

Celebrity Series is now VIVO PERFORMING ARTS

SAT APR 11, 2026 3PM

ROXBURY COMMUNITY COLLEGE MEDIA ARTS CENTER

VIVO PERFORMING ARTS PRESENTS A NEIGHBORHOOD ARTS CONCERT

I DREAM A WORLD **YOUTH CHORAL FESTIVAL**

featuring

Boston Children's Chorus

Boston City Singers

Handel and Haydn Society Youth Chorus

Mike Block cello

Ricardo Sardiñas cello

Boston Children's Chorus

B.E. Boykin

Holding the Light

Text: Stuart Kestenbaum

Rollo Dilworth

The Dream Keeper

Text: Langston Hughes

B.E. Boykin

Stardust

Text: brittney ray crowell

Rosephayne Powell

I Dream A World

Text: Langston Hughes

Kenneth Griffith *conductor*

Emily Howe *conductor*

Jacob Hiser *collaborative pianist*

Boston City Singers

André Thomas

I Dream A World

Text: Langston Hughes

Traditional (Zulu)

Emlanjeni ("By the River of Babylon")

Arr. Soweto Gospel Choir

Manning Sherwin

A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square

Arr. Michael Neaum

Traditional (Haiti)

Peze Kafe

Arr. Sten Källman and BCS

Traditional (Zulu)

Shosholoza ("Go Forward")

Arr. BCS

Jane E. Money *founding artistic director*

Kimani Lumsden *World Rhythm Ensemble director*

Sepehr Davallou *collaborative pianist*

Handel and Haydn Youth Chorus

Florence B. Price

Text: Gerald Gould

Wander-Thirst

Andrew Balfour

based on an original song
gifted by Cory Campbell

Ambe

*(text/translation from the original
Ojibwe language)*

Dan Welcher

Text: Langston Hughes

"I Dream A World" from

JFK: The Voice of Peace

Alyson Greer Espinosa *conductor*
Dr. Pei-Yeh Tsai *collaborative pianist*
Ricardo Sardiñas *cello (Welcher)*

Mike Block & Ricardo Sardiñas

Mike Block

Text: Phillis Wheatley

Farewell to America

Mike Block & Ricardo Sardiñas, *cello duet/vocals*

All Choirs

B.E. Boykin

Text: George Parsons Lathrop

Music of Life

B.E. Boykin

Text: brittny ray crowell

Freedom Hymn (world premiere;

commissioned by Vivo Performing Arts)

Kenneth Griffith *conductor*
Jacob Hiser *collaborative pianist*

*There will be no intermission in today's performance,
which will run 75-90 minutes.*

This event is part of **Everyone 250**, Boston's living movement that makes history visible and inclusive.

This performance is supported in part by an **Alfred Nash Patterson Grant** from **Choral Arts New England**.

2025/26 Season Sponsors

Crescendo Donor Advised Fund and The Thonis Family

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.

NOTES ON THE PROGRAM and selected song texts

AMBE

performed by Boston Children's Chorus

Text in Ojibwe (dialect spoken on Sagkeeng First Nation in Manitoba) with English translation

Ambe, ambe Anishinaabeg	Come in two-legged beings
biindigeg Anishinaabeg	come in all people
Mino-bimaadiziwin	There is good life here
	Come in!

FAREWELL TO AMERICA

Music: Mike Block

Text: Phillis Wheatley

performed by Mike Block & Ricardo Sardiñas, *cello duet/vocals*

I.

Adieu, New-England's smiling meads,
Adieu, th' flow'ry plain:
I leave thine op'ning charms, O spring,
And tempt the roaring main.

II. CHORUS (B Section)

In vain for me the flow'rets rise,
And boast their gaudy pride,
While here beneath the northern skies,
I mourn for health deny'd.

III.

Celestial maid of rosy hue,
Oh let me feel thy reign!
I languish till thy face I view,
Thy vanish'd joys regain.

IV.

Susanna mourns, nor can I bear,
To see the crystal shower
Or mark the tender falling tear,
At sad departure's hour;

Please note, for the text of his song, composer Mike Block drew from Phillis Wheatley's poem, "A Farewell to America. To Mrs. S. W." The poem is dated May 7, 1773, has a total of 13 stanzas and can be found in its entirety at the link above.

A NOTE ON TODAY'S WORLD PREMIERE

performed by all choirs

brittney ray crowell created the text for *Freedom Hymn (A Cento): Ode to Our Muse of Morning* from various Phillis Wheatley source materials. Below is the text you will hear sung, followed by the footnote with the specific poems that served as sources to the composer.

Freedom Hymn (A Cento¹): Ode To Our Muse of Morning

b. ray crowell

[Chorus]

rise sublime—
wafted by the wind
make eternal glory
arrive, and taste the joys above
where grief subsides a hymn to morning

[Wheatley]

record my pray'r
blooming triumph in my song
thanks to God who snatch'd me to the skies
creation rushing on my sight
new worlds amaze th' unbounded soul
beneath me sees the universal whole

[Chorus]

Monarch of the day
i trace thy spring
from bondage darkness freed
rise and leave the world behind
measure skies
from star to morning

[Wheatley]

no more mournful strain
no longer the iron chain
no more sorrow sprung

what laboured my parent's breast
no more—
only Peace beneath the cypress shade
Freedom—who can sing thy force?

[Chorus]

Goddess come, divinely fair
share the raptures of the skies
ethereal now
she shines supreme
still and still
sweeter than our souls
may never feel

[Wheatley]

t'was mercy brought me from thy guilty land
towards eternal skies
a crown, a mansion, a throne that shine
with gold unfading, land of Freedom—Mine!

¹A cento is a poem formed entirely from lines from another author's work. With the exception of a few words for clarity, this poem is formed from lines found throughout the following texts by Phillis Wheatley:

"On Imagination"

"On Recollection"

"On the Death of the Rev. Mr. George Whitefield. 1770"

"To S.M., a Young African Painter, on Seeing His Works"

"To His Excellency General Washington"

"To the Right Honorable William, Earl of Dartmouth"

"Ode to Neptune"

"On Imagination"

"A Funeral Poem on the Death of C. E., an Infant of Twelve Months"

"To a Lady on the Death of Three Relations"

"To a Clergyman on the Death of His Lady"

"On Being Brought from Africa to America"

"To the Honorable T. H., Esq; on the Death of His Daughter"

"To a Lady and Her Children" and

"Goliath and Gath."

These works all exist within the public domain.

The theme of today's program and the source of inspiration for several of the works, here is the original poem in its entirety:

I DREAM A WORLD (1941)
by Langston Hughes (1901-1967)

I dream a world where man
No other man will scorn,
Where love will bless the earth
And peace its paths adorn
I dream a world where all
Will know sweet freedom's way,
Where greed no longer saps the soul
Nor avarice blights our day.
A world I dream where black or white,
Whatever race you be,
Will share the bounties of the earth
And every man is free,
Where wretchedness will hang its head
And joy, like a pearl,
Attends the needs of all mankind-
Of such I dream, my world!

ABOUT TODAY'S PERFORMERS

BOSTON CHILDREN'S CHORUS

For more than 20 years, Boston Children's Chorus (BCC) has united the voices of young people from across Boston and the Greater Boston area creating music that inspires social change. Through their vibrant, jubilant, and powerful performances, they've built a reputation as one of Boston's leading youth arts organizations—and a model for diversity, inclusion, and artistic excellence.

Each season, the Chorus brings together more than 300 singers ages 7 to 18 from more than 20 zip codes across the Greater Boston area. Singers are organized into 12 choirs, each designed to support vocal development and personal growth at every level. Together, BCC performs more than 50 times a year at public concerts, community events, and high-profile appearances.

The group has performed on some of the world's most renowned stages—from Symphony Hall and TD Garden in Boston to Royal Albert Hall in London, the Sydney Opera House in Australia, and even the White House. BCC has appeared in TED Talks, on local TV and radio networks, and performed alongside artists such as Idina Menzel, Hugh Jackman, Leslie Odom, Jr., Javier Muñoz, and Melinda Doolittle.

In 2020, BCS was featured on the Grammy Award-winning recording of *Fantastic Mr. Fox*, in collaboration with the Boston Modern Orchestra Project and Odyssey Opera, under the baton of Gil Rose. And in 2013, BCS was honored with the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award, presented by First Lady Michelle Obama at the White House—recognizing BCS as one of the nation’s top youth arts programs.

As Boston’s “Ambassadors of Harmony,” Boston Children’s Chorus believes in the power of music to build bridges, break down barriers, and amplify the voices of this city’s diverse youth. Through song, they are shaping a brighter, more connected future.

BOSTON CHILDREN'S CHORUS PREMIER CHOIR & RECITAL CHOIR - LOWER VOICES

Julie Al-Beirouty	Zakhar Lazarevich
Chora Bayer	Jasper LoRusso
Ailie Bell	Hurielle Louis
Yasmina Bird	Rajdeep Majumdar
Perry Bitter	Ameerah Manigat
Adrian Chalasani	Heaven Martin
Mariana Chango Gasset	Sam Martin
Myles Charlton	Margot Martin-Wilson
Camilla Costa	Tatiana Martínez
Will Dendy	Cecilia Godswill Mikala
Elle DiFazio	Liana Min
Greta Elliott	Owen Molway
Joseph Farelli	Ava Morrison
Maeve Flaherty	Faye Nazarchuk
Jade Flemming	Leonard Page
Gregory Ghazaryan	Drew Papia
Ella Gimenez	Naren Patel*
Mateo Gonzalez	Jack Peterson
Maia Grammatopoulos	Alla Petrosyan
Jonathan Harris	Zahara Pless
Sarah Hernandez-Rodriguez	Grace Porter
John Lucas Hopkins	Mira Rath
James Hu*	Karina Ryan
Laura Hu	Neve Sahni
Yifeng Hu	Tiana Sandefur
Stephen Karon	Matilda Sherman
Bija Kovatch	Binyam Tsegai
Drew Lanfer	Yana Tsibere
	Robert Tsibere

BOSTON CHILDREN'S CHORUS CONCERT CHOIR

Veronique Antoine	Sophia Miller-Culver
Noemie Banerjee	Yara Munif
Cora Camp	Nyeli Pagan
Lucy Chipman	Axle Patalak
Neyen Corbin	Annalys Pena
Lindrose Cornet	Anna Pollica
Yoyo Deng	Romana Price Dredge
Paloma Dolorico-Francoeur	Adina Rabinovitz
Junya (Annie) Fang	Milo Rayport
Sukey Hampson	Niah Roy
Amiya Holmes	Kayla Santos
Bohan Jiang	Malaya Sika
Xinyue (Stacy) Jiang	Lucy Stevens-Wright
Roxana Jones	Manjula Viswalingm
Vivienne Marquand	Tal Weitz
Francesca Martin	Elana Wickenden
Jayla May	

BOSTON CITY SINGERS

Boston City Singers empowers more than 500 young people ages 4–18 through exceptional music and creative youth development programs across Dorchester, Jamaica Plain, and North Cambridge. Grounded in social justice and leadership development, Boston City Singers supports young musicians on a powerful path forward—100% of graduates are accepted to four-year colleges and professional programs, with alumni going on to leading universities and impactful careers across education, public service, the arts, science, and beyond.

Tour Choir, the organization's most advanced ensemble, brings together singers ages 11–18 in an intensive program of multilingual repertoire, movement, improvisation, and global music-making. Performing both locally and internationally, Tour Choir has appeared in concerts and festivals around the world, including South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Central and Eastern Europe, and the Americas—using music as a bridge across cultures and communities.

BOSTON CITY SINGERS TOUR CHOIR

Anisa Brown

Christopher Burchard

Phoebe Bush

Rowan Bush

Eller Fagan-Rayner

Kalanit Flannery

Nora Flannery

Hattie Jackman

Filip Knippen

Cora Leathers

Kat Leavitt

Christopher Manthei

Lyla Mendoza

Bea Nowak

Ginny Nowak

Wendy Patten

Aurelia Perez

Jade Reese

Darshan Riveratan

Leah Schneyer-VanZile

Sofia Summersgill

Joanne Verdier

Jonathan Verdier

Reuben Vierling-Claassen

Lyra Yassa

Gavin Walker

Cianna Walrond

Jane Wu

John Wu

Hannah Zhu

Melina Zullas

HANDEL AND HAYDN SOCIETY YOUTH CHORUSES

The Handel and Haydn Society Youth Choruses (HHYC) are a collaborative community where Greater Boston's young singers hone their craft, express their creativity, and make unforgettable memories alongside forever friends. Our curious and courageous musicians gather each Saturday to explore a dynamic repertoire of music spanning continents and centuries, a testament to their passion for the living tradition of choral music.

