pedagogue. She graduated Boston University (MM, 2015), USA with CFA Full Tuition Scholarship and Rotterdam Conservatory (BM, 2013) in the Netherlands. Winner of “Solo Bach Competition” at Boston University (2014), a member of Pi Kappa Lambda, American National Music Honor Society since 2015 and a recipient of the Boston Latvian Cultural Heritage award (2014). She has performed extensively in Europe and North America as a soloist, chamber musician and in numerous

orchestras. Aija is a founding member of “Theia Piano Trio”, which toured in the USA, as well as the violinist of “Baltic Duo”.

She performs regularly with ALEA III – Contemporary Music Ensemble in Residence at Boston University, as a first violinist of the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra, with Boston Modern Orchestra Project and is a Guest concertmaster of Wellesley Symphony Orchestra under direction of Max Hobart.

Her second instrument is baroque violin. Aija has performed with Harvard Baroque Chamber Orchestra, Collegium Musicum Riga and Collegium Musicum of University of Toronto (Canada).

Her collaboration with several composers led to multiple world premieres, including microtonal *Musings* (2013) for violin solo by Lara Poe, *double images* (2017) by Ketty Nez, *Latvian in New York* (2017) by Mārīte Dombrovska (dedicated to “Baltic Duo”) and *Dawn* (2018) by Jānis Porietis (dedicated to “Baltic Duo”). Composer Lara Poe wrote a Violin Concerto for Aija Reke. Composer John Manuel Pacheco dedicated his Second Violin Sonata to Aija Reke.

As a passionate pedagogue, she has taught in public and private schools such as “El Sistema” program, Brookline Public Schools and the Piano School. Aija is Artistic Coordinator of High Street Concert Series - concert series that have monthly concerts at Latvian Lutheran Church of Boston.



Yoni Avi Battat is an adventurous and collaborative violist living in Boston, MA. An active chamber musician, Yoni has performed in a variety of ensembles, bringing his explorative and inventive approach to audiences in the U.S., Europe and Israel. As a core member of the Virtuoso Soloists Ensemble, Yoni has recorded and performed newly commissioned works alongside standard repertoire to expand the scope of classical music for all listeners. The group has toured in Northern Italy and Portugal, and has served as ensemble-in-residence at the Cabot Theater and the Bendada Music Festival. In January 2018, Virtuoso Soloists released their first commercial recording, a collaboration with the Italian composer Mario Pagotto. Yoni has also participated in many other chamber groups, receiving guidance from many acclaimed musicians, including members of the Emerson, Lydian, Pacifica, Muir, JACK, Chiara and Borromeo string quartets. Yoni has served as principal violist for the Commonwealth Lyric Theater and the Cape Ann Symphony as well as engagements with the New Haven Symphony, Boston Philharmonic Orchestra, and many others.

Outside of classical music, Yoni is an accomplished improviser, fluent in several non-western musical traditions including Klezmer, Jazz and Middle-Eastern. He is the bandleader, fiddler and vocalist for “Two-Shekel Swing”, which presents Yiddish and klezmer tunes in gypsy-jazz arrangements. A dedicated teacher, Yoni has a large studio of about twenty private viola, violin, and improvisation students. Yoni received his B.A. from Brandeis University and his M.M. from Boston University, studying viola with Karen Ritscher, Mary Ruth Ray and Mark Berger.



Hyun-ji Kwon, cellist, currently maintains an active schedule as soloist, chamber musician, and pedagogue. She earned her Bachelor of Music degree at Ewha Women’s University in Seoul, Korea, and was the winner of the top prize at the Seoul Symphony Orchestra Competition and the third prize at the Seoul Youth Chamber Music Competition. She was the principal cellist for the Ewha orchestra and performed as a soloist with the orchestra in two consecutive years. She came to Boston to study at the New England Conservatory, where she earned the Master of Music degree in Cello Performance as well as a Graduate Diploma, after which she

completed the Doctor of Musical Arts degree program in Cello Performance at Boston University’s School of Music, in the studio of Rhonda Rider. Her other teachers have included Natasha Brofsky, Il-hwan Bai and Sungwon Yang. She has performed in master classes for renowned cellists such as Natalia Gutman and Anner Bylsma, and she has participated in numerous music festivals and concerts in both Korea and North America. Kwon was selected numerous times to perform in joint Faculty/DMA candidate “Chamber Music Masterworks” concerts during her BU studies, and she was awarded special String Department Honors upon graduation. She has performed as guest alumna along with the celebrated Muir Quartet and violist Michelle LaCourse at BU’s Tsai Center, with the Convergence Ensemble, and in several other Boston area ensembles. During recent summers she has served on the faculty of Boston University’s Tanglewood Institute, working with students of the Young Artist Orchestra program as well as BUTI’s String Quartet Workshop. She joined the BU School of Music cello faculty in 2015.



Michael Hartt played double bass with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra from 1989-2014. Since moving to Boston in 2013 he has played with many orchestras in the area, including the Rhode Island Philharmonic and Symphony New Hampshire. Michael studied double bass at Indiana University with Stuart Sankey, Lawrence Hurst, and Bruce Bransby.

In addition to his musical activities, Michael enjoys woodworking and heads the Boston chapter of Amnesty International.

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