Music and Cultural Diplomacy

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Symposium and Concerts  MARCH 27, 2009
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Multicultural Concert
Program Notes

Anthony De Ritis, Administrator
Program Design by Maureen Ton

Schedule

8:30 am  Continental Breakfast, Northeastern University
Cabral Center, John D. O’Bryant African-American Institute

9:00 am  Introduction
Cabral Center, John D. O’Bryant African-American Institute
Hans d’Orville, Assistant Director General for Strategic Planning, UNESCO

9:15 am  Opening Panel Presentations (7 - 10 minutes average length)
Cabral Center, John D. O’Bryant African-American Institute
* Anthony Fogg, Artistic Administrator, Boston Symphony Orchestra
* Laura Freid, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director, The Silk Road Project
* Michael Greenwald, Director, Musicians without Borders USA
* Mehri Madarshahi, President, Melody for Dialogue Among Civilizations Association
* Kay Kaufman Shelemay, G. Gordon Watts Professor of Music and Professor of African and African American Music, Harvard University
* Anthony Trecek-King, Artistic Director, Boston Children’s Chorus
* Tony Woodcock, President, New England Conservatory

10:30 am  Roundtable Discussion: Open Forum
Cabral Center, John D. O’Bryant African-American Institute

12:00 pm  Break for Lunch (on your own)

1:30 pm  Concert: Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall
Charles Dutoit, conductor; Lisa Batiashvili, violin

3:30 pm  Post-Concert Reception, immediately following the concert
Miller Room, Symphony Hall

4:00 pm  Free Time: suggested meeting places for networking to be announced, dinner (on your own)

7:15 pm  Pre-Concert Reception
Fenway Center

8:00 pm  Concert: Multicultural Event
Fenway Center
Composers and instrumentalists from the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing, China, performing their original compositions for erhu, pipa and string quartet; the New England Spiritual Ensemble performing traditional American Negro spirituals; Orfeo in Asia, a work for solo piano composed by Su Lian Tan and performed by pianist Donald Berman; and the premiere of Let the sun shine in the night time, a narrated setting of the United Nations Cyberschoolbus, The Peace Poem, composed by Anthony Paul De Ritis, for Chinese erhu, pipa, guitar, Persian tar, flute, percussion and four narrators led by Del Lewis, the Director of Northeastern’s Center for the Arts.
The Music and Cultural Diplomacy Symposium at Northeastern University is the latest in a series of events which began as a symposium and concert held at UNESCO headquarters in Paris on November 26, 2007. Produced by the Melody for Dialogue Among Civilizations Association, “Music as a Means of Intercultural Dialogue” investigated “How can music help people communicate, understand and respect one another in a globalizing world?”

“Music and Cultural Diplomacy” will explore the role that music can play in fostering mutual understanding, enhanced communication, and improved interaction and cooperation between cultures.

Invited participants include ethnomusicologists, ethnologists, historians, musicologists, authors, musicians, composers, lawyers, as well as representatives of academia, governments, non-governmental and international organizations, and the private sector. It is expected that 35-50 individuals will participate in this one-day symposium.

Planning Committee

Susan Asai, Associate Professor, Music Department
Northeastern University

Anthony Paul De Ritis
Professor and Chair, Music Department
Northeastern University

Myran Parker-Brass
Director of Education and Community Programs
Boston Symphony Orchestra

Emmett Price
Chair, African-American Studies
Associate Professor, Music Department
Northeastern University

Richard Strasser
Assistant Professor, Music Department
Northeastern University

Fusion Arts Exchange
Organized by Northeastern University
Department of Music and funded by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State
Boston, Tanglewood, New York City, Washington, D.C.
July/August 2007

Music as a Means of Intercultural Dialogue
Organized by Melody for Dialogue Among Civilizations Association and Northeastern University
UNESCO, Paris
November 26, 2007

Melody for Peace concert
Organized by Melody for Dialogue Among Civilizations Association and Northeastern University
UNESCO headquarters, Paris
November 26, 2007

Fusion Arts Exchange
Organized by Northeastern University
Department of Music, funded by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State, and the U.S. National Commission for UNESCO
UNESCO, Paris
April 2008

Strategic Music Diplomacy: Exploring Models of Cultural and Social Engagement
Organized by Melody for Dialogue Among Civilizations Association
Paris
November 13, 2008

Fusion Arts Exchange
Organized by Northeastern University
Department of Music and funded by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State
Boston, Tanglewood, New York City, Washington, D.C.
July/August 2009 - coming soon

Music as a Vector for Peace
Organized by Melody for Dialogue Among Civilizations Association
Paris
April 4, 2008

Fusion: Mutual Understanding through Music Fusion Arts Exchange Ensemble Performance
Organized by Northeastern University
Department of Music, funded by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State, and the U.S. National Commission for UNESCO
UNESCO, Paris
April 2008
Swiss conductor Charles Dutoit returns to Symphony Hall with one of his frequent collaborators, Georgian-born violinist Lisa Batiashvili, to perform Serge Prokofiev’s Violin Concerto No. 2. Also on the program is music from two ballets both written for Diaghilev’s Ballet Russes in the same year, 1911: Ravel’s suite from the ballet Mother Goose and Stravinsky’s Petrushka.

Program
RAVEL, Mother Goose Suite
PROKOFIEV, Violin Concerto No. 2
STRAVINSKY, Petrushka (1911 version)

Charles Dutoit, conductor
Charles Dutoit regularly collaborates with the world’s preeminent orchestras and soloists. Since his debut with the Philadelphia Orchestra in 1980, he has been invited each season to conduct all the major orchestras of the United States, including those of Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, Chicago, San Francisco, Pittsburgh, and Cleveland. He has also performed regularly with all the great orchestras of Europe, including the Berlin Philharmonic and Amsterdam’s Concertgebouw Orchestra, as well as all the London orchestras, the Israel Philharmonic, and all the major orchestras of Japan, South America, and Australia. As of September 2008, and continuing through the 2011-12 season, he becomes chief conductor and artistic adviser of the Philadelphia Orchestra, a post newly created for him.

Lisa Batiashvili, violin
Few young soloists command the degree of warmth and respect from fellow musicians all over the world as does violinist Lisa Batiashvili; and it is a significant reflection of the esteem in which she is held that she is has been re-invited to both the New York and Berlin Philharmonic Orchestras during 2007. With the latter she has been soloist not only in the orchestra’s 125th anniversary Europakonzert in May 2007, performing the Brahms Double Concerto for live television and DVD production alongside Truls Mork and conducted by Sir Simon Rattle; but also in October 07 under the baton of Vladimir Ashkenazy in Shostakovich’s Violin Concerto No.1. In 2007 too she signed an exclusive recording contract with Sony BMG Masterworks.

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Fusion 1, Gao Yunxiang
Impressions of Pipa, Zhang Maodi
Roundness/Palingenesis/Samsara/Whirligig, Liu Sijun
Heaven, Earth, Human, Luo Zijun
Culture::Music::Exchange, Benoit Granier
Musicians from Central Conservatory of Music, Beijing, China
Leslie Levi, Zhongling Li, violins; Dimitri Murrath, viola; Patrick Owen, cello; Zhou Lingyan, erhu;
Gao Yunxiang, pipa

Orfeo in Asia, Su Lian Tan
III. Metamorphosis
Donald Berman, piano

Selections by Dawson, Burleigh, etc., to be announced
New England Spiritual Ensemble, Boston, MA

The Peace Poem: Let the sun shine in the night time, Anthony Paul De Ritis
Del Lewis, Benoit Granier, Arthur Rishi, Alexandra Sherman, narrators; Zhou Lingyan, erhu; Gao
Yunxiang, pipa; Amir Milstein, flute; Bahman Panahi, tar; Apostolos Parasekvas, guitar; Grant Smith,
percussion; Anthony Paul De Ritis, music director
Hans d’Orville
Assistant Director General for Strategic Planning, UNESCO
Dr. Hans d’Orville, born in 1949, a German national, is the Assistant Director-General for Strategic Planning at UNESCO since October 2007.

Prior to that he served as Director of UNESCO’s Bureau of Strategic Planning since October 2000. In these functions, he is charged with the entire programme planning and monitoring of UNESCO worldwide, as well as gender equality, least developed countries, the culture of peace, the dialogue among civilizations, cultures and peoples and UN reform issues.

He further directs two successful public-private partnership programmes, namely the UNESCO/Daimler Mondialogo Partnership and the UNESCO/SONyEricsson World Tennis Association (WTA) Partnership for Gender Equality.

He was from 1996-2000 Director of Information Technologies (IT) for Development Programme in the Bureau for Development Policy of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Since 1975 he held various posts in the United Nations Secretariat and UNDP, among others Secretary of the UN Committee Conferences and Senior Officer in the Office of the UNDP Administrator responsible for UNDP’s Governing Council. Between 1987 and 1995, he was Executive Coordinator of the InterAction Council of former Heads of State and Government. Furthermore, he was member of the Executive Committee of the Africa Leadership Forum; advisor to the Independent Commission of Population and Quality of Life and the Independent Commission on Forests and Sustainable Development; Senior Advisor to the Valencia (Spain) Tercer Milenio Programme (1996-2000); and the Forum de Paris (since 2005).

He has served on the board of various cultural/artistic associations and institutions, such as the Centre for International Contemporary Art (CICA); New York 1993-1996, the Snow Show (Finland 2005 and Torino, Italy 2007). He currently is member of the Honorary Council/Board of the “Melody for Dialogue among Civilizations Association”, Paris/New York, Senior Advisor to the Valencia (Spain) Tercer Milenio Programme (1996-2000); and the Forum de Paris (since 2005).

With numerous publications to his credit, he holds a Ph.D and MA in economics from the University of Konstanz, Germany.

Anthony Fogg
Artistic Administrator, Boston Symphony Orchestra
Anthony Fogg has been Artistic Administrator of the Boston Symphony Orchestra since 1994 and assists Music Director, James Levine, in the planning and selection of all BSO concerts and repertoire. A pianist by training, Mr. Fogg has been an avid collector of recordings for over 40 years. He produced the BSO’s 12-CD “Symphony Hall Centennial Celebration,” as well as a disc for the Ozawa Hall 10th anniversary, and the recent all-Mozart collection with the Boston Symphony Chamber Players.

Laura Freid
Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director, The Silk Road Project
Laura Freid has more than two decades of leadership experience in top-tier institutions of higher education and as a consultant to not-for-profit, public affairs, and media organizations nationally and internationally.

Understanding how traditional concepts and new ideas travel across time and cultures has been a lifelong interest and is the focus of her published articles and interviews. Prior to joining the Silk Road Project in 2004, Freid was executive vice president for public affairs and university relations at Brown University and served as a research associate for the Futures Project and visiting scholar for the Watson Institute for International Studies. A magazine journalist and editor, Freid served as publisher of Harvard Magazine and as the first executive director of the Ivy League Magazine Network. Previously she was publisher and editor of Bostonia Magazine. A graduate of Washington University in St. Louis, she holds an MBA from Boston University, and an Ed.D. from the University of Pennsylvania.

Michael Greenwald
Director, Musicians without Borders USA
Since 2006, Michael Greenwald has been the executive director of Musicians without Borders USA and the business director for Musicians without Borders International. Musicians without Borders is devoted to building a global network to use the power of music for healing, reconciliation, and building a culture of tolerance and nonviolence in conflict areas around the world. Musicians without Borders inspires, implements and manages projects of, by and for musicians for social change. Mr. Greenwald’s previous career included more than 30 years as a litigator, mediator and management consultant, helping clients define and achieve their missions, goals and objectives. Consulting projects have included organizational development and business strategies for start-up companies; real estate development and project management; strategic planning and board development; issue management and advocacy campaigns; and design and delivery of programs in multicultural relations. He is a co-founder of The Mankind Project, a men’s organization devoted to personal growth and development and a leader in that work. Mr. Greenwald is an amateur musician, playing guitar, banjo, pennywhistle, recorder and (in his youth) oboe. He serves as cantor for the synagogue in his home in Miller Beach, Indiana. A Chicago native, Mr. Greenwald holds degrees from Swarthmore College (B.A.) and George Washington University National Law School (J.D.). He has held teaching positions at the National Institute for Trial Advocacy, Northwestern University Law School and the DePaul University School for New Learning, and is the recipient of a Thomas J. Watson Fellowship.
Mehri Madarshahi
President, Melody for Dialogue Among Civilizations Association

Ms. Madarshahi is the President of Melody for Dialogue among Civilizations Association promoting peaceful resolution of conflicts through music around the world. Since 2004, the Association has produced a number of important programs and multi-cultural concerts in collaboration with UNESCO/Paris, Northeastern University, Aspen Institute for Global Arts and Culture and others by engaging over 400 artists from 72 countries around the globe. This year’s program includes a new approach to environmental awareness through music (see www.melodydialogue.org). Ms. Madarshahi is also the Maxima-News Paris Correspondent. As a former senior United Nations official, Ms. Madarshahi served as Senior Economist, External Relations Officer, a member of the Secretary-General’s Task Force on the Decentralization of Economic and Social Issues; head of the Management Audit Section, a senior advisor to the Executive Secretary for Reform and Efficiency of the UN; and President of the UN Coordination Committee of International Staff Unions and Associations (CCISUA), where she represented nearly 26,000 international and local UN staff. She was the first president of the UN Staff Union to organize a signature campaign from 14,000 UN staff around the world, to bring problems related to safety and security of the staff in the peace-keeping missions to the attention of the Security Council, leading to a resolution of the SC putting in place a number of important measures. She also established the Scholarship Fund for staff who lost their lives in line of duty. Ms. Madarshahi was recently appointed as Advisor to the Organizing Committee and the Secretariat of the Guiyang Co-ordination and Security Council for Reform and Efficiency of the UN; and President of the UN Coordination Committee of International Staff Unions and Associations (CCISUA), where she represented nearly 26,000 international and local UN staff. She was the first president of the UN Staff Union to organize a signature campaign from 14,000 UN staff around the world, to bring problems related to safety and security of the staff in the peace-keeping missions to the attention of the Security Council, leading to a resolution of the SC putting in place a number of important measures. She also established the Scholarship Fund for staff who lost their lives in line of duty. Ms. Madarshahi was recently appointed as Advisor to the Organizing Committee and the Secretariat of the Guiyang Ecological Forum in China.

Kay Kaufman Shelemay
G. Gordon Watts Professor of Music and Professor of African and African American Music, Harvard University

Ethnomusicologist Kay Kaufman Shelemay is the G. Gordon Watts Professor of Music and Professor of African and African American Studies at Harvard University. Among her recent books are Soundscapes, Exploring Music in a Changing World, 2nd ed., (2008), and Pain and its Transformations: The Interface of Biology and Culture (co-edited with Sarah Coakley, 2007). Shelemay has received fellowships from the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the American Council of Learned Societies, and the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study. A former president of the Society for Ethnomusicology, she is a Congressional appointee and former chair of the Board of Trustees of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.

Anthony Trecek-King
Artistic Director, Boston Children’s Chorus

As the Artistic Director of the Boston Children’s Chorus, Anthony Trecek-King has found a venue to share his passion for choral music with a new generation of musicians. Called “young and extremely talented” by Keith Lockhart, Mr. Trecek-King believes that excellent choral music can and should be enjoyed by everyone. During his short tenure at the Boston Children’s Chorus, the choir has quickly earned a reputation as an ensemble of high musical excellence and received glowing reviews. The Boston Globe calls the choir “angelic and dazzling” while His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan heralds them as “superb.” Under Mr. Trecek-King’s leadership, the Boston Children’s Chorus has performed with the Boston Pops under the direction of John Williams as well as under the direction of Keith Lockhart for the Fourth of July Celebration at the Esplanade. BCC’s annually televised Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. tribute concert has hosted the Chicago Children’s Choir and the Young People’s Chorus of New York City and has quickly become a tradition in New England for celebrating the holiday. As a conductor, Mr. Trecek-King has earned international acclaim and has directed some of the world’s greatest professional choral ensembles throughout Europe. He recently participated in both the Eric Ericson Masterclass in the Netherlands and the Eric Ericson Award, an international conducting competition, in Sweden. Mr. Trecek-King conducted Polfonja, a state chorus of Lithuania, on a national tour highlighting American music. He also spent a semester in residence at the Technische Universität Braunschweig in Germany as a guest conductor of the choir and orchestra. Under his direction, choirs have traveled to Denmark, Germany, the Czech Republic, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Russia, Finland, Canada, and Mexico, as well as across the United States. A versatile conductor with an orchestral background, Mr. Trecek-King has also led several orchestras, including the Omaha Symphony Orchestra. He is also active as a guest conductor and lecturer for academic institutions and professional organization conventions. Born into an Air Force family from the South, Mr. Trecek-King spent most of his youth in North Dakota and Nebraska. He earned a Bachelor’s in Cello Performance from the University of Nebraska at Omaha and a Master’s in Orchestral Conducting from Florida State University. Before joining the Boston Children’s Chorus, Mr. Trecek-King was a Professor of Music at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and the Artistic Director of the Nebraska Choral Arts Society, Nebraska’s oldest and largest community choral organization.

Tony Woodcock
President, New England Conservatory

Born in Cairo, Egypt where his father was stationed as a Major in the British Army, Woodcock spent part of his childhood in the Far East until his family moved to Cardiff, Wales where he was 11. Music was always an important part of his life and the family often listened to recordings from his father’s large collection. He learned to play the violin as a child and studied with Alfredo Wang at University College in Cardiff. He also studied acoustics, music history, analysis, composition, and harmony and Italian, graduating in 1974 with honors. After leaving the university, Woodcock took a job as music officer with the Welsh Arts Council, an agency promoting the arts in Wales. Among his duties was planning and promoting orchestral tours in Wales by internationally renowned ensembles such as the Dresden Philharmonic, the Philharmonia Orchestra and London Symphony. In 1977, Woodcock took a more senior job with South East Arts (SEA), an agency of England’s national Arts Council that promotes the health and accessibility of the arts. Woodcock’s first job as head of an orchestra association came in 1984 when he became Executive Director of the City of London Sinfonia/Richard Hickox Singers. From there, he became general manager of Cardiff’s St. David’s Hall, the national concert hall with a budget of $10 million, a staff of 200 and a season series of 640 events. There followed a stint as executive director with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Society during which he played a significant role in planning the 150th anniversary and commissioning Paul McCartney’s Liverpool Oratorio. Following that, Woodcock was recruited to head the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra as that orchestra celebrated its 100th anniversary. In 1997, the Oregon Symphony approached him about taking over its troubled organization, which had suffered a disastrous musicians’ strike some years before. Woodcock reestablished relations between board and players, introduced interest-based bargaining techniques to negotiate two new musicians’ contracts, developed a new five-year strategic plan, created the transition plan for the music director’s retirement, and concluded a new music director search. Woodcock joined the Minnesota Orchestra in 2003 and created a new three-year strategic plan, successfully completed contract negotiations with the orchestra by convincing the musicians to be part of the institution’s fiscal solution, and helped reunite a factionalized board.
**Invited Participants**

**Maure Aronson**
*Executive Director, World Music/CRASHarts*

Maure Aronson was born in South Africa and lived there for 27 years. Mr. Aronson began his professional career in the arts in South Africa as an artist manager and presenter. From 1986 to 1990, he was general manager for Boston modern dance companies Beth Soll & Company and Concert Dance Company. In 1990, he founded World Music and is the organization’s Executive and Artistic Director. In 2001 World Music launched CRASHArts, a division of World Music dedicated to presenting a multidisciplinary contemporary performing arts series. Mr. Aronson has been honored with two distinguished awards: The Proscenium Award for Audience Development and The Heinz Award for Entrepreneurship in the Arts. He served on the Board of Directors of the Association of Performing Arts Presenters from 2004 - 2007. World Music/CRASHArts presents approximately 100 performances annually and, over the last 18 years, has presented more than 700 performing ensembles from all corners of the globe.

**Susan Asai**
*Associate Professor of Ethnomusicology, Music Department, Northeastern University; Planning Committee*


**Scott Billington**
*Vice President, A&R, Rounder Records*

A house producer and graphic designer with the Rounder Records label, Scott Billington had a hand in countless contemporary roots-music releases. Born in Melrose, Massachusetts on October 27, 1951, he began his career at Rounder during the late 1970s; originally working primarily in the company’s design department, he received his first production credit with the 1978 Johnny Shines album Hey Ba-Ba-Re Bop. Over the years and decades to follow, Billington worked in a variety of traditional music genres ranging from blues to reggae to zydeco, amassing a large and impressive discography which included albums from Clarence “Gatemouth” Brown, Solomon Burke and Buckwheat Zydeco, among countless others - indeed, given his various duties in Rounder’s day-to-day operations, very few of the label’s releases fail to reflect his influence in some way, shape or form.

**Anne Caufriez**
*President, European Society of Ethnomusicology, Brussels, Belgium*

Dr. Anne Caufriez is Director of Research at the Museum of Musical Instruments of Brussels, Belgium, and President of the European Society of Ethnomusicology. Previously, she worked as Researcher in the Department of Anthropology, University of Louvain-la-Neuve. She specializes in Portuguese traditional music, using field research from different areas of Portugal (Minho, Trás-os-Montes, Madeira Archipelago, Lisbon; 1978–2007). She is the author of two books on Portuguese ballad, *Le Chant du Pain and Romances du Trás-os-Montes*, and has published four records and more than sixty articles. The European Society of Ethnomusicology is a network of professional ethnomusicologists that defends the existence, place and artistic value of traditional music in Europe and the world in today’s multi-musical world through debates and publication.

**Cathy Chan**
*Founder and President, Foundation for Chinese Performing Arts*

Dr. Catherine T. Chan received her Ph.D. in Biochemistry from University of California, Berkeley, in 1974, and was granted two U.S. patterns for the development of Prolactin and solid phrase beta-HCG RIA assays. She is the Founder and President of the Foundation for Chinese Performing Arts, a non-profit organization since 1989 for the promotion of Asian heritage through music and performing arts (www.ChinesePerformingArts.net). So far 83 concerts were presented in prestigious venues with renowned musicians. The annual painting/calligraphy competition and the summer music festivals are in their 18th years. The Youth Poetry in Silk and Bamboo Annual Chinese Music Instrument Competition started in 2008 and it was a big success. She is currently on the board of Walnut Hill School, New England Association of Chinese Professionals, and Chinese American Fine Arts Society. She was awarded the “Certificate of Recognition” by Boston Mayor Raymond Flynn, 1991, and the “Official Resolution” issued by President James M. Kelly of Boston City Council, 2000 for her contributions to the City of Boston; by Phi Lambda US, Boston Chapter, 2005, and by Chinese Culture Connection, 2005 for contributions in fostering Chinese musicians and promoting Chinese traditional arts and music. Dr. Chan has been practicing traditional Chinese brush paintings since 1962. Her artworks appeared in solo and group exhibitions in the United States. She has been teaching Chinese brush painting at Newton Chinese School since 1982.

**David Claman**
*Professor of Music, Lehman College*

David Claman (b. 1958) holds degrees from Wesleyan University where he studied the music of South India, from the University of Colorado, and from Princeton where he completed his Ph.D. in composition in 2002. His principal teachers have been Steve Mackey, Paul Lansky, Claudio Spies, John McDonald, Richard Toensing, and Luis Gonzalez. He is an adjunct professor at Lehman College-CUNY in the Bronx. He received a fellowship from The American Institute of Indian Studies in 1998 and has held residencies at the MacDowell Colony and the Rockefeller Foundation’s Bellagio Center. He has received commissions from The American Composers Forum, the Cygnus Ensemble, Tara Helen O’Connor, Noa Even, Christopher Creviston, Oren Fader, The New Millennium Ensemble, John McDonald and Tufts University. Recordings can be found on the Innova, Capstone, Bridge, and Vox Novus labels. His research interests include the influence of India’s music on Western composers and Indo-Jazz fusion.
Anthony Paul De Ritis  
Professor and Chair, Music Department, Northeastern University; Planning Committee  
Composer Anthony Paul De Ritis’ music has been called “revolutionary,” “groundbreaking,” “ultra-exotic” and “really cool.” He is perhaps best known for Devolution, a Concerto for DJ and Symphony Orchestra premiered by Michael Morgan and the Oakland East Bay Symphony, featuring Paul D. Miller aka DJ Spooky as soloist. Devolution is the subject of several articles, a feature on Tech TV, and a case study in the upcoming book The Savvy Musician: Developing A Viable And Meaningful Career Through Entrepreneurship by David Cutler. His work with the pipa virtuoso, Min Xiao-Fen, has led to a series of compositions for the Chinese instrument, including Jeu de Paume for pipa virtuoso Wu Man and guitarist Eliot Fisk. In November 2007, the Prague Philharmonic and an ensemble of non-Western traditional instruments performed his Melody for Peace at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, a commission from the Melody for Dialogue Among Civilizations Association; its U.S. premiere was by the Orchestra of St. Luke’s at Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center. De Ritis completed his Ph.D. in Music Composition at the University of California, Berkeley; M.M. from Ohio University (2006 Alumni of the Year, College of Fine Arts); and B.A. in Music with minors in philosophy and business from Bucknell University. He also studied at the American Conservatory in Fontainebleau, U.S.C., N.Y.U., and has an M.B.A. from Northeastern University. www.deritis.com

Judith Eissenberg  
Founder and Director, MusicUnitesUS  
Ms. Eissenberg is the Founder and Director of MusicUnitesUS whose mission is to further the understanding and appreciation of diverse cultures through music. We believe that music is a common medium that can help to unite diverse cultures in our own neighborhoods and transcend boundaries in the global community. MusicUnitesUS is a three-tiered program of Brandeis University that encompasses an Intercultural Residency Series, a Public School Education Program and a World Music Series. Judith Eissenberg is also the founder and second violinist of the Lydian String Quartet in residence at Brandeis University since 1980. She performs, commissions, premieres, and records many new works; and teaches violin and chamber music, with emphasis on how interpretation is informed by context. In addition, Ms. Eissenberg teaches at The Boston Conservatory, is the Founder and Co-Director of Music from Salem.

Christopher Cook  
Director of Arts Education & Outreach, Mayor’s Office of Art, Tourism and Special Events, Boston  
Prior to the Mayor’s Office, Chris served Boston Public Schools as Project Coordinator for Dramatic Developments, a US Department of Education Model Development and Dissemination grant. Dramatic Developments utilized theatre techniques and multiple learning strategies in an attempt to improve the literacy of students in BPS middle schools. In addition to Dramatic Developments, Chris designed the theatre component of the Boston Arts Assessment Model, a district-wide initiative assessing student proficiency in the arts. He has taught theatre in the Boston Public Schools and surrounding areas. In addition, he has worked extensively in the area of educational theatre, writing and performing plays with companies such as the Boston Children’s Museum, the Boston Museum of Science, Theatre Espresso, City Stage Company, Deana’s Fund, the USS Constitution Museum, the Astor’s Beechwood, the Museum of Fine Arts and Merrimack Repertory Theatre. Chris is an active member of the Actor’s Equity Association and Screen Actor’s Guild. He holds a dual BA in English & Theatre from UMASS Amherst.

Mohammed Fairouz  
Composer, and Artistic Director, Mimesis Ensemble  
The music of Mohammed Fairouz has been received with performances throughout the United States, Europe, the Middle East, and Australia in venues such as New York’s Carnegie Hall, Boston’s Symphony Hall and the New England Conservatory’s Jordan Hall. He has been featured at the Kennedy Center’s Festival of Contemporary Music, the New England Conservatory’s Composers’ Series, Massachusetts College of Art and Design’s Eventworks Festival. Fairouz has received for his work are the Tourjee alumni award, the Malcolm Morse Memorial Award, the NEC Honors Award, the New England Conservatory Contemporary Ensemble Prize and awards from the Merit Funds of the New England and Boston Conservatories. In 2008, he was honored with a national citation from the embassy of the United Arab Emirates in Washington D.C. for outstanding achievement in artistry and scholarship. As the director of compositional activities of New York’s Mimesis Ensemble, Fairouz has engaged, programmed and worked with composers as diverse as Martin Bresnick, Gunther Schuller, Tobias Picker, Yehudi Wyner, Milton Babbitt, Halim El-Dabh, Lee Hyla and John Heiss among others. Among the composers that he has brought to New England is his mentor, Halim El-Dabh, Egypt’s most influential living composer, by facilitating a performance, at Jordan Hall of El-Dabh’s 1958 ballet masterpiece Clytemnestra. Fairouz’s teachers in composition have included John Heiss, Michael Gandolfi, Malcolm Peyton, Gunther Schuller and Halim El-Dabh.

Ann Galligan  
Co-op coordinator, Art + Design, Northeastern University  
Dr. Ann Galligan is an associate professor and co-op coordinator for the Department of Art + Design at Northeastern University in Boston, MA. Previously she served as a Senior Associate Scholar at the Center for Arts and Culture in Washington, D.C. Her research interests are in the fields of cultural policy, arts education and cultural planning. She is the author of numerous articles and chapters on these topics, and serves as lead executive editor of The Journal of Arts Management, Law, and Society and consulting editor for the Creative Industries Journal. She also served on the board of the Music National Service Initiative. She holds a B.A. in English from Brown University, and a master’s degree in communication and a doctorate in History of Education with an emphasis on arts and education policy from Columbia University. She has conducted funded research for the National Endowment for the Arts, the Pew Charitable Trusts, the American Assembly and the Irvine Foundation. For the past ten years, she has worked on multiple projects in partnership with the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the New England Foundation for the Arts. She was responsible for drafting the Arts and Cultural Plan for the city of Providence, Rhode Island, and drafting a comprehensive cultural plan for Pawtucket, Rhode Island. Dr. Galligan has acted as a consultant for a number of arts and cultural organizations, including The New York City Ballet, The Metropolitan Museum of Arts, Dance Umbrella, and WNET.

Richard Golob  
President, United Nations Association of Greater Boston  
Richard Golob is President and Chief Executive Officer of GGA Software Services, a leading offshore outsourcing company that provides scientific software engineering, algorithm development, and data curation services, especially for the life sciences industry. With its headquarters office in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and its development center in St. Petersburg, Russia, GGA has focused on bringing together science, mathematics, and
software engineering to solve client problems. Previously, Richard was actively involved in the environmental and energy fields, serving as an adviser to government agencies worldwide and to the United Nations Environment Programme, as well as a publisher of respected environmental newsletters. He also served as an adviser to the venture capital firm Charles River Ventures and as chairman of an advisory group at the Harvard School of Public Health. In addition to his role at UNA-GB, he serves as a board member of the U.S.-Russia Chamber of Commerce of New England. Richard is coauthor of The Almanac of Renewable Energy and coeditor of The Almanac of Science and Technology. He graduated from Harvard College with an A.B. degree in biochemical sciences.