Over its 30 years, HHYC has grown from a handful of dedicated young people to eight choruses welcoming more than 150 singers each semester, ranging from ages 7–18 and from aspiring professional musicians to people whose singing experience starts and ends at “Happy Birthday.” Through large- and small-group instruction, weekly musicianship classes, collaborations with leading professional ensembles, and international tours (like our 2024 tour to Austria), world-class faculty partner with these young artists to create a rigorous yet welcoming environment for musical and personal growth—a chance for everyone to find their voice. Singers also treat H+H audiences to inspiring (and impressive) performances onstage at Symphony Hall—often joined by the H+H Orchestra and Chorus—throughout each subscription season, most recently appearing in Handel's *Messiah* conducted by Artistic Director Jonathan Cohen.

Some HHYC alumni excel in leading conservatory programs and perform with major ensembles, supported in part by an HHYC scholarship. Others help the

H+H community grow by sharing their passion for music with the people they love. All of them remain part of the H+H family. In these ways, and so many more, HHYC is essential to H+H's work to fulfill its mission to inspire the intellect, elevate the soul, and connect all of us with our shared humanity through transformative experiences with Baroque and Classical music.

The H+H Youth Choruses are a component of the Karen S. and George D. Levy Learning and Education Program.

HANDEL AND HAYDN SOCIETY YOUTH CHORUSES CHAMBER CHOIR

Alyson Greer Espinosa *conductor*

Dr. Pei-Yeh Tsai *collaborative pianist*

Sophie Chang

Joseph Choi

Anisha Chowdhury

Anderson Chu

Caroline Cortright

Brooks DeCoste

Margo Fan

Colin Graves

Isaac Lee

Francesca Lucas

Curtis Keene

Emma Merry

Sonali Morrissey-Dhekne

Nael Nawana

Emma Oliphant

Zachary Park

Cameron Phillips

Adam Quraishi

Thalia Ruark

Wyeth Sholl

Ruth Anne Sowa

Daniel Valz

Elodie Weinzierl

Isis Whitney-Payne

Lillian Wolf

Casey Wong

MIKE BLOCK

CELLO

Mike Block is a Grammy Award-winning cellist, singer and composer with a passion for cross-cultural collaboration. Hailed as “one of the bravest, most intriguing musicians on the American fusion scene,” (*Gramophone*) he has been a member of the Silkroad Ensemble for nearly twenty years, and directs Silkroad’s Global Musician Workshop. Yo-Yo Ma calls Block “the ideal musician for the 21st century,” saying, “I’m always struck by his unique perspective on the world and his relaxed and confident approach; he takes on new music and new things fearlessly.”

RICARDO SARDIÑAS

CELLO

Cellist Ricardo Sardiñas brings his unbridled energy and enthusiasm to a wide range of solo, chamber, and orchestral performances. Born and raised in Cuba, he completed his elementary and high school conservatory education in Havana, where he performed as a soloist with the Amadeo Roldán Conservatory String Orchestra at the Teatro Nacional de Cuba.

Mr. Sardiñas continued his studies in the United States at the New World School of the Arts in Florida, where he earned his bachelor of music degree. During his time there, he frequently performed as principal cellist of the New World School of the Arts Symphony Orchestra and was a member of the NWSA String Quartet, featured in a faculty recital. In addition to coaching with members of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, he performed with ensembles including Miami Philharmonic and Symphony of the Americas and recorded works for the Compositum Music Novae and the New York Composer Circle.

He is currently pursuing the Artist Diploma under Rhonda Rider at the Boston Conservatory at Berklee, where he has performed as principal cellist of the Boston Conservatory Symphony Orchestra, Opera, Sinfonietta, and String Orchestra and has been featured in faculty recitals. He has made appearances at the Roxbury Concert Series and collaborated in recordings with Ballet Vero Beach and the Boston Modern Orchestra Project. As a member of the Burbank String Quartet, he has premiered chamber music at the Boston Public Library and Carnegie Hall.