

A young woman with a white hair tie is in the foreground, playing a violin. She is wearing a black strapless dress. In the background, other musicians are visible, some wearing face masks. The setting is a grand concert hall with wood-paneled walls.

N | E | C

EXPERIENCE WORLD-CLASS ARTISTRY AT

New England Conservatory

necmusic.edu

NEC Philharmonia

David Loebel, conductor

with

Jeremy Tai '23 MM, cello

Winner, NEC Concerto Competition

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

7:30 p.m.

NEC's Jordan Hall

PROGRAM

Valerie Coleman
(b. 1970)

Umoja: Anthem of Unity (2019)

Robert Schumann
(1810–1856)

Concerto for Cello in A Minor, op. 129
Nicht zu schnell – Langsam – Sehr lebhaft

Jeremy Tai '23 MM, cello
Winner, NEC Concerto Competition

Intermission

Antonín Dvořák
(1841–1904)

Symphony No. 7 in D Minor, op. 70
Allegro maestoso
Poco adagio
Scherzo: Vivace
Finale: Allegro

Coleman *Umoja: Anthem of Unity*

In its original form, *Umoja*, the Swahili word for Unity and the first principle of the African Diaspora holiday Kwanzaa, was composed as a simple song for women's choir. It embodied a sense of 'tribal unity', through the feel of a drum circle, the sharing of history through traditional "call and response" form and the repetition of a memorable sing-song melody. It was rearranged into woodwind quintet form during the genesis of Coleman's chamber music ensemble, *Mani Winds*, with the intent of providing an anthem that celebrated the diverse heritages of the ensemble itself.

Almost two decades later, the orchestral version brings an expansion and sophistication to the short and sweet melody, beginning with sustained ethereal passages that float and shift from a bowed vibraphone, supporting the introduction of the melody by solo violin. Here the melody is sweetly singing in its simplest form with an earnest reminiscence of Appalachian style music. From there, the melody dances and weaves throughout the instrument families, interrupted by dissonant viewpoints led by the brass and percussion sections, which represent the clash of injustices, racism and hate that threatens to gain a foothold in the world today. Spiky textures turn into an aggressive exchange between upper woodwinds and percussion, before a return to the melody as a gentle reminder of kindness and humanity. Through the brass led ensemble tutti, the journey ends with a bold call of unity that harkens back to the original anthem.

Umoja has seen the creation of many versions that are like siblings to one another, similar in many ways but each with a unique voice that is informed by Coleman's evolving creativity and perspective.

Umoja: Anthem of Unity was commissioned by The Philadelphia Orchestra who gave the premiere in September, 2019.

Cellist **Jeremy Tai** has been recognized as an emerging artist of fierce energy, musical sincerity, and dynamic colors. At 24 years of age, he has performed with the Utah Symphony, the Santa Cruz Symphony, the Peninsula Symphony, Symphony Parnassus in San Francisco, and the Palo Alto Philharmonic Orchestra.

The recipient of numerous honors and awards, Mr. Tai is the first prize winner of the Klein International String Competition, New England Conservatory Concerto Competition, Music Teachers National Association National Strings Competition, and the Mondavi Center National Young Artists Competition.

Mr. Tai is an avid chamber musician, having most recently collaborated with the Escher String Quartet at a series of concerts as a part of Music in the Vineyards in Napa Valley, California. Additionally, he has appeared at Sid & Mary Foulger International Music Festival and Music@Menlo Chamber Music Institute.

In addition to his prolific classical music career, Mr. Tai is also a versatile crossover artist on social media. With over 5,000,000 streams and views across his social media pages, Mr. Tai has collaborated with some of the biggest names in the classical music and crossover world, including Blaise Déjardin, Zlatomir Fung,

Nathan Chan, Yeesun Kim, Ken Kubota, Samuel Kim, and Nicholas Yee.

