



Celebrity Series of Boston presents a Neighborhood Arts performance

## STRINGFEST

### Rasa String Quartet

**Maura Shawn Scanlin** violin

**Emma Kondo Powell** violin

**Kiyoshi Hayashi** viola

**Mina Kim** cello

featuring youth ensembles from

**City Strings United,**

**Boston Music Project,**

and **Project STEP**

#### City Strings United

**Trad. French**

**Traditional**

**Joanne Martin**

**Joanne Martin**

Fransk Folksång

This Little Light of Mine (arr. Bithyah Israel)

Berceuse

Calypso

#### Boston Music Project

**Traditional**

**Henry Purcell**

Return from Helsinki

Rondeau

#### Project STEP

**Alexander Borodin**

*From* String Quartet No. 2

1. Allegro moderato

Kenry Mejia, violin; Oghenebrume Sekegor, violin; Criswhalis Nuñez, viola; Aarón Soto, cello

## **Rasa String Quartet**

**The Fretless**  
**Graham Cohen**  
**Joseph Haydn**

Bird's Nest  
String Quartet No. 3 "Cape Breton Set"  
*from* String Quartet No. 64 in D Major, Op 76, no. 5  
1. Allegretto  
4. Presto

### **Rasa String Quartet, City Strings United, Boston Music Project, Project STEP**

**Traditional**

Return from Helsinki  
(arr. Frigg, re-arranged by Maura Shawn Scanlin)

**The Gloaming**

Doctor O'Neill (arr. Eunghee Cho)

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

This project is supported in part by the  
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**Crescendo Donor Advised Fund**  
and  
**Susan & Michael Thonis**

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

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Founded in 2012 by President and CEO Bithyah Israel, **City Strings United** provides free lessons (in-person and virtual) and unique performance opportunities to youth ages 4-18. Based in Roxbury, our 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, we focus on life and leadership skills and nurture creativity.

### Cello

Olivia Colas ♦  
Dylan Ho ♦  
Bithyah Israel \*  
Lexi Martinez ♦ \*\*\*  
Jordyn Massey ♦  
Ike Okafor  
Peace Okafor  
Peter Olmeda (TA) ♦  
Amelia Payne  
Jahsias Rivers ♦ \*\*\*

### Cello (cont'd)

Krittapat "Emile" Rocco ♦  
Jabril Shareef  
Menelik Sylvain ♦  
Micah Thomas  
Luke Walker (TA) ♦  
Nyah Williamson ♦  
Ellie Le  
Owen Ramseur  
Rhea Gibson ♦ \*\*

### Violin

Darien Ho ♦  
Devan Ho  
Royce Payne  
Hazel Grant  
Ave Thomas  
Myasia Ruffin

### Bass

Imari "Mars" Walter-Smith

♦ Performing in the finale

\* Founder and President, City Strings United

\*\* Director of Programs

\*\*\* TA and alum

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

Nigel Kulasekaran  
Nathan Lin  
Jennifer Zhao  
Khadija Joumal  
Jayden Zhao  
Leanne Zhong  
Fiona Zhen

### Viola

Vicky Liang  
Karis Yu

### Cello

Astrid Cochenour  
Jay Leung  
William Schmieta

### Cello (cont'd)

Naveen Bhatt  
Candy Zhen

### Bass

Edward Harper  
Joseph "Jo-Jo" McFarland

### TAs performing:

Sebastien Ridore, Director + Viola  
Nic Walsh, Violin TA  
Axel Diaz Gonzalez, Violin TA  
Andres Mejia Rojas, Cello TA

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.

**Rasa String Quartet** finds their niche exploring the musical space where classical and folk traditions intersect and influence one another.

Formed in 2019, the Boston-based ensemble consists of violinists Maura Shawn Scanlin and Kiyoshi Hayashi, violist Emma Powell, and cellist Mina Kim, who are graduates of the New England Conservatory, the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University in Houston, and Yale University.

Rasa String Quartet are winners of the 2022 Associazione Europea di Musica e Comunicazione International Chamber Music Competition (Italy), the 2021 Music Teachers National Association Chamber Music Competition, the 2020 Chamber Music Yellow Springs Competition, and were the 2022/23 ensemble in residence at Phillips Exeter Academy in NH.

They've collaborated with renowned folk musicians like celtic harpist Maeve Gilchrist, jazz / traditional Greek vocalist Erini Tornesaki, and singer-songwriter Judy Collins, performed their own programs at various venues and festivals around the country, including the 2023 Osaka International Chamber Music Competition, Rockport Music, WGBH, WBUR, and the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival, and have taught educational residencies at a variety of institutions like Walnut Hill School for the Arts in Natick, UMass Dartmouth, and the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto.

By exploring the connection between music and storytelling at the heart of folk traditions, Rasa String Quartet delivers engaging and accessible programs that showcase works from a variety of cultures and highlight lesser known composers. They seek to educate their audiences by contextualizing the genres, styles, and composers they present, inviting their listeners to approach both familiar and unfamiliar sounds with an open and curious mind.

In Sanskrit, the term 'RASA' refers to the indescribable power of any art form to inspire strong emotions in the reader or listener.

Did you enjoy the  
performance?  
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