



Saturday | December 13, 2025 | 3pm
Salvation Army Kroc Center

Celebrity Series of Boston presents a Neighborhood Arts performance

STRINGFEST Edmar Colón Ensemble

Edmar Colón saxophones

Anthony Fung drums

Maxim Lubarsky piano

David Rosado percussion

Ian Ashby bass

Tutti Druyan vocals

featuring youth ensembles from

**City Strings United,
Boston Music Project, and
Project STEP**

City Strings United

Bithyah Israel

Simple Calypso

Traditional

French Folksong

Jean-Joseph Mouret

Rondeau

Hans Zimmer, arr. Luke Walker

Pirates of the Caribbean

Joanne Martin

Berceuse

Boston Music Project

Johann Strauss, Sr.

Radetsky March, Op. 228

Project STEP

Imogen Heap, arr. Ian Saunders
(Time For Three)

Hide and Seek

Ana Gabriela Huertas, cello

Brittany-Ann Brandao, cello

Christopher Hernandez, bass (teaching artist)

Program continued on next page...

2025/26 Season Sponsors

Crescendo Donor Advised Fund and **Susan & Michael Thonis**

Neighborhood Arts is supported by the Barr Foundation through its ArtsAmplified initiative, Liberty Mutual Foundation, Lubin Family Foundation, Mass Cultural Council, Susanne Marcus Collins Foundation, Schrafft Charitable Trust, and other generous supporters.

This performance is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts

Celebrity Series of Boston is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Edmar Colón Ensemble

Bobby Capó , arr. Edmar Colón	Piel Canela
Edmar Colón	The Old Man & The Sea
Edmar Colón	Hope is not an Action
Bobby Capó , arr. Edmar Colón	Soñando con Puerto Rico
Edmar Colón	Pionero

Edmar Colón Ensemble

City Strings United

Boston Music Project

Project STEP

Jose Quezada Marquez conductor

Noel Estrada , arr. Javier Caballero	En mi Viejo San Juan
Antonio Cabán Vale , arr. Javier Caballero	Verde Luz

Today's program will run approximately 75 minutes with no intermission.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Founded in 2012 by President and CEO Bithyah Israel, **City Strings United** (CSU) provides free lessons (in-person and virtual) and unique performance opportunities to youth ages 4-18. Based in Roxbury, CSU students are primarily from Roxbury, Dorchester, and Mattapan neighborhoods. City Strings United's mission is to promote youth development in historically excluded communities through access to high-quality, student-centered music education and instrumental performance. In addition to performance and music literacy, City Strings United focuses on life and leadership skills and nurtures creativity.

VIOLIN	CELLO	CELLO (cont'd)
Camila Rosario	Amari Crosson	Mi'Angel Harris
Darien Ho	Amelia Payne	Molly Le
Devan Ho	Bithyah Israel (staff)	Nathan Oluwole
Haley Le	Dylan Ho	Niomi Joseph
Hazel Grant	Ellie Le	Nyah Williamson
Ian Johnson (staff)	Emmanuel Zane Awa	Owen Ramseur
Kgalalelo Mabelane	Eros Da Silva	Peace Okafor
Kopelo Mabelane	Ike Okafor	Rhea Gibson (staff)
Layla Obas	Jordyn Massey	Zion Huggins
Louisa Barney	Julius Mangin	
Madison Joy	Katamelo Mabelane	BASS
Malcolm Mangin	Lexi Martinez (staff)	Caleb Oluwole
Myles Ramseur	Luke Walker (staff)	Imari Walters-Smith
Raya Joseph	Menelik Sylvain	
Royce Payne		
Zayden Huggins		
Zeke Awa		

The **Boston Music Project** (BMP) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to ensuring the long-term social-emotional and musical success of Boston youth. BMP's vision is to give every child an engaging and fun musical experience, performance opportunities to develop confidence and self-efficacy, high levels of musical proficiency, and a passion for learning that transcends all subjects. We serve youth of all ages to ensure that the following long-term impact goals can become a reality for all students: musical excellence, social-emotional development, civic engagement, and creative self-expression.

VIOLIN

Amilia Adams
Aria Leung
Athena Witt
Charles Weir
Chloe Zhao
Dominic Gloria
Isabel Zou
Jenny Li
Jinny Chen
Jiyun Bowen Dai
Krish Varyani-McGrath
Maya Raza

VIOLA

Eliezer Yesuf
Micah Pilcher
Mila Russo
Nina Krishko

CELLO

Eleanor Harper
Eloise Sahula
Emma Miani
Grey Shroeder
Ian Gloria
Lily Ann Madoff

Since 1982, **Project STEP** (String Training Education Program) has provided talented young musicians that identify with historically underrepresented groups in classical music with comprehensive music instruction. Project STEP envisions a world in which the classical music profession reflects the racial and ethnic diversity of our communities. Through rigorous training, mentorship, and performance opportunities, Project STEP nurtures the next generation of classical musicians, fostering excellence and diversity within the arts.

VIOLIN 1

Julia Monteiro
Micah Williams

VIOLA

Alma Chavez Shirman
Sam Graupera

BASS

Christopher Hernandez *
Madely Mejia

VIOLIN 2

Jeremiah Barros
Thais Silva

CELLO

Ana Gabriela Huertas
Brittany-Ann Brandao

*teaching artist

Puerto Rican-born **Edmar Colón** (saxophones) is a saxophonist, pianist, and composer. As a saxophonist, Colón has performed all over the world, including at the Detroit Jazz Festival, Puerto Rico Heineken Jazz Festival, Toronto Jazz Festival, Panama Jazz Festival, Montreal Jazz Festival, and Monterey Jazz Festival, among others. Colón was the copyist for Wayne Shorter's opera, *Iphigenia*; he was commissioned to write an orchestral piece for the Detroit Jazz Festival Symphony Orchestra honoring pianist Geri Allen; he wrote orchestrations on Esperanza Spalding's Grammy Award-winning album, *12 Little Spells*; and he served as copyist/arranger for the Kennedy Center Honors Award ceremony honoring Wayne Shorter. In fall 2019, Edmar was commissioned to arrange and orchestrate 16 pieces for the National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center celebrating the centennial of Nat King Cole (*Nat King Cole at 100*). Colón is a long-time collaborator with NEA Jazz master, multi-Grammy Award winner, drummer, and composer Terri Lyne Carrington. Special collaborations include arranging/orchestrating for the acclaimed Grammy-nominated album *Waiting Game* (2018) and arranging/orchestrating for the Grammy-winning album *New Standards* (2022). Other output from this collaboration includes writing/performing for a show entitled *Sing the Truth* at the Hollywood Bowl, co-writing the score for the ESPN documentary *Play: More than a Game*, arranging and orchestrating a large-scale multimedia work entitled *Seen/Unseen; Explorations, Interrogations and Resilience* performed at the SFJazz Center. In 2022, Edmar was contributing editor for Carrington's groundbreaking book *New Standards; 101 Lead Sheets by Women Composers*. Most recently, Edmar completed a commission for the Boston Pops, where he reimaged Duke Ellington and Juan Tizol's "Caravan." Two performances at Symphony Hall were followed by additional Boston Pops commissions, including an original symphonic fantasy which premiered in May 2023. Edmar Colón has four recorded projects featuring him as a saxophonist in the pipeline; one of the works features the legendary Puerto Rican vocalist Danny Rivera.

Did you enjoy the
performance?
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