



Saturday | December 3 | 3pm  
Salvation Army Kroc Center

Celebrity Series of Boston presents a Neighborhood Arts performance

**Stringfest with Regie Gibson and Shaw Pong Liu**  
**City Strings United and**  
**Boston Music Project Newbold Orchestra**

**Regie Gibson** spoken word

**Shaw Pong Liu** violin, erhu

**City Strings United, Bithyah Israel** artistic director

**Boston Music Project Newbold Orchestra, Immei Wong** director

**Bithyah Israel**

*Swing*

**Trad. Shaker Hymn**  
(arr. Bithyah Israel)

*Simple Gifts*

**City Strings United**  
**Bithyah Israel** conducting

**Soon Hee Newbold**

*Spirit of the American West*

**Boston Music Project Newbold Orchestra**  
**Immei Wong** conducting

Selections to be announced from the stage by **Regie Gibson** and **Shaw Pong Liu**  
will include the following duets:

*We Are All the Erhu*

Poem by **Regie Gibson**, improvised music by **Shaw Pong Liu**

*Where Two Tracks Meet*

Based on the poem "The Young Man and the Almond-Eyed Woman" by

**Regie Gibson** with music composed by **Shaw Pong Liu**

(World premiere; Commissioned by Celebrity Series of Boston for Neighborhood Arts)

**Huang HaiHuai**  
(arr. Shaw Pong Liu)

*Sai Ma* (Racing Horses)

**Shaw Pong Liu, Boston Music Project Newbold Orchestra, City Strings United**

*Continued...*

**Trad. African song**  
(arr. Douglas Wagner)

*Siyahamba*

**Regie Gibson, Shaw Pong Liu, Boston Music Project Newbold Orchestra,  
City Strings United**

Today's program will run approximately 60 minutes with no intermission.

2022/23 Neighborhood Arts Presenting Sponsor **Stephanie L. Brown Foundation**

2022/23 Season Sponsors **Amy & Joshua Boger**

Neighborhood Arts is sponsored by the Barr Foundation through its ArtsAmplified initiative, Boston Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture, Foley & Lardner LLP, Klarman Family Foundation, Liberty Mutual Foundation, Massachusetts Cultural Council, National Endowment for the Arts, Yawkey Foundation, U.S. Small Business Administration, and other generous supporters.

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

**Boston Music Project Newbold Orchestra**  
**Immei Wong** director

**Violin**

Maya Crowley  
John Fahy  
Matthew Fang  
Kelly Kuang  
Nigel Kulasekaran  
Nanak McGrath  
Vicky Mei  
TaylorLayne Seymour  
Clare Tuttle  
Rose Tuttle  
Izzy Walsh  
Jayden Zhao  
Pinyuan Zheng  
Leanne Zhong

**Viola**

Lucinda Kurland  
Vicky Liang  
Zeming Lin  
Charlotte McGillicuddy  
Karis Yu  
Ethan Zhen

**Cello**

Naveen Bhatt  
Astrid Cochenour  
Hilary Feng  
Izzy Flores  
Eleanor Harper  
Jay Leung

**Cello (cont'd)**

Samantha Michaud  
Brooklyn Nieves Farrell  
Sasha Pilcher  
Henry Schneller  
Tristan Velez  
Candy Zhen

**Bass**

Edward Harper  
Joseph McFarland

**City Strings United**

**Bithyah Israel** founder/artistic director  
**Rh ea Gibson** assistant director

Aiden Mendes  
Alexia Martinez  
Bithyah Israel  
Brooklyn Mendes  
Daniel Chouinard

Dylan Ho  
Jabril Shareef  
Kailen Mendes  
Malcolm Wright  
Markaylah East

Melvin Clark  
Morgan Wright  
Nyah Williamson  
Olivia Colas  
Rh ea Gibson

## SHAW PONG LIU

Violinist and composer Shaw Pong Liu engages diverse communities through multidisciplinary collaborations, creative music, and social dialogue. Her project Code Listen, which she started as City of Boston Artist-in-Residence in 2016, uses songwriting and performances to support healing and dialogue around violence, racism, and police practices, in collaboration with the Boston Police Department, teen artists, family members surviving homicide, and local musicians.

Ongoing projects include the song-sharing project Sing Home which she leads as Artist-in-Residence at the Pao Arts Center in Boston's Chinatown, and composing music for Conference of the Birds, an international multimedia collaboration with choreographer Wendy Jehlen's Anikaya Dance Theatre and dancers from 8 countries.

Previous projects include *Sunbar*, connecting Bostonians with sunlight, warmth, and each other during cold winter months, with the vision of a future mobile solarium; *What Artists Knead*, a series of breadmaking parties across five neighborhoods in Boston for artists to bake bread and discuss their ideas for Boston's creative future; *Water Graffiti for Peace*, a series of outdoor Chinese water calligraphy sessions inviting public play and conversations about peace; A Bird a Day, exploring birdsong, sunrises and composition (resulting in a site-specific composition for 18 solo string players in three tiers of balconies); and *Soldiers' Tales Untold*, a musical-narrative production mixing veterans' stories, live music, and audience dialogue about war. In addition to violin, she also performs as a vocalist, erhu (Chinese violin) player, and even performed as an aerialist (aerial silks with Whistler in the Dark theatre company's production of "Tales From Ovid").

Shaw Pong is a founding member of Play for Justice, a network of musicians and artists in Boston supporting social justice causes. Her compositions have been commissioned by Silkroad Ensemble for the Freer-Sackler Museum, Anikaya Dance Theatre, A Far Cry, Lorelei Ensemble, and pianist Sarah Bob. As a violinist she performs with groups including Silk Road Ensemble, MIT's Gamelan GalakTika, Boston Modern Orchestra Project, Ludovico Ensemble, and Castle of Our Skins. She has worked as a teaching artist with Yo-Yo Ma's Youth Music Culture Guangzhou, the New England Conservatory of Music, the Urbano Project, Celebrity Series, Cantata Singers, Young Audiences, and is a founding faculty at the Cuerdas Oaxaca strings chamber music festival in Mexico.

A graduate of University of California/Berkeley, with a Masters in violin performance from New England Conservatory, Shaw Pong was an Expressing Boston Public Art Fellow in 2014/15; artist-ethnographer for Boston's cultural planning initiative, Boston Creates in 2015; one of three Artists-in-Residence for the City of Boston's first Artist-in-Residence program in 2016; and 2017/18 Artist-in-Residence at the Pao Arts Center in Boston Chinatown. She is a 2018/19 Kennedy Center Citizen Artist Fellow.

## REGIE GIBSON

Poet, songwriter, author, workshop facilitator, and educator Regie Gibson has performed, taught, and lectured at schools, universities, theaters, and various other venues on two continents and in seven countries including Cuba. Regie and his work appear in the New Line Cinema film *love jones*, based largely on events in his life. The poem entitled “Brother to the Night (A Blues for Nina)” appears on the movie soundtrack and is performed by the film’s star, Larenz Tate. Regie performed “Hey Nappyhead” in the film with world-renowned percussionist and composer Kahil El Zabar, contributor to the score for *The Lion King* musical.

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