

NEC Preparatory School  
Chamber Music Intensive  
Performance Seminar  
Piano Trio Program  
Concert

Laura Blustein, *director*

Wednesday, May 31, 2023

7:30 p.m.

NEC's Jordan Hall

PROGRAM

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**Joseph Haydn**  
(1732-1809)

Piano Trio in C Major Hob. XV:27  
*I. Allegro*

**Johannes Brahms**  
(1833-1897)

Piano Trio No. 2 in C Major Op. 87  
*II. Andante con moto*

*Sedona Kmen, violin*  
*Xavier Ip, cello*  
*Norman Lu, piano*  
*Coached by: Grant Houston*

**Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**  
(1756-1791)

Piano Trio in B Flat Major K502  
*I. Allegro*

**Felix Mendelssohn**  
(1809-1847)

Piano Trio No. 2 in C Minor Op. 66  
*I. Allegro energico e con fuoco*

*Lauren Welch, violin*  
*Seah Yu, cello*  
*Anthony Lee, piano*  
*Coached by: Aimee Tsuchiya*

**Ludwig von Beethoven**  
(1770-1827)

Piano Trio in C Minor Op. 1 No. 3  
*I. Allegro con brio*

**Johannes Brahms**  
(1833-1897)

Piano Trio No. 1 in B Major Op. 8  
*I. Allegro con brio*

*Jessica Kartiwidjaja, violin*  
*Jaeho Lee, cello*  
*Benjamin Wolfson, piano*  
*Coached by: Laura Blustein*

**Laura Blustein**

*Director, Chamber Music Intensive Performance Seminar Piano Trio Program  
Chair of Chamber Music*

Cellist Laura Blustein has performed throughout the US and Canada. In New York she has been heard on the WQXR "Young Artist Showcase" and Listening Room programs: with the Guild of Composers Concerts, The New York Violoncello Society, the Original Instrument Series at Weill Concert Hall and many other concert venues.

In Boston she is active as a teacher and performer. She has performed as soloist on WGBH numerous times and frequently performed with her husband, harpsichordist John Gibbons as a continuo team with many of Boston's finest musicians. Ms. Blustein recorded the complete Leclair Flute Sonatas with Fenwick Smith on the Naxos label.

Passionate about teaching young musicians she has been on the cello and chamber music faculty at NEC Prep for the past 35 years. She has been the Chair of Chamber Music since 2004. She is the Co-Director along with Merry Peckham, Chair of Chamber Music in the College, of the Chamber Music Intensive Program (CHIPS) which works with some of the most gifted young pre-college chamber musicians in New England.

As Chair of Chamber Music she loves to inspire the youngest musicians at the Prep to engage in playing chamber music at a young age to participate in one of life's greatest joys- Chamber Music! In 2018- she was awarded the prestigious Jean Stackhouse Award for Excellence in Teaching at NEC Prep.

Ms. Blustein studied with Gabor Rejto, Laurence Lesser and Timothy Eddy. She won the Piatigorsky Prize at the Tanglewood Music Center where she was subsequently awarded an English Speak Union Fellowship to attend master classes at the Britten Pears School of Advanced Musical Studies with William Pleeth. Her primary chamber music mentors include Eugene Lehner, Julius Levine and Gilbert Kalish.

She is currently on the Faculty of the Walnut Hill School and was previously on the faculty as Associate Professor of Cello and chamber music at the Berklee College of Music.

## **Grant Houston**

*Coach, Chamber Music Intensive Performance Seminar Piano Trio Program*

*Coach, Chamber Music, Preparatory School*

Violinist Grant Houston connects with listeners through performances of unbridled energy and emotional magnetism. Known for drawing in audiences with a uniquely compelling musical voice, he has been described as playing "as ethereally as mist... the audience kept so quiet that it seemed we were holding our breath throughout." (Yale Alumni Magazine). Particularly devoted to chamber music, recent appearances have included the notable festivals of Ravinia's Steans Music Institute, Yale University's Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, the Perlman Music Program, Yellow Barn Young Artists Program, The Moritzburg Festival Academy and the Music Academy of the West.

