

Arts for All! 2019-20 Season in Review

Celebrity Series of Boston is pleased to share this Season in Review for Arts for All! community engagement programs in our 2019-20 season. It was an unusual season, interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, which required us to announce the cancellation all remaining live performances for the season as of March 13, 2020. Prior to our cancellation announcement, Arts for All! programs partnered with **110 organizations** to engage **11,163 people** of all ages and abilities in **124 in-person activities**, harnessing the creative energy of the performing arts to activate Boston neighborhoods and cultivate the next generation of artists and audiences. Following the cancellations, our Celebrity Series at Home virtual concert series engaged **48,414 online viewers** from close to home and around the world in **12 live streamed concerts** from April-June of 2020.



Thank you for your support, which makes these programs possible. Through your generosity, Arts for All! offering each season include:

PUBLIC PERFORMANCE PROJECTS: free, participatory events for the whole city

NEIGHBORHOOD ARTS: local artists lead interactive workshops and community concerts in six Boston neighborhoods

ARTIST CONNECTIONS: artists from across the globe teaching and inspiring students from K-12 to conservatory and beyond

TAKE YOUR SEAT: free and discounted tickets for thousands of children, students and families



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Below please find additional detail on the activities in each program in the 2019-20 season.

CONCERT FOR ONE

Hailed by the Boston Herald as “an absurdly ambitious public performance project,” *Concert For One* was a collaboration between Celebrity Series of Boston and lead artist Rayna Yun Chou. Individual listeners sat face-to-face with solo musicians for one minute of concentrated listening, distilling live performance to its most fundamental form. Over 10 days in September 2019, in Boston (Greenway’s Chin Park) and Cambridge (Harvard Science Plaza), nearly 5,000 performances took place inside a temporary art installation featuring an interactive lobby and performance space that had just enough room for two chairs, two people and an instrument. A rotating roster of 58 local musicians, sourced via an open call, provided over 120 hours of live music.

Musicians:

Diana Alvarez	Jason Ji	Mayshell Field
Egor Antonenko	Deberly Kauffman	Noah Preminger
Robin Baker	Mina Kim	Rhonda Rider
Louise Bichan	Annegret Klaua	Max Ridley
Sarah Bob	Saralyn Klepaczyk	Veronica Robles
Karen Boltax	Vasilis Kostas	David Russell
Nicholas Brown	Jonas Kublickas	Miki Sawada
Javier Caballero	Brianni Lee	Cameron Shave
Han Chen	Anita Lee	Martine Thomas
Audrey Chen	Jawoon Lee	Aaron Trant
Rayna Yun Chou	Peiwen Liao	Yizhen Wang
James Davidson	Ming-Hui Lin	Benjamin Wenzelberg
Pamela Dellal	Xiaofan Liu	Paul White
Alyssia Eunike	Charlotte Malin	Andy Wilds
Ken Field	Gabriela Martina	Julia Yang
Ashleigh Gordon	Nora Maynard	Hikaru Yonezaki
Sadie Gustafson-Zook	Albino Mbie	Ilana Zaks
Lily Honigberg	Francesca McNeeley	Yingchen Zhang
Jean Huang	Fabiola Méndez	
Karish Javier	Sophie Michaux	

“Incredible! Once the music started, it changed everything. You can’t do anything but just be yourself. The concept of this is just thrilling.”

WGBH-FM Boston Public Radio

“It allowed me to experience art up close in a way I never have before. Thank you for providing such an intimate, unusual and entirely powerful opportunity.”

Bruce, listener

“WOW! The most unique venue I’ve been to! So cool to be so close to the music!”

One of 1,100 comment cards left by listeners



NEIGHBORHOOD ARTS

Neighborhood Arts brings the joy of live performance to people of all ages and abilities, drawing deeply upon partnerships with community organizations to activate six underserved Boston neighborhoods - Dorchester, Hyde-Park, Mattapan, Roslindale, Roxbury and the South End - with a rich and varied array of opportunities.

Engaging Local Artists – Neighborhood Arts artists are a diverse group of locally-based artists and ensembles who are experienced in working with youth and committed to community engagement.

Activating Neighborhoods – Neighborhood Arts featured 53 interactive workshops and residency activities, alongside 20 free and deeply discounted community concerts in neighborhood venues.

Community Collaborations – Neighborhood Arts partnered with 58 community organizations, from local arts and social service organizations, to schools, community centers, and more.

World-Class Performances – Neighborhood Arts partners attended eight Celebrity Series main stage performances free of charge.