Benoit Granier
Composer, Center for Electroacoustic Music, Central Conservatory of Music, China
Benoit Granier is a French composer who currently lives between Beijing, Singapore, Paris and Dublin. Under the supervision of composer Donnacha Dennehy, he completed a Ph.D. degree in Computer Music and Composition at Trinity College Dublin (2007), where he also lectured on the basics of Sound Synthesis and Composition, in addition to supervising student theses at Master's degree level. After working in diverse institutions in both Beijing and Singapore, he settled down at the Centre for Electro Acoustic Music of China (C.E.M.C.), part of the Beijing Central Conservatory of Music. He currently teaches Computer Music, Composition, and Digital and Interactive Media. Prior to this he studied orchestration and orchestral conducting with French conductor Victor Costa, and Composition with Arturo Gervasoni. Over the past ten years, Dr Granier has also been active as a composer/visual artist. He has written for diverse media ranging from compositions for solo instruments (he is currently writing the last piece in a suite of twelve pieces for solo instruments) to composition for large orchestra. He has also extensively worked for mixed-media and pure electronics, and has recently developed an interest for the creation of composition for mixed ensembles integrating classical and traditional musical instruments. He is currently working on a set of compositions for electronics and Chinese instruments (the first composition for solo pipa and electronics received its premiere at the Beijing Modern Music Festival in May 2008). Dr Granier’s compositions have been played in Ireland, France, Italy, Spain, UK, China, Japan, Australia and America. He has also been invited to present work at numerous festivals including the Sonorities Festival (Sonic Arts Research Centre, Queen’s University, Belfast), the International Computer Music Conference (Florida) and Beijing Music-Acoustica. Dr. Granier is an active scholar in the fields of Composition, Musicology, Music Cognition and Computer Music.

Klaus D. Hachfeld
Governor, District 7910, Rotary International, Central MA, USA
Klaus Hachfeld joined the Sturbridge Rotary Club in 1982, in which he has served as Sergeant-at-Arms, Secretary and President (1987-88). At the District level he has chaired Group Study Exchange, Ambassadorial Scholarship, served as Director of International Service and Assistant Governor. In 1998, Klaus was recognized as District Rotarian of the Year. During his presidential year, Klaus founded the Stourbridge (England)-Sturbridge (USA) Sister Club relationship that has blossomed into annual exchanges of greetings between the clubs and the towns. Numerous cultural exchange visits with the Stourbridge club in District 1060 have also taken place. Two joint Matching Grant Projects have been completed (Nigeria & Uganda) with a third in progress with Peru. In addition, some Sturbridge youths were able to participate in the international Youth Sports Camp organized by District 1060 in England. The past eight years Klaus and his wife, Glenys, have worked as Registrar for NORTHEAST LINK, organizing the annual Zone 31 Ambassadorial Scholar and Counselor Orientation program. They have enjoyed host-counseling four Ambassadorial Scholars from Europe, Asia and South America with whom they maintain regular contact. Klaus holds a Bachelor-degree in Physics and Master-degree in Laser Technology. His career concentrated on the development of industrial lasers for drilling, welding and cutting and medical lasers for eye-surgery. He is a Certified Laser Safety Officer and President of Sunrise Laser Safety Inc., a design and engineering consultancy focusing on laser optics and the safe use of lasers.

Bruce Hangen
Director of Orchestral Activities, The Boston Conservatory
Bruce Hangen was appointed in May 2003 as Director of Orchestral Activities at The Boston Conservatory. He has been music director of the Orchestra of Indian Hill since 1997 and has served as principal guest conductor of the Boston Pops Orchestra. He has held posts at the Portland Opera Repertory Theatre (Maine), the Omaha Symphony, the Utah Symphony, the Kansas City Symphony, the Portland Symphony (Maine), the Denver Symphony, the Aрапahoe Chamber Orchestra (Denver), the Colorado Philharmonic, the Syracuse Symphony, the Buffalo Philharmonic and the Eastman School of Music. Hangen maintains an active schedule of guest conducting. Recent appearances have included concerts with the Florida Philharmonic and Boston Symphony, as well as the orchestras of St. Louis, Baltimore, Pittsburgh, San Francisco, Atlanta, Jacksonville, and Houston. His repeat engagements with the Boston Pops and Boston Pops Esplanade orchestras alone now total well over two hundred performances since 1979. Hangen also has guest-conducted orchestras in Japan, Canada, Taiwan, and New Zealand, as well as opera companies in Chicago, Fargo, and Tacoma. A graduate of the Eastman School of Music with a major in conducting, Hangen was a conducting fellow at the Berkshire Music Center at Tanglewood for two summers, where his conducting teachers included Gunther Schuller, Seiji Ozawa, Leonard Bernstein, Michael Tilson Thomas, Stanislaw Skrowaczewski, Bruno Maderna, and Joseph Silverstein. Hangen is the recipient of an Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree from the University of New England, and in Omaha he received the ICAN Foundation’s 1990 Browning Award for Career Excellence and Vision.

Brita Heimarck
Associate Professor of Music and Ethnomusicology, Boston University
Dr. Heimarck is an ethnomusicologist who specializes in the shadow play music of Bali, Indonesia. Recent publications include Balinese Discourses on Music and Modernization: Village Voices and Urban Views (Routledge 2003), and an article in Mrazen, “Puppet Theater in Contemporary Indonesia: New Approaches to Performance Events” (2002). Her second area of research is Indian classical music, Heimarck combines knowledge of music in its cultural and historical context with critical theory, non-Western discourses, and performance. Professor Heimarck has received numerous grants and awards for her work in ethnomusicology, including a Fulbright Award for music studies in Bali, Indonesia (1985-86), a Jacob K. Javits Fellowship for doctoral studies in ethnomusicology (1993-97), and a Jon B. Higgins Memorial Scholarship for studies of Indian flute music with the great master Hariprasad Chaurasia in Bombay, India (1993). She teaches graduate and undergraduate seminars in ethnomusicology, world music, and theoretical or interdisciplinary topics. Professor Heimarck’s current research involves transcribing Balinese shadow play music...
Joshua Jacobson
Director, Zamir Chorale of Boston

Joshua R. Jacobson holds a Bachelors degree in Music from Harvard College, a Masters in Choral Conducting from the New England Conservatory, and a Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Cincinnati. Dr. Jacobson is Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at Northeastern University, where he served nine years as Music Department Chairman and six years as the Bernard Stotsky Professor of Jewish Cultural Studies. He is Visiting Professor of Jewish Music at Hebrew College. He is also the founder and director of the Zamir Chorale of Boston, a world-renowned ensemble, specializing in Hebrew music. He has conducted workshops on choral music for various groups, including the American Choral Directors Association, and has guest conducted a number of ensembles, including the Boston Pops Orchestra, the Bulgarian National Symphony and Chorus, the New England Conservatory Orchestra and the Boston Lyric Opera Company. He has also written articles on various aspects of choral music, and compositions and arrangements that have been published and performed throughout the world. In 1989 he spent four weeks in Yugoslavia as a Distinguished Professor under the auspices of the Fulbright program. In 1994 he was awarded the Benjamin Shevach Award for Distinguished Achievement in Jewish Educational Leadership from Hebrew College. Prof. Jacobson is past President of the Massachusetts chapter of the American Choral Directors Association. He is the conductor and host of the PBS film, Zamir: Jewish Voices Return to Poland. His book, Chanting the Hebrew Bible: The Art of Cantillation, published by the Jewish Publication Society in 2002, was a finalist for the National Jewish Book Award. In 2004 the Cantors Assembly presented Prof. Jacobson with its prestigious “Kavod Award”.

Leon Janikian

Director, Music Industry Concentration, Northeastern University

Professor Leon Janikian has been an academician, professional musician, and recording engineer for over 30 years. He began his musical education at the Longy School of Music, followed by undergraduate studies at the New England Conservatory of Music; at both institutions he studied clarinet with Felix Viscuglia of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. In 1975, Janikian earned his Master of Music in Music Theory and Composition from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. He was privileged to be a student of the eminent composer and musical theorist Dr. Philip Bezanson. During his graduate years, Professor Janikian initiated his deep involvement with the art of musical recording and technology. His work during these years include recordings of the former Leningrad Philharmonic Orchestra, Duke Ellington, Archie Shepp, Max Roach, and many others broadcast on National Public Radio. In 1976 he founded Sound Techniques Recording Studios, his major focus for the next 13 years, where he was the primary engineer/producer for over 150 records in all musical genres, including numerous multimedia productions and commercials. He is the recipient of numerous awards for his productions. In 1984, while still the owner/chief engineer at Sound Techniques, he was invited to join the faculty of the Sound Recording Technology program at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell, and in 1995, he accepted an appointment at Northeastern University. Professor Janikian continues to be very active in the recording field and is one the most sought after musicians specializing in the traditional music of Armenia, Greece, and the Middle East, in the United States. Professor Janikian has been deeply involved with the creation of the Archive of Armenian Music in America (armenianmusicarch.com), a major research and technical project, designed to store and restore for posterity the aural history and traditions of the Armenian community in the United States.

Brian Kaufman
Project Director, Musical Diplomacy, New England Conservatory

Brian Kaufman, is a conductor, tubist, jazz vocalist, educator, arranger, artistic director, marketer, producer, organzier and manager. He has collaborated with artists such as puppeteer Blair Thomas and dancer and choreographer Angella Huddleston Foster, and has performed in venues such as The New Jersey Performing Arts Center, The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center and Jordan Hall. Kaufman has conducted the University of Maryland Concert Band, the Hartwick Summer Music Festival Concert Band and the New York Summer Music Festival Concert Band. He was the co-conductor, founder and artistic director of the Terrapin Brass Ensemble, a 20-piece brass and percussion ensemble known for performing music spanning from Gabrieli to Metallica. Starting in the fall of 2005, Kaufman spent a year in Xian, China, where he sang 4-5 times weekly with the house combo at Groovz, a local jazz bar, taught English to students ages 4 to 50, studied conversational Chinese and traveled. Kaufman holds a Master’s degree in Tuba Performance from the University of Maryland and a Tuba Performance and Music Education degree from the University of Michigan. He is currently pursuing a Master’s degree in Conducting from the New England Conservatory where he studies with Charles Peltz. Along with his colleague Michael Reichman, Mr. Kaufman co-produced Musical Diplomacy: A Concert & Discussion of Rights and Responsibilities during Wartime, which used musical performance and a post-concert panel discussion as a means to spark political debate.

Allegra Klein
President & Executive Director, Musicians For Harmony

Allegra Klein is a violinist, teacher, and arts administrator from New York City. After receiving her Bachelor’s degree in Music from Harvard University, she trained as a Suzuki teacher at the School for Strings in New York and taught Suzuki violin at Queens College’s preparatory division. A leader in the music management field, Ms. Klein has worked for Carnegie Hall, Sony Classical, the Marlboro and Bridgehampton Chamber Music Festivals, and the New York Youth Symphony. Shortly after September 11, 2001, she founded Musicians For Harmony, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting understanding and peace among nations through music. As part of this mission, she traveled to Baghdad in 2003 to bring musical instruments and supplies to the Iraqi National Symphony Orchestra, and returned to northern Iraq in 2007 to teach for the first-ever Iraqi Unity Performing Arts Academy. Her articles about these trips were published in Strings and Symphony magazines, and her cross-cultural work has also been profiled in the New York Sun, the New York Daily News, and Chamber Music magazine. In demand as an arts education and cultural affairs specialist, Ms. Klein spoke at the United Nations in 2006 about the role of the arts in educating girls in developing countries, and was invited back the following spring for a roundtable discussion on how the arts can bridge gaps between cultures. A former member of the Board of the League of American Orchestras’ Youth Orchestra Division, she has served on panels for the League, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and the Westchester Arts Council. Ms. Klein is currently pursuing a Master’s degree in Global Affairs at New York University and was recently invited to write an article for the Cultural Diplomacy Institute’s online publication, Cultural Diplomacy News.
Annette Klein
Program Coordinator, Goethe-Institute, Boston
Annette Klein is Program Coordinator at the Goethe-Institut Boston, specialized in programming music, art, dance, theater as well as environmental issues from Germany. Through intensive work with local partners, she encourages the cultural exchange in the arts and of ideas between Germany/EU and the US on a daily basis. Annette is also a professional violinist and studied with Kim Kashkashian at the Staatsliche Hochschule für Musik Freiburg. She performed and toured with notable ensembles in Germany such as the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen, Ensemble Oriol Berlin and Südwestfunk Orchester Baden-Baden. A dual citizen of both Germany and the US, Annette is in constant motion between the two countries.

Robert Labaree
Chair, Music History and Musicology; Intercultural Institute
Robert Labaree, Ph.D. is an ethnomusicologist specializing in Turkish music and medieval European music, with studies in Turkey under Niyyazi Sayin and Ihsan Özgen. He is chair of the music history department at New England Conservatory and director of the conservatory's Intercultural Institute, which he established in 1993. As a founding member of the EurAsia Ensemble from 1980-1995, he has performed and taught Turkish classical music in the U.S. and in Turkey. His solo CD Çengnagme appeared in Turkey in 2001 on the Kalan label. In 2004 he co-founded, with Dr. Mehmet Ali Sanilkol, DÜNYA (the world), a non-profit educational institution based in Boston whose goal is to present a contemporary view of a wide range of Turkish traditions, alone and in interaction with other world traditions, through performance, recording and other educational activities. His recordings with the DÜNYA ensemble include The Psalms of Ali Utki, Lale ve Kiliç/ The Tulip and the Sword; Kus, Dili/The Language of Birds; and Dünya Size, Güller Bize/For You the World, for Us the Roses.

Del Lewis
Director, Center for the Arts, Northeastern University
Del Lewis, actor/director/educator, is a member of Actors Equity Association and the Screen Actors Guild. He has appeared on Broadway as Jacob Rothschild in The Rothschilds and in both the Broadway and National Companies of Fiddler on the Roof, national tours including The Miser, There’s A Girl in My Soup, and Androcles and the Lion, and in the film Diary of a Mad Housewife. He also performed in off-Broadway productions of The Streets of New York, All In Love, and It’s Only a Small Shower, Noah as well as numerous roles in summer stock in Michigan, New York, and Missouri. He has directed national productions for The Playmakers Repertory Theatre and the National Theatre Company and the outdoor drama First for Freedom and was the founding artistic director of Madison Repertory Theatre. Currently the director of the Center for the Arts at Northeastern University, he is the former chair of the Theatre Department at Northeastern and was the Director of Theatre and head of the graduate acting program the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He served as a member of the national board-of-director of University/Resident Theatre Association and as Chair of Region I of the American College Theatre Festival. He is also a recipient of the Kennedy Center Medallion for excellence and service in the field of theatre education.

Geoffrey Lewis
Attorney-at-Law, Kerstein, Coren & Lichtenstein LLP
Geoffrey Lewis is an attorney who has been practicing law for almost 30 years. A member of the Massachusetts and New York Bars, he recently became a member of the Wellesley law firm Kerstein, Coren & Lichtenstein LLP. Mr. Lewis has extensive experience in the areas of business litigation (including securities arbitration) family law and international law and transactions. He has had extensive experience in business development activities in Chile and Israel. He has also provided significant legal services to numerous individuals and corporations in both countries. Among his many community activities, Mr. Lewis has been the President of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Boston, a member of the Board of the Combined Jewish Philanthropies and a national officer of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs. He currently serves on the Executive Committee of the Israel Policy Forum and is a member of the International Board of Governors of the University of Haifa. Mr. Lewis is also involved in a variety of activities related to Arab/Jewish and Muslim/Jewish coexistence and the Israeli/Palestinian peace process. He is a firm believer in the power of music as an effective tool for diplomacy. Mr. Lewis is married to Amy Caplan, Vice President of Strategic Partnerships at Jiwire, Inc. He is the proud father of two daughters, Samantha and Jessica.

Robert Lyons
Director of Radio and New Media Initiatives, WGBH
Mr. Lyons is a veteran of Digital Media, currently in charge of online and mobile platforms for WGBH’s regional broadcast services and WGBH.org. He served as Executive in Charge for a wide range of innovative projects including the first podcast series in public radio, a live concert event in Second Life, launching global online channels for Classical and Celtic music, and a family of iPhone streaming applications. His career as an Executive Producer in public radio has included live coverage from the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, launching the word quiz Says You and creating public radio complements to several major PBS TV series, including We Shall Remain and Martin Scorsese’s The Blues.

Zaira Meneses
Guitarist
Born in the province of Vera Cruz, Mexico, Zaira Meneses began musical studies at the age of 7. Her unique talents led to participation in the chamber choir of the IPE conducted by Ana Elgarte and Jose Antonio Perez. She soon revealed an extraordinary double talent as singer and guitarist, and during her years of guitar study, she was the recipient of numerous prizes for guitar performances both nationally and internationally. Beginning in 1998 she participated in outreach concerts for children in Vera Cruz, Puebla, Villa Hermosa, and other cities in her native Mexico. That same year she also won first prize in the Paracho Michoacán International Guitar Competition and honorable mention in the National Guitar Competition of Xalapa. One year later she won the Competition of Guanajuato, Mexico and in the same year, was awarded a scholarship to the “Paco Marin” International Guitar Competition. Zaira Meneses has participated in numerous international guitar festivals, participated in master classes led by Ivan Rijos, Roberto Aussel, Manuel Barruenco, Eliot Fisk, Kosta Kotfiolis, and Joaquin Clerch among others. She has
distinguished herself not only as a soloist, but also as a founding member of the Orquesta de Guarras of Xalapa with which she has toured throughout Mexico and abroad under the Baton of the legendary Alfonso Moreno. She performs widely as a guitar soloist and as a member of various chamber music to public and critical acclaim in both Europe and the Americas.

Amir Milstein
Flutist and Composer

A graduate of the “Rubin Academy of Music” in Jerusalem, Amir established his career in the world-music scene, founding acknowledged ensembles such as Bustan Abraham and Tucan Trio with which he has recorded and performed worldwide. His musical background represents a variety of styles and cultures including classical, jazz, Mediterranean and Latin music. He has collaborated with artists such as Zakir Hussein, Tito Puente, Ross Daly, Omar Farouk Tekbilek, and Mihalis Nikoloudis, among others, and has participated in distinguished concert venues and festivals worldwide, both as a player and as a composer. He has also collaborated with several choreographers, with whom he has composed for modern and flamenco dance groups. Amir participated in musical shows in the Israeli television and has played and recorded numerous albums with Israel’s leading artists. As a music educator Amir presents workshops and lectures at schools, colleges and universities. Currently Amir lives in Boston and performs with a wide variety of ensembles.

Carol A. Muller
Professor of Music, Ethnomusicologist, and Director of Graduate Studies, Anthropology of Music, University of Pennsylvania

Professor Muller is a specialist in South African music, critical ethnography, comparative religion, gender studies, diaspora and historiography. She was a Fellow at the National Humanities Center 1999-2000, has numerous research and publication grants to her credit including from the Human Sciences Research Council, South Africa, and Penn Research Foundation. Muller has published several books: Rituals of Fertility and the Sacrifice of Desire: Nazarite Women’s Performance (with CD Rom, Chicago 1999); South African Music: A Century of Traditions in Transformation with compact Disc (ABC-CLIO, 2004; Second edition, Routledge 2008); Musical Echoes, with Sathima Bea Benjamin (Duke, 2008, with Compact Disc); she has edited four volumes of the Symposium on Ethnomusicology (South Africa, 1996); and edited and introduced Shembe Hymns (translated by Bongani Mthethwa, forthcoming with Compact Disc University of KwaZulu Natal Press). Professor Muller is currently working on two further books, Musically Connected (Oxford 2008 with accompanying website) and The Power to Fly: Zulu Women Stories (1910-2007). She has published widely in a range of journals including Ethnomusicology, Worlds of Music, African Music, Forum for Ethnomusicology, British Journal of Ethnomusicology, Research in African Literatures, Safundi, History Compass, and Current Writing, with contributions in several edited volumes. She is also a gumboot dancer.

Esther Nelson
General & Artistic Director, Boston Lyric Opera

Esther Nelson is enjoying her first season as General & Artistic Director of Boston Lyric Opera. Prior to joining BLO in September 2008, Nelson was a management consultant for a broad range of clients that included the New York Historical Association, their research library, and their associated Fenimore Art Museum; the Farmers’ Museum in Cooperstown, NY; the...
Emmett G. Price III
Chair, African-American Studies and Associate Professor, Music Department, Northeastern University; Planning Committee

Emmett G. Price III is quickly rising as one of the nation’s leading experts on bridging the generational divide. A well regarded musician, educator, and consultant, Dr. Price actively researches, lectures and writes about Black Music of the United States (African American Music) with a focus on social, political, economic, cultural and religious analysis. He is a noted print and broadcast media expert on African American Music & Culture, Hip Hop Culture and Youth Culture. Born and raised in Los Angeles, California, Dr. Price received a B.A. in music from the University of California, Berkeley, and both a M.A. and Ph.D. in music (ethnomusicology) from the University of Pittsburgh. Currently, he is an associate professor of music and Chair of the African American studies at Northeastern University in Boston. In addition, Dr. Price has recently been appointed as a Research Fellow of Northeastern University’s Center for the Study of Sport in Society. During the 2004-2005 academic year, he was a research fellow of the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research at Harvard University. www.emmettprice.com.

Michael Reichman
Project Director, Musical Diplomacy, New England Conservatory

An active flutist, jazz artist, and conductor, Michael Reichman is developing a diverse career as a performer, administrator, and producer. In 2008 he received his B.M. in Flute Performance with distinction from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) and was awarded the prestigious Musicanship Award from its Band program. With the chamber ensemble Campo Aperto, he completed a residency in Morelia, Mexico, presenting a series of performances and master classes at the Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolás de Hidalgo. In 2007, he made his solo debut as winner of the UNL Concerto Competition performing the flute concerto of Jacques Ibert; and in 2008 he served as principal flutist in the UNL Philhamronia’s Carnegie Hall debut. Mr. Reichman has worked extensively with Musication Inc. and MAGIC (Main Action Group for Improvement in the Community) assisting with artist representation, music education productions, music publishing, and studio recordings. Along with harpist Michael Oshiver, he is a member of the M & M Duo. They promote literature outside of typical Flute/Harp repertoire and began “The Heritage of Music Arts Series”: a concert series devoted to bringing classical and jazz music to under-privileged communities. Mr. Reichman is pursuing a Master of Music degree in Conducting at The New England Conservatory under Charles Peltz. In March 2009, he co-produced and conducted in Musical Diplomacy: A Concert & Discussion of Rights and Responsibilities during Wartime, which used musical performance and a post-concert panel discussion as a means to spark political debate. Musical Diplomacy featured three original orchestral works commissioned specifically for this event, and expert panelists from Tufts University’s Fletcher School of Law, The National Defense University, and the Boston Globe.

Harlow Robinson
Matthews Distinguished University Professor of Modern Languages and History, Northeastern University

Harlow Robinson is an author, lecturer and Matthews Distinguished University Professor of Modern Languages and History at Northeastern University. His books include Russians in Hollywood, Hollywood’s Russians: Biography of an Image (Northeastern), Sergei Prokofiev: A Biography (five editions), The Last Impresario: The Life, Times and Legacy of Sol Hurok and Selected Letters of Sergei Prokofiev (editor/translator). His articles, essays and reviews have appeared in numerous anthologies and in The New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Opera News, Musical Quarterly, Opera Quarterly, Dance, Playbill, Symphony Magazine, Russian Review, Russian Life and Slavic Review. He has lectured and written program essays for The Boston Symphony, Metropolitan Opera, Philadelphia Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Rotterdam Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony and Lincoln Center, and has provided commentary for National Public Radio, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and the Metropolitan Opera International Radio Network. Recipient of two Fullbright Fellowships for study in Russia, he received his B.A. Phi Beta Kappa from Yale University, and Ph.D. from University of California, Berkeley.

Mary Sherman
Director, TransCultural Exchange

Mary Sherman is the director of TransCultural Exchange, a nonprofit dedicated to bridging, political, geographical and historical divides through the arts. She has received numerous grants and awards, the most recent of which is a Fulbright Senior Specialist Grant, and has served as an artist in residence at such institutions as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). She teaches at Boston College and Northeastern University and has been invited to talk about contemporary art as a guest speaker, visiting lecturer and critic at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Harvard University’s Graduate School of Design; the University of Chicago; and the National Taiwan Museum of Arts, among others. In addition, Ms. Sherman has published numerous articles on the visual arts in national and international publications and worked as the art critic for the Chicago Sun-Times and as a columnist for WBUR. As an artist, her works have been exhibited widely both in the U.S. and abroad, including at Harvard University; the Trans Hudson Gallery, NY; the Oskar Friedl Gallery, Chicago; Zendai MoMA, Shanghai; Kwanhoon Gallery, Seoul; the London Biennale and the Kuando Museum of Fine Arts, Taipei. Ms. Sherman has curated shows throughout the world, two of which received awards from the northeast chapter of the International Art Critics Association. She is a member of ArtTable, the Boston Sculptors Gallery, the International Association of Art Critics, the National Writers Union, the College Board’s National Task Force on the Arts in Education and the College Art Association.
Atesh Sonneborn
Associate Director, Smithsonian Folkways Recordings
Atesh Sonneborn, Ph.D., ethnomusicologist, has served since 1998 as assistant director, now associate director, of Smithsonian Folkways Recordings, the audio archive and nonprofit record label of the U.S. national museum complex. Before that, he wrote new music for dozens of theater, film, and dance productions in over 1200 performances in the United States and Western Europe. He has lectured and appeared on conference panels at colleges and universities in the U.S., Canada, Denmark, U.A.E. and Morocco, as well as managed productions and artists and produced traditional world music concerts, theatre festivals, and non-Smithsonian music albums. Articles, reviews, and photos by him appear in _The Garland Encyclopedia of World Music_ and scholarly journals. Sonneborn co-authored (with drummer Mickey Hart and Professor Fredric Lieberman) _Planet Drum_ (Harper San Francisco, 1991), is a member of the UNESCO-advisory International Council for Traditional Music and Society for Ethnomusicology, serves as chair of SEM’s Audio-Visual Publication Committee, and is a founding member of its Applied Ethnomusicology Committee. His research interests include grassroots cultural representation, best ethical practices in fieldwork, music in Sufism, intentionality in music performance, music and ritual, and intellectual property rights in intangible cultural heritage.

Demetrius Spaneas
Lecturer, Northeastern University
Multi-wind instrumentalist/composer/recording artist Demetrius Spaneas leads a varied international career and has worked with such diverse artists as John Cage, Ray Charles, and Kyrgyz traditional musicians. He has been featured soloist and composer at major concert venues and festivals throughout North America, Europe, and Asia. Through his work with the U.S. Embassy system, he has presented concerts and lectures on American music and culture throughout the former Soviet Union. His current cultural initiatives focus on Central Asia, the Balkans, and Russia.

Richard Strasser
Assistant Professor, Music Department, Northeastern University; Planning Committee
A native of Australia, Richard Strasser is an Assistant Professor of Music Industry at Northeastern University. He is a graduate from the Canberra School of Music with a Bachelor of Music – with distinction in performance – and a Graduate Diploma in Music. After winning both the Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Award and the prestigious Arts Council of Australia Scholarship, he continued his studies at the Manhattan School of Music, where he received the Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degree. While at the Manhattan School of Music he was awarded the highly coveted Andres Segovia Award for exceptional performance in guitar. Richard also has an arts administration...
degree from New York University. Dr. Strasser was Executive Sales Manager at Stern’s Music, a World Music label based in London and New York. Before working at Northeastern University, Dr. Strasser was on the faculty of numerous universities and colleges including John Cabot University in Rome, Clarion University of Pennsylvania, and as Coordinator of the music business program at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell. Dr. Strasser serves on the board of directors for the Music and Entertainment Industry Educators Association and the Cultural Organization of Lowell. His book, The Business and Practice of Recording Studio Ownership: A Guide for Owners, Managers, Audio Engineers and Musicians was released in Spring 2005.

Su Lian Tan
Composer and Flutist

One of the most sought-after composers and flutists, Su Lian Tan made her first recordings as a flutist by age fourteen. By age seventeen, she was both a Fellow and Licentiate of the Trinity College, London. Her music has been featured on radio’s Morning Pro Musica, Dutch public radio, CBC radio, and many more. She has performed at Lincoln Center with many ensembles. Numerous ensembles have commissioned her, including the Grammy-winning Takacs String Quartet, Meridian Arts Ensemble, Vermont Symphony Orchestra, and the New Juilliard Ensemble. Moo Shu Rap Wrap, written for the Meridian Arts Ensemble, has been toured throughout the U.S., Europe, and South America and recorded. Recent commissions include a second quartet for the Takacs, a chamber opera composed with poet Anne Babson, the premiere of a work for Donald Berman/Dinosaur Annex and also a work for celebrated mime Yass Hakoshima and the Da Capo Chamber Players. Her work has been featured at the Ravinia Festival, Caramoor Festival, Summergarden at MOMA, Lincoln Center, and Le Poisson Rouge, among others. She is professor of Music and former Chairman of the Music Department at Middlebury College. Ms. Tan has garnered numerous distinctions, including grants from Meet the Composer, American Music Center, and the Argosy Foundation, awards from ASCAP, an Irving Berlin Scholarship award, Naumberg Fellowship, and a Vermont Music Teachers Association award. In addition to being the Chair of the Editorial Committee of Vox Nova Media for the Lotte Lehmann Foundation, she has been guest lecturer at the Princeton Institute for Advanced Study, Dartmouth College, University of Colorado School of Music, among others. She holds degrees from Princeton University, the Juilliard School, and Bennington College.

Nadav Tamir
Consul General of Israel, New England

Mr. Tamir joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1993 and the following year began to serve as the Policy Assistant to the Foreign Minister. He had the privilege to serve under three Foreign Ministers – Shimon Peres, Ehud Barak, and David Levy. He was then promoted to the position of Political Officer at the Israeli Embassy in Washington, D.C. in 1997. In 2001, Mr. Tamir was granted the position of Advisor to the Director General at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Jerusalem. In 2003, he was chosen as a Wexner Israel Fellow and earned his Masters in Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University in 2004. Prior to joining the Ministry, Mr. Tamir served as a security officer at the Residence of the President of Israel, while simultaneously earning his B.A. in Philosophy and Political Science from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, from which he graduated Magna Cum Laude. Mr. Tamir was born and raised on Kibbutz Manara in northern Israel. He began his career in public service in 1980 in the IDF, where he eventually served as a company commander and retired with the rank of Major. He is married to Ronit, a dance educator, and is the father of Maya, Ido, and Naama.

Udi Urman
Director of Cultural Affairs, Consulate General of Israel to New England

As the Cultural Affairs Officer for the Israeli Consulate, Udi Urman initiates and leads events to promote the rich culture of Israel throughout New England. Mr. Urman coordinates and hosts visits of Israeli musicians, filmmakers, writers, and artists affiliated with cultural, educational, and governmental groups. Prior to working at the Consulate, Mr. Urman specialized in advertising, working at Shkolnick Communications, an award-winning advertising agency in Tel-Aviv, Israel. After working primarily in a locally and nationally based firm, Mr. Urman extended his work to the international level, joining branding company Adlai & Partners in 2005. As a Senior Account Manager, Mr. Urman collaborated with consultants, designers, outside agencies, and marketing managers to research goals and execute company aims in order to achieve customer satisfaction. Mr. Urman has also written a weekly column on Israeli newspaper “Maariv” and worked for several TV shows. Mr. Urman has an extensive educational background in Communication and Advertising. He is currently studying toward an M.A. degree in Marketing Communications at Emerson College and holds a B.A. in Advertising and Communication from The New York Institute of Technology. Additionally, Mr. Urman holds an Associate’s Degree from the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York.

Anita Walker
Executive Director, Massachusetts Cultural Council

Anita Walker has served as Executive Director of the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC) since April 2007. Ms. Walker is the Commonwealth’s highest ranking cultural official, overseeing a $14 million budget that supports a range of grants, services, and programs for the arts, humanities, and sciences in every community in Massachusetts. Ms. Walker has raised the visibility of the creative economy as a driving force for growth and prosperity in Massachusetts. With support from the Boston Foundation and MAASH, she led advocacy for the Cultural Facilities Fund, which has invested $24 million in arts and cultural building projects statewide since 2006. The program...
has resulted in 577 new jobs and nearly $840 million in new investment in Massachusetts. Her leadership has also helped MCC secure new funding for cultural organizations and local cultural councils statewide. Ms. Walker is a leading member of the new Massachusetts Creative Economy Council, which is charged with fostering the growth of the creative sector. Under Walker’s leadership, MCC has put a spotlight on the role that creativity and arts education play in student achievement and success. She led a successful effort to include the arts as part of the Massachusetts Board of Education’s recommended core curriculum for high school students. She launched the Creative Minds initiative, through which MCC invested more than $3 million in new funding to support arts education in school and in communities. She created a partnership with Bank of America to launch the Big Yellow School Bus program to help schools pay for field trips to cultural organizations. In 2008 Massachusetts Education Secretary Paul Reville named Ms. Walker to his 21st Century Skills Task Force, which called for hiring 1,000 artists and scientists to foster creativity and innovation in the public schools. Before coming to Massachusetts, Ms. Walker was director of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs for seven years, serving simultaneously as executive director of the Iowa Arts Council, administrator of the State Historical Society, and the state historic preservation officer. Ms. Walker is a native of California and a graduate of Arizona University. She lives in Newton, MA with her husband and two sons.

Evan Ziporyn
Composer, Kenan Sahin Distinguished Professor of Music, MIT
Composer/clarinetist Evan Ziporyn is a founding member of the Bang on a Can All-stars (Musical America’s 2005 Ensemble of the Year), with whom he has toured the globe since 1992. He redefined the clarinet with his 2001 solo CD, “This Is Not A Clarinet,” which made numerous Top Ten lists across America. He recorded the definitive version of Steve Reich’s solo clarinet New York Counterpoint for Nonesuch and, as a member of the Steve Reich Ensemble, the Grammy Award winning Music for 18 Musicians. His music provided the soundtrack for the PBS film “Tail-enders”, and his playing was featured in Tan Dun’s soundtrack for the film Fallen. He has also recorded with Paul Simon, Matthew Shipp, and Ethel. Dr. Ziporyn is the Founder and Artistic Director of Boston’s Gamelan Galak Tika, a group dedicated to new music for Balinese gamelan, which he has studied for almost 30 years. He received a Fulbright in 1987, and in 1990 began composing an ongoing series of groundbreaking cross-cultural works, combining gamelan with saxophones, guitars, electronics, Chinese and African instruments, and full orchestra. His fusion opera, Shadow Bang, a collaboration with master Balinese dalang Wayan Wija, was the centerpiece of the 2006 Amsterdam GrachtenFest; his works have also been featured at festivals in London, New York, and the Sydney Olympics. His work as a composer and performer led to his receiving the 2007 USArtists Walker Award and the 2004 American Academy of Arts and Letters Goddard Lieberson Fellowship. His music has been commissioned and performed by the Kronos Quartet, Wu Man, the American Composers Orchestra, the American Repertory Theater, Maya Beiser, So Percussion, and the Boston Modern Orchestra Project, with whom he recorded his 2006 orchestral CD, “Frog’s Eye.” Recordings of his works have been released on Cantaloupe, Sony Classical, New Albion, New World, Koch, Innova, and CRI. He has collaborated with some of the worlds most creative and vital living musicians, including Brian Eno, Ornette Coleman, Thurston Moore, Meredith Monk, Iva Bittova, Philip Glass, Terry Riley, Don Byron, Louis Andriessen, Cecil Taylor, Henry Threadgill, Wu Man, Wayan Wija, and Kyaw Kyaw Naing. He is Kenan Sahin Distinguished Professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and has two children, Leo and Ava. He is currently working on a opera based on the life of Colin McPhee, to be premiered in Bali with the All-stars and full gamelan in June 2009.

Karen Zorn
President, Longy School of Music
Karen Zorn became President of Longy in the spring of 2007. A Wisconsin native and Jamaica Plain resident, Karen was educated as a classical pianist at Goshen College in Indiana and later received her Masters in Piano Performance at the University of Missouri. Karen comes to Longy after several years at Berklee College of Music as the Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs and the MacPhail Center for the Arts in Minnesota, where she had the roles of Acting Executive Director, Director of Individual Instruction and Chair of the Keyboard Department. Karen has been on the faculty at organizations such as Berklee, MacPhail, and the University of Missouri - Kansas City.
Donald Berman, Pianist
American pianist Donald Berman is recognized as one of the chief exponents of new works by living composers, overlooked music by 20th century masters, and recitals that link classical and modern repertoires. He has established an extensive discography in the works of major American composers, including Ives, Ruggles, Kernis, Levering, Wheeler, Boykan, and many others. Mr. Berman’s acclaimed 2-volume The Unknown Ives represents the only recording of the complete short piano works of Charles Ives extant. On The Uncovered Ruggles Mr. Berman offers premiere recordings of unpublished sketches, transcriptions, and realizations of Ruggles’ music by John Kirkpatrick. His most recent recordings, Americans in Rome, and, with soprano Susan Narucki, The Light That Is Felt (Ives songs) were each named CD of the Month by BBC Music Magazine. Donald Berman has performed to critical acclaim at major venues in the U.S., Europe and the Middle East. As an educator, Mr. Berman has presented recitals, lectures, and master classes in Italy, Israel, and throughout the U.S.; he teaches at Tufts University and directs the New England Conservatory Summer Piano Institute. A prizewinner of the 1991 Schubert International Competition, Mr. Berman studied with Leonard Shure, John Kirkpatrick, George Barth, and Mildred Victor. He lives with his wife and two children in New York City.

Central Conservatory of Music, Beijing, China
The Central Conservatory of Music is a holy palace for many musical talents in the country. For past 55 years, thousands of students have graduated from the Conservatory, some of them have established the international reputation. The students have won 481 prizes in major international music competitions, including the golden and silver medals in Tchaikovsky International Music Competition, 1801 prizes in national music competitions, 346 music compositions have been awarded in international and national competition. From 1987, 87 prizes for scientific achievements have been given to the CCOM. Having served for the past 55 years both as a music education center for training professional musicians and a research-composition-performance center for developing music education of society, the CCOM has grown into an institution of high prestige at home and abroad capable of offering the whole range of curricula for musical training, and representing the level of music education in China.

Anthony Paul De Ritis, Composer, Music Director
[for bio, please see symposium participants]

Benoit Granier, Composer, Narrator
[for bio, please see symposium participants]

Leslie Levi, Violinist
Leslie Levi began her musical training at the age of 5. A native of Paris, she attended conservatories at Rosny-sous-Bois and St. Maur before entering the Paris Conservatory at the age of 16, studying violin. Her past teachers include Marie-Claude Theuveny, Boris Garlitzky, Régis Pasquier and Akiko Nawashima; she has also attended master classes at Raphaël Oleg, Emmanuel Borok, Yair Kless, Alexandre Brussilovsky, Jean-Pierre Wallez, Donal Weilerstein, Hagai Shaham. Her accomplishments include performances in Europe and Asia. She currently teaches as an adjunct lecturer for the Department of Music at Boston University, starting September 2009, and awarded a full scholarship.

Del Lewis, Narrator
[for bio, please see symposium participants]

ZhongLing Li, Violinist
ZhongLing Li has performed as a soloist and chamber musician in her native China as well as in the U.S. and Europe. She is the exclusive winner of the 2006 Arthur W. Foote Award from the Harvard Musical Association. In May 2005, Ms. Li was awarded the Dan David Prize for Performing Arts, dedicated to only 20 people in the world with proven and exceptional excellence in sciences, arts, and humanities. She made her solo debut with the Boston Pops in May 2004 as the winner of the Boston University 2004 Soloists’ Competition. Ms. Li holds both Doctoral and Master of Music degrees from Boston University, where she studied with Prof. Dana Mazurkevich. During her studies at Boston University she was awarded numerous distinctions including the Grand Prize in the 2001 Bach Competition and recognition as an Outstanding Student in 2004. Ms. Li received her Bachelor of Music degree from Shanghai Conservatory, where she was winner of both the Shanghai Bach and Mozart Competitions. Ms. Li is a former member of the China National Symphony Orchestra, with whom she toured extensively throughout Europe and Asia. She currently teaches as an adjunct lecturer for the Department of Music at Northeastern University.

Zhang Maodi, Composer
Zhang Maodi is a Chinese composer currently living in Beijing. In 2004, she entered the Middle School affiliated with the Central Conservatory of Music. Miss Maodi was then admitted to
American musical tradition born of suffering but infused with unshakable hope. Knee of a grandmother, the spirituals are part of the cultural experience of all of us – a uniquely connects with its yearnings more than the spirituals. Although not all of us learned them at the traditional spirituals, can be more exuberant, but nothing touches the depths of the soul or New England Spiritual Ensemble’s repertoire and frames its mission. Gospel which evolved from “Songs that soothe the soul” describes the traditional American Negro spiritual, which forms the New England Spiritual Ensemble’s repertoire and frames its mission. Gospel which evolved from the traditional spirituals, can be more exuberant, but nothing touches the depths of the soul or connects with its yearnings more than the spirituals. Although not all of us learned them at the knee of a grandmother, the spirituals are part of the cultural experience of all of us – a uniquely American musical tradition born of suffering but infused with unshakable hope.

Dimitri Murrath, Violist
First prize winner at the 2008 Primrose International Viola Competition, Belgian violinist Dimitri Murrath has had his debut recitals in Jordan Hall (Boston), Wigmore Hall, Purcell Room and Royal Festival Hall (London), and Palais des Beaux Arts (Brussels). Born in Brussels in 1982, Dimitri began his musical education at the Yehudi Menuhin School studying with Natalia Boyarsky, and went on to work in London with David Takeno at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. He graduated last year with an Artist Diploma from the New England Conservatory as a student of Kim Kashkashian. He has won numerous awards, including Verbier Festival Academy’s Viola Prize, New England Conservatory’s Presidential Scholar Award, and a fellowship from the Belgian American Educational Foundation. As a chamber musician, Dimitri has collaborated with violinist Gidon Kremer, whom invited him to his festival in Lockenhaus, Austria and to the Kronberg Academy’s Chamber Music Connects the World project. Other artists with whom Dimitri has worked include Menahem Pressler, Donald Weilerstein, Laurence Lesser, Paul Katz and Kim Kashkashian. In the spring 2008, he was invited to be part of the Ravinia Rising Stars Chamber Music Tour with violinist Miriam Fried. Other festivals include IMS Prussia Cove (UK), Ravinia’s Steans Institute for Young Artists (Chicago), Verbier Festival Academy, Gstaad Festival (Switzerland) and Marlboro Music Festival.

New England Spiritual Ensemble
“Songs that soothe the soul” describes the traditional American Negro spiritual, which forms the New England Spiritual Ensemble’s repertoire and frames its mission. Gospel which evolved from the traditional spirituals, can be more exuberant, but nothing touches the depths of the soul or connects with its yearnings more than the spirituals. Although not all of us learned them at the knee of a grandmother, the spirituals are part of the cultural experience of all of us – a uniquely American musical tradition born of suffering but infused with unshakable hope.
Arthur Rishi, Narrator

Arthur Rishi is active both as a musician and an arts administrator. As a singer, his recent appearances have included the title role in Mozart’s La Clemenza di Tito with Prism Opera, several performances of Handel’s Messiah, including appearances with the Musica Angelica Baroque Orchestra in Los Angeles, as well as for the First Religious Society of Newburyport, and Carmina Burana with the Andover Choral Society. His operatic roles also include the Male Chorus in Britten’s The Rape of Lucretia, Tamino in The Magic Flute, and Satyavan in Holst’s Savitri. As a lieder recitalist, he has performed Schubert’s Die schöne Müllerin nearly twenty times, in venues throughout the Northeast and in Canada, including as featured recitalist for First Night Providence. He has made a particular specialty of the Evangelist roles in baroque Passions, including Bach’s St. John Passion at Occidental College, and Keiser’s St. Mark Passion at both Yale and Harvard. Other concert performances have included Schütz’s Musikalishe Exequien with the Harvard-Radcliffe Collegium Musicum, and Mendelssohn’s Elijah with the Harvard-Radcliffe Chorus. The Boston Globe recently said “tenor Arthur Rishi demonstrated sterling musicianship, sound technique and unaffected dignity,” and “much of the best music was justifiably entrusted to... Rishi.”

Alexandra Sherman, Narrator

Alexandra Sherman was born in New York City but was immediately swept away to Cameroon, the first of many countries she would live in as the daughter of U.S. Diplomats Gil and Dona Sherman. Having spent her life overseas in Cameroon, India, the Ivory Coast, Israel and Cairo, Ms. Sherman has an exciting list of influences and multicultural perspectives to bring to her creative work. She finally returned the United States to earn an undergraduate degree in anthropology at the University of California, Berkeley however, her passion was theater. Ms. Sherman has acted in numerous performances at Berkeley’s Zellerbach Playhouse, including Adrienne Kennedy’s She Talks to Beethoven, the musical Working, and Shakespeare’s A Midsummer Night’s Dream. Upon graduation, Ms. Sherman moved to Boston and began taking courses in Museum Studies at Harvard University extension and at the Massachusetts College of Arts. She has worked in various positions including at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, MA, at the African Voices exhibit at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., and at the Education Development Center in Newton, Mass. After a two-year stint on New York City’s lower east side where she earned her Masters degree in Interactive Telecommunications at N.Y.U., Ms. Sherman now is a project manager in the Social Studies Division of Pearson Education.

Liu Sijun, Composer

Liu Sijun, was born in September 1970 to a musical family; he is currently Associate Professor at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing, working at the Centre for Electronic Music. Mr. Liu studied composition with Professor Du Mingxin and French horn with Professor Zhang Zhenwu at the Central Conservatory of Music, graduating with a double Bachelors degree in composition and French horn in 1994. As a composer, Mr. Lu has received performances in the United States, Canada, Singapore, Japan, South Africa and Hong Kong. He earned his Masters degree in electronic music composition under Professor Zhang Xiaofu in 2001. In 2005, he was invited to be a judge for the second Chinese Golden Disc Awarding. And in 2006, he continued his research at the Santa Cecilia Conservatory in Rome, Italy, as a visiting scholar, majoring in electronic music composition. Mr. Liu has composed music for more than 40 films and teleplays.

Grant Smith, Percussion

A member of The Klezmer Conservatory Band, Grant Smith is involved in world music, jazz, classical, and dance projects in Boston and New York. Mr. Smith has toured globally from Krakow to Thailand and New Zealand. He has performed with Itzhak Perlman, Yo-Yo Ma, Don Byron, Garrison Keillor, and Jane Wang among many others. Percussion studies include Arabic hand drums with Jamie Haddad, Indian Tabla with Kazi Jalal, Afro-Cuban percussion with Enrique Pla, and Handance with Glen Velez, as well as drum set with Alan Dawson. The Boston Globe calls him a “brilliant improviser,” and the Boston Phoenix has noted his topflight “cross-genre” abilities. Mr. Smith has toured extensively and has seen music help bring understanding to people of different cultural backgrounds.

Su Lian Tan, Composer

Gao Yunxiang, Composer, Pipa

Yunxiang Gao was born in 1984 in Qningdao, Shandong Province, China. She took piano with Shi Caikun when she was 3 and Pipa with Shao Xiuchong since 5. In 1997, she studied in the Music School Attached to the Tianjing Conservatory of Music and majored in Pipa as professor (Liuhong)`s student. After she wrote her first composition around 2000/01 she decided to study formal composition with professor GuZhimian. In 2004, she entered in Central Conservatory of Music and studied electronic music composition with Prof. Zhang Xiaofu. During her apprenticeship, she premiered several of her own performances and of composer Benoit Granier across China. Her private teaching experiences started when she was still in middle school, and lots of her students later entered the Tianjing Conservatory of Music. She is not just a composer but also performer, she won the third prize of junior for performing in the Musical instruments Competition when she was 8. When she was 17, her Pipa work won the second prize for composing and performing in the 3th Musical instruments Composition for professionals in Shandong Province. Yunxiang Gao also sings Chinese Opera, dance Jazz and paints.

Lingyan Zhou, Erhu

Lingyan Zhou was born in Qidong, Jiangsu in November 1982. She began her study of the erhu when she was eight, then she entered the Secondary Art School of the Nanjing Arts Institute and continued to study erhu under Professor Yihe Yang. In 2000, Lingyan successfully held her first erhu solo concert at the Nanjing Arts Institute Concert Hall; this was followed by a performance tour in Taiwan. One year later, in 2001, she was admitted to the Beijing Central Conservatory Of Music with an outstanding result, and studied in the 3th Musical instruments Composition for professionals in Shandong Province. Yunxiang Gao also sings Chinese Opera, dance Jazz and paints.

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Luo Zijun, Composer

Luo Zijun was born in Changsha, Hunan in December 1988. She started to learn Piano and singing when she was five. She was invited many times to participate in the Hunan Sharon Arts Festival performances. In 2004, she entered the Music School Attached to the Central Conservatory of Music and majored in musicology. For three years, she was first in professional examinations. In 2006, she participated “China-France Solfeggio Art Week”. In 2007, she entered the Central Conservatory of Music, and studied Electronic music composition with Prof. Ping Jing; studied traditional composition with Prof. Sijun Liu; studied Sound Design and composition with Prof. Benoit Granier. She is member of the Electronic Music Association of China (EMAC). Lingyan began teaching erhu in the Middle School affiliated to the Central Conservatory of Music as well as the Chinese Traditional Instruments Department of the Conservatory. In recent years, Lingyan has moved from successful student to established scholar, teacher and respected performer. Many of her students have entered famous arts institutions, including the Central Conservatory Of Music, the Nanjing Arts Institute, the Harbin Normal University, the Beijing Vocational Institute of Local Opera and Arts.

silver medal at the China National Instrument Competition (the “Zhonglu Cup” and Wenhua Cup”, respectively).

What is Cultural Diplomacy?

American political scientist and author, Milton C. Cummings, describes cultural diplomacy as “the exchange of ideas, information, values, systems, traditions, beliefs, and other aspects of culture, with the intention of fostering mutual understanding.”


Cultural exchange can take place in fields including art, sport, literature, music, science and the economy. Such exchange implies communication and respect between the cultures involved, based on a sounder understanding of respective values and a reduced susceptibility to stereotypes. The potential of such an improved knowledge is to enable improved interaction and cooperation.

Cultural diplomacy is the initiation or facilitation of such exchanges with an aim to yielding long-term benefits, whether they promote national interests, build relationships or enhance socio-cultural understanding. Cultural diplomacy can be used in a number of forms, and with a range of different intentions, to help improve intercultural dialogue. Cultural diplomacy has acted as a peace-keeping force in a number of situations throughout history. With increased social exchange and the platforms in place to promote it, the future potential for cultural diplomacy to improve mutual understanding on all levels is highly significant.

MISSION

Exploring the role that music can play in fostering mutual understanding, enhanced communication, and improved interaction and cooperation between cultures.