In the 2022-2023 season, Grant appears regularly in concerts as a soloist and chamber musician, with engagements to include Mozart's fifth concerto with the Plymouth Philharmonic, debuts with the Chamber Music Society of Central Virginia and Wellesley Chamber Players, and recitals with Trio Gaia— in addition to a weeklong residency at the Panama Jazz Festival and studio sessions for the trio's first release. The '22-'23 season marks the second year of its appointment as Trio-in-Residence in the New England Conservatory's Professional Piano Trio Program, recently extended into 2024.

Grant has performed with artists such as Jeremy Denk, Paul Biss, and Melvin Chen, and taken studies with Itzhak Perlman, Midori, Hilary Hahn, Rachel Barton Pine, Martin Beaver, Inon Barnatan, and Stefan Jackiw among others, in addition to members of the Brentano, Cleveland, Cavani, Juilliard, St. Lawrence, Prazak, Mendelssohn, and Miami string quartets. Currently pursuing Master of Music degrees in both Violin Performance and Chamber Music at the New England Conservatory, Grant has studied violin with Donald Weilerstein and Ayano Ninomiya, and chamber music with Vivian Hornik Weilerstein and Merry Peckham. He performs on a 1757 Michel'angelo Bergonzi violin on loan from a private foundation.

## **Aimee Tsuchiya**

*Coach, Chamber Music Intensive Performance Seminar Piano Trio Program*

*Assistant Chair, NEC Chamber Music*

*Accompanist Coordinator, NEC Preparatory School*

Pianist Aimee Tsuchiya has appeared as soloist and chamber musician throughout the United States, Canada, Europe and Asia including several concerto engagements at Mechanics Hall, festival appearances around the world, and live broadcasts on WGBH, Chicago Public Radio and CBC radio. Recitals and orchestral performances include Messiaen's *Quartet for the End of Time* in Jordan Hall; the world premiere of Abby Richardson's *Downstream* for piano and orchestra with the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra; a demonstration-recital of John Cage's *The Perilous Night* for prepared piano; and a recital of early 20th-century violin repertoire with Karl Stobbe, concertmaster of the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra and Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra.

Ms. Tsuchiya has worked with members of the Boston Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony, Hamilton Philharmonic, Emmanuel Music, Guarneri Quartet, Peabody Trio, Gryphon Trio, and Cleveland Quartet, as well as pianists Emanuel Ax, Awadagin Pratt, Lydia Artymiw, Victor Rosenbaum, Irma Vallecillo, Margot Garrett and Andre Watts. Awards include competition wins in the Chopin Society Young Artists Competition, the Schubert Club Competition, Thursday Musical Competition, the top piano prize in the Minnesota Orchestra's Young People's Symphony Concert Association, finalist in the New World Symphony auditions, and fellowships to Interlochen, Tanglewood, Yellow Barn and Banff Chamber Music Festivals.

An active and versatile teacher in the Boston area for many years, Ms. Tsuchiya holds faculty and department chair positions at New England Conservatory's Preparatory and Continuing Ed divisions, as well as other area schools. She is actively sought out as a collaborator, instructor, chamber and vocal coach.

## NEC Preparatory School Administration

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## Upcoming NEC Preparatory School Events

### **Thursday, June 1, 2023**

Chamber Music Showcase

7:30 PM in Jordan Hall

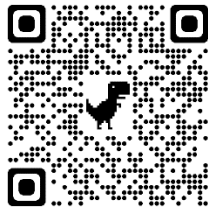
### **Saturday, June 3, 2023**

NEC Preparatory School Award Ceremony Celebration

1 PM in Williams Hall

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Food and drink are not allowed in the concert hall, and photography and audio or video recording are prohibited. Assistive listening devices are available for all Jordan Hall concerts; contact the head usher or house manager on duty or inquire at the Coat Room. Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of management.

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