Our season-long Celebration of Puerto Rico began with a special Boston Tribute to legendary cellist Pablo Casals in October 2019. The tribute featured a concert of nine all-star local cellists, followed by a cello orchestra concert in the same weekend. The orchestra featured 56 cellists drawn from students



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and faculty at Berklee, Boston Conservatory, Boston University, Longy School of Music, New England Conservatory, and 14 professional organizations. This performance not only celebrated the legacy of Pablo Casals, but also premiered Suite Boricua, arranged by Neighborhood Arts cellist Aristides Rivas, accompanied by Boston-based Puerto Rican percussionists Jorge Arce and Gabriel Santiago. Additional Neighborhood Arts themes in 2019-20 included American/Contemporary Music and World Music/Dance, with a variety of workshops, residencies, and concerts that engaged young people, families, and audiences of all ages, grounded in bringing the arts to everybody and everybody to the arts.

Programs and Activities: 81

Community partners: 58

Participating Artists: 103 local artists

Participants: 4,237

2019-20 NEIGHBORHOOD ARTS ARTISTS

Jean Appolon Expressions (Haitian contemporary dance)

Jorge Arce (bomba y plena)

Mike Block (cello)

Yo-El Cassell (contemporary dance)

Castle of Our Skins (celebrating Black artistry through music)

Sandeep Das (tabla)

Ryan Edwards (percussion)

Devin Ferreira (hip hop)

Christian Figueroa (tenor)

Maria Finkelmeier (percussion)

Shaw Pong Liu (violin, erhu)

Fabiola Méndez Trio (cuatro/jazz)

Jason Palmer Quintet (jazz)

Veronica Robles (mariachi ensemble)

Sol y Canto (pan Latin music)

Voci Angelica Trio (world music)

Casals Project: 57 students and faculty from Berklee College of Music, Boston Conservatory at Berklee, Boston University, Longy School of Music, New England Conservatory, plus additional faculty from Northeastern University, Brandeis University, and Wellesley College.

2019-20 NEIGHBORHOOD ARTS PARTNERS

Dorchester

Boston Arts Academy

Boston City Singers

Boston Home

Conservatory Lab Charter School

Epiphany School

Salvation Army Kroc Center

The UpTruck

Mattapan Teen Center

Roslindale

Bates Elementary School

Futura Productions, Inc.

Sumner Boys & Girls Club

Sumner Elementary School

Hyde Park

Boston Renaissance Charter School

Hyde Park Branch Library

Roxbury

Boston City-Wide String Orchestra

Boston Public Schools

City Strings United

Hernández K-8 School

Hibernian Hall

Madison Park Development Corporation

Timilty Middle School

Mattapan

Chittick Elementary School

Church of the Holy Spirit



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Tropical Foods
Twelfth Baptist Church
UU Urban Ministry, Roxbury
Yawkey Boys & Girls Club

South End

The Calderwood Pavilion at the BCA
Castle Tenants Association
Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción
Hurley K-8 School
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
St. Stephen's B-Ready After School Program
Urbanity Dance
Union United Methodist Church
Villa Victoria Center for the Arts Gallery

Other neighborhoods

Ágora Cultural Architects
Berklee College of Music
Big Sister Association of Greater Boston

Boston Art Commission
Boston Children's Museum
Boston Conservatory at Berklee
Boston String Academy
Boston University
Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston
Brandeis University
City Year Boston
City Connects
CROMA @ Arlington Street Church
The Dance Complex
Fenway Studios @ Ipswich St
Josiah Quincy School
Museum of Fine Arts
New England Conservatory
Northeastern University
Project STEP
Veronica Robles Cultural Center
Wellesley College

"Watching people smile, sing along, weep, and sway as they listened to the music of Sunday's concert [with Fabiola Méndez] was very moving to me. We are so grateful that you shared your talent with us!"

Rev. Liz Steinhauser, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, South End

"Truly, I've been high all week from the chance to be with my colleagues young and old, to be immersed in glorious cello sound, and for the chance to share our music with that big and grateful audience. And it must be said again and again: your mastery in organizing this - so many moving parts - was just astounding to witness and was the absolute cornerstone of its success."

Eugene Friesen, Berklee faculty and Casals Project conductor

"Our parents thanked me for the experience their children are getting through these performances, which tells me Stringfest holds a special place. Unlike our signature concerts, there's the collaborative element beyond simply our program. There's more to enjoy for all!"