NEC Philharmonia
David Loebel, conductor

First Violin

Nozomi Murayama
Kitty Amaral
Hannah O'Brien
Eunha Kim
Passacaglia Mason
Hila Dahani
Evelyn Song
Kristy Chen
Jeffrey Pearson
Justus Ross
Claire Thaler
Arun Asthagiri
Yebin Yoo
Chloe Hong

Second Violin

Bree Fotheringham
Rachel Yi
Boxianzi Vivian Ling
Joy Wei
June Chung
Bella Jeong
Yilei Yin
Thompson Wang
Xiaoqing Yu
Qiyang Xing
Jordan Hadrill
Ian Hsu
Tong Chen

Viola

John Harry Clark
Asher Boorstin
Jacqueline
Armbruster
ChengRong Li
Hyelim Kong
Anna Mann Haoyang
Shi Wanjeong Seol
Samuel Zacharia
Poppy Yu

Cello

Dilshod Narzillae
Lillian Yim
Jonathan Salman
Anthony Choi
Seoyeon Koo
Macintyre Taback
Trés Foster
JungAh Lee
Hao Wang
Youjin Ko

Bass

Cailin Singleton
Jesse Dale
Yu-Cih Chang
Alyssa Peterson
Willie Swett

Flute

Chia-Fen Chang
Jay Kim
Anna Kevelson *
Subin Serena Oh
‡ Mara Riley §
Dianne Seo

Piccolo

Erika Rohrberg *
Dianne Seo §

Oboe

Donovan Bown
Gwen Goble *
Kelley Osterberg §
Sam Rockwood ‡

English horn

Donovan Bown

Clarinet

Thomas Acey *
Hugo Heokwoo Kweon
‡ Aleksis Martin §

Bass Clarinet

Hugo Heokwoo Kweon

Bassoon

Adam Chen
Garrett Comrie ‡
Miranda Macias *
Richard Vculek §

French horn

Sam Hay *
Karlee Kamminga §
Hannah Messenger
Sophie Steger ‡

Trumpet

Michael Harms *
Dimitri Raimonde ‡§

Trombone

Zachary Johnson *
Noah Korenfeld §

Bass Trombone

Luke Sieve

Tuba

Masaru Lin

Timpani

Eli Geruschat *
Danial Kukuk §
Zesen Wei ‡

Percussion

Steph Krichena
Danial Kukuk *
Zesen Wei

Harp
Yoonsu Cha

Keyboard
Jiawen Guan

Principal players
* Coleman ‡
Schumann
§ Dvořák

Orchestra Department

Hugh Wolff

Stanford and Norma Jean Calderwood Director of Orchestras

Marjorie Apfelbaum
*Director of Large Ensemble
Administration*

David Loebel
*Associate Director of
Orchestras*

Iverson Eliopoulos
Student Manager

Donald Palma
*Artistic Director of
Chamber Orchestra*

Andrés Almirall
Performance Librarian

Hannah O'Brien
Student Librarian

Rachel Yi
Dimitri Raimonde
Stage Crew

Special thanks to Zenas Hsu, Noriko Futagami, Mickey Katz, and Anthony D'Amico
for their work in preparing the orchestra for this evening concert

David Loebel

Associate Director of Orchestras

Noted for performances that combine innate musicality with interpretive insight, David Loebel joined the faculty of New England Conservatory in 2010 as Associate Director of Orchestras following an eleven-year tenure as Music Director and Conductor of the Memphis Symphony Orchestra. Prior to his appointment in Memphis, he enjoyed a decade-long association with the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra, serving as Associate and then Associate Principal Conductor, as well as Artistic Director of its summer festival, *Classics in the Loop*. He has also been Associate Conductor of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra.

As a guest conductor, David Loebel has appeared with the Philadelphia Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra, Minnesota Orchestra, Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, Seattle Symphony Orchestra, and Brooklyn Philharmonic Orchestra. He has also conducted the symphony orchestras of Baltimore, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, New Jersey, and Syracuse, the Utah Symphony, the North Carolina Symphony, the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, the Kansas City Symphony, the Louisville Orchestra, Symphony Silicon Valley, the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra and the Calgary Philharmonic, among many others.