Bithyah Israel, Artistic/Executive Director, City Strings United, Roxbury

"The Mike Block collaboration was an excellent experience for us all. As you are aware, I'm already a fan of the Boston Home performances. But this one was particularly special. I did not realize until the actual performance that Mike was a singer in addition to being a cellist... It's inspiring to see how much of an impact our Boston Home performances have on our young singers year after year."

Matt Holehan, Cantare division accompanist, Boston City Singers



ARTIST CONNECTIONS

Master classes, lecture-demonstrations, and interactive workshops with artists from across the globe offer unparalleled access for students from the elementary through conservatory levels. Post-performance artist talks create a personal connection for our audiences. Activities in 2019-20 included post-performance artist talks; master classes at Longy School of Music and New England Conservatory; a Community Gospel Sing led by Trey McLaughlin and the Sounds of Zamar that taught gospel harmonies to 165 singers from 16 local choirs that joined us at Sanders Theatre the next night and sang harmonies from their seats; a residency with three Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater principal dancers that included a panel discussion on at WBUR's CitySpace on Gospel Music from the Church to the Stage with Trey McLaughlin and Solomon Dumas, a master class at Boston Arts Academy, lecture-demonstrations at Charlestown High School and Charlestown Boys & Girls Club, and a community dance class at Berkshire Partners Blue Hill Boys & Girls Club for 45 youth from local dance studios; and a residency with Camille A. Brown & Dancers that included a "Double This, Juba That!" workshop at Hibernian Hall in Roxbury for 75 local youth dancers and a dinner with Brown and the Boston Network of Arts Administrators of Color.

Programs and Activities: 17

Community partners: 37

Participating Artists: 24 artists

Participants: 1,541



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2019-20 ARTIST CONNECTIONS ARTISTS

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater
Black Grace
Camille A. Brown & Dancers
Calidore String Quartet
Patricia Kopatchinskaja & Jay Campbell
Trey McLaughlin & The Sounds of Zamar

Cecile McLorin Salvant
Calidore String Quartet
Ying Fang, soprano and Ken Noda, piano
Steven Osborne, piano
Davone Tines, bass-baritone
Joyce Yang, piano

2019-20 ARTIST CONNECTIONS PARTNERS

4 Star Dance Studio
Arts Boston
BalletRox
Berkshire Partners Blue Hills Boys & Girls Club
Bethel AME Church
Big Sister Association of Greater Boston
Boch Center Shubert Theatre
Boston Arts Academy
Boston City Singers
Boston Network of Arts Administrators of Color
Boston Pops Gospel Choir
Cambridge SDA Church, Everett
Charlestown Boys & Girls Club
Charlestown High School
Darryl's Bar & Kitchen
The Eight Tracks
Harvard Kuumba Singers
Hibernian Hall
Jo-Me Dance

José Mateo Ballet Theatre
Joyful Voice of Inspiration
Longy School of Music
Mystic Chorale
New England Conservatory
NEC Millennium Choir
Newton Singers
North Shore Evangelical Missionary Church
Old Cambridge Baptist Church
Old South Church
OrigiNation Cultural Arts Center
Roxbury Performing Arts Center
Stajez Cultural Arts Center
St. Paul's AME Church
Sharing a New Song
Tufts University
Uptown Dance Center
WBUR CitySpace

"You all really inspired me like I won't quit dancing now!!! Thank you so much!"

Anisah, Charlestown High student, following Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater workshop

"It felt like we'd been invited into a family reunion ... where everyone in the family was a stellar singer who wanted to share their joy with us."

Audience member, Trey McLaughlin & The Sounds of Zamar

"Thank you so much for your help facilitating a fantastic event with Camille [A. Brown] on Friday night, and providing the opportunity for our members to see the performance on Saturday. I know it meant so much for our local dance community and [Network of Arts Administrators of Color] membership to have access to both events, particularly the moving conversation between Indira [Goodwine] and Camille. None of it would have been possible without your generous partnership and support, so I am very grateful we were able to collaborate and look forward to doing so again in the future."

Audrey Seraphin, ArtsBoston



TAKE YOUR SEAT

Take Your Seat, part of Celebrity Series' Arts for All! suite of community engagement programs, provides free and deeply discounted tickets to Celebrity Series performances to thousands of young people and deserving individuals annually, partnering with school and community groups that serve primarily low-income children and youth. For many, Take Your Seat offers the opportunity to experience world-class artists in a major performance hall for the first time. In an ordinary season, over 3,000 young people are served through Take Your Seat. Our season cancellation announced on March 13, 2020 entailed the cancellation of 29 performances, including four of our performances at Symphony Hall and our annual five performance engagement with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, both of which generate a large proportion of our Take Your Seat tickets in a typical season.

In the 2019-20 season, prior to the cancellation, Take Your Seat provided 919 free and discounted tickets to 29 performances at venues including Symphony Hall, the Boch Center Shubert Theatre, Sanders Theatre at Harvard University, Jordan Hall at the New England Conservatory, Berklee Performance Center, and Pickman Hall at the Longy School of Music. This included:

Free tickets: 124 tickets distributed to Neighborhood Arts partner organizations

\$10 tickets: 135 tickets to school and community groups reaching underserved youth

Child tickets: 226 tickets at a 50% discount for children under the age of 18

Student tickets: 434 \$20 tickets to college and conservatory students



Distributed to performances by the following artists:

Sergio Mendes & Bebel Gilberto
Chick Corea Trilogy with Christian McBride and Brian Blade
Black Grace
Jerusalem Quartet
Gewandhausorchester Leipzig
Richard Goode, piano
Wynton Marsalis Quintet
Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center
Noam Pikelny & Stuart Duncan
Los Angeles Philharmonic with Gustavo Dudamel and Yuja Wang, piano
Chucho Valdes - Jazz Bata
What Makes It Great? with Rob Kapilow: Dreaming of a Jewish Christmas
Sheku Kanneh-Mason, cello and Isata Kanneh-Mason, piano
Terence Blanchard featuring the E-Collective
Patricia Kopatchinskaja, violin and Jay Campbell, cello
Sergio Assad, Clarice Assad, and Third Coast Percussion
Caleb Teicher & Company with Conrad Tao
Trey McLaughlin and The Sounds of Zamar
An Evening with Sutton Foster
Cécile McLorin Salvant
Bereishit Dance Company
What Makes It Great? with Rob Kapilow and the Verona Quartet: The Arc of Genius: Beethoven's First and Last Quartets
Ying Fang, soprano with Ken Noda, piano
John Pizzarelli Trio
Steven Osborne & Paul Lewis, duo piano
Academy of St. Martin in the Fields with Joshua Bell
Bobby McFerrin
Miloš The Voice of the Guitar
Camille A. Brown & Dancers

COVID-19 and CELEBRITY SERIES AT HOME

As the our city and region responded to the crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic, Celebrity Series canceled the remainder of our 2019-20 season on March 13, 2020. Most of our fall 2020 performances have canceled, and we expect more to come in the 2020-21 season. As we have crafted our response to this profound disruption to the presenting field, surrounded by even greater disruptions to the world around us, a set of core values has emerged. Central to these values is our conviction that how we treat artists now, in this moment of crisis, will define how we emerge from it.

In April, 2020, we launched a series of weekly Celebrity Series at Home concerts featuring Neighborhood Arts artists live streaming on Facebook from their homes. From April through June, these twelve concerts garnered 48,404 views, from close to home in Massachusetts and as far away as Puerto Rico, India, and Japan. These concerts not only provided some measure of immediate employment to local

The logo for Celebrity Series of Boston features a stylized globe composed of several overlapping, colorful circles in shades of blue, green, yellow, and red. Below the globe, the text "Celebrity Series of Boston" is written in a clean, sans-serif font.

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artists who had seen an entire performance season's income evaporate overnight, but they also engaged Celebrity Series' audience and donors at a time when many of us were hungry for connection and for the joy that live performance creates. This series also provided ground for Celebrity Series to experiment and learn about producing digital events, setting the stage for our fall 2020 Celebrity Series at Home events, which include six streaming concerts with artists who would have appeared on our mainstage season in the fall and twelve streaming concerts with local Neighborhood Arts artists.

Artists featured in Celebrity Series at Home concerts from April-June, 2020 included:

Mike Block, cello

Sandeep Das, tabla

Fabiola Méndez, cuatro (2 performances)

Castle of Our Skins with Boston String Academy and Josiah Quincy Orchestra, in a multi-track video performance in place of the canceled South End Stringfest

Shaw Pong Liu, violin/erhu

Verónica Robles and Willy Lopez, vocals and guitar

Jean Appolon, dance

Ari Rivas & Meena Malik, cello/cuatro/vocals

Michael Avitabile, flute

Débo Ray, vocalist

Maria Finkelmeier, marimba/percussion

THANK YOU

On behalf of the staff, artists, community partners, and community members of all ages who are served by Celebrity Series of Boston's Arts for All! programs, we thank you for your support. Your generosity makes all of these partnerships possible, and we are deeply grateful.