Internationally, Loebel has conducted the Taipei Symphony Orchestra, the Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra, Orquesta Sinfónica de Xalapa, and toured Australia to great acclaim, leading the Sydney, Adelaide, Queensland, Western Australian, and Tasmanian Symphony Orchestras. He has led family and educational concerts at Carnegie Hall with the Orchestra of St. Luke's, the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra, and the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra. Operatic engagements include productions at Opera Theatre of Saint Louis and Opera Memphis, and he has appeared at summer festivals including the Grant Park Music Festival, Eastern Music Festival, Sewanee Summer Music Festival, and Woodstock Mozart Festival.

Honored five times by ASCAP for his adventuresome programming, David Loebel is a recipient of the prestigious Seaver/National Endowment for the Arts Conductors Award. An equally articulate communicator off the podium, he is a popular speaker and hosted "The Memphis Symphony Radio Hour" on public radio station WKNO-FM. His writings on music have been widely published, including program notes for Telarc recordings. With the Grant Park Symphony Orchestra and Chorus he recorded the critically acclaimed CD *Independence Eve at Grant Park*.

Active throughout his career in the training of young musicians, Loebel has been Conductor-in-Residence of the New World Symphony and Music Director of the Saint Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra. He has also conducted the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, the National Repertory Orchestra, and at conservatories including the Juilliard School, Cleveland Institute of Music, San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and Indiana University. As a mentor to conductors, he has served on the faculties of the League of American Orchestras' Conducting Workshop, the Kennedy Center's National Conducting Institute, and the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.

A native of Cleveland, David Loebel is a graduate of Northwestern University and a recipient of its Alumni Merit Award.

Symphonic Music at New England Conservatory

Stanford and Norma Jean Calderwood Director of Orchestras Hugh Wolff is joined by Associate Director of Orchestras David Loebel, Chamber Orchestra founder Donald Palma, and a rich array of guest conductors and coaches for dozens of FREE orchestral concerts in NEC's Jordan Hall this year.

Visit necmusic.edu for complete and updated concert information:

NEC PHILHARMONIA, Carlos Miguel Prieto, guest conductor
Debussy *Nuages* and *Fêtes* from *Nocturnes*; Ortiz *Téenek – Invenciones de Territorio*; Copland *Symphony No. 3*
Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

Symphonic Music at NEC

–continued

NEC SYMPHONY, David Loebel, conductor

Mathew Lanning '23 MM *Roc's Crater*; Berlioz *Symphony fantastique*

Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

MARTIN Y SOLER: L'ARBORE DI DIANA

performed by NEC Opera students and members of NEC Philharmonia,
under the direction of Robert Tweten

Thursday-Sunday, April 13-16, 2023 (times vary),

Plimpton Shattuck Black Box Theatre

NEC CHAMBER ORCHESTRA, Donald Palma, artistic director

Finzi *Prelude*; Bridge *Suite for Strings*; Britten *Variations on a Theme of Frank Bridge*

Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

NEC PHILHARMONIA & SYMPHONIC CHOIR, Hugh Wolff, conductor

Brahms *Tragic Overture in D Minor, op. 81*; Gabriela Lena Frank *Conquest Requiem* –

Yeonjae Cho '24 AD, soprano and Libang Wang '23 MM, baritone; Lutoslawski

Concerto for Orchestra

Wednesday, April 26, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Symphony Hall

Other Upcoming Concerts at NEC

Visit necmusic.edu for complete and updated concert and ticketing information

“WHAT I HEAR”: Anthony Davis

BSO/NEC collaboration

Thursday, March 9, 2023 at 5:30 p.m., Williams Hall

SONATA NIGHT 44, Pei-Shan Lee, director

Thursday, March 9, 2023 at 6:30 p.m., Burnes Hall

PERKIN OPERA SCENES II

Performances by graduate students in the NEC Opera Department

Thursday-Friday, March 9-10, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.,

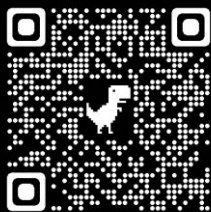
Plimpton Shattuck Black Box Theatre

CALLITHUMPIAN CONSORT, Stephen Drury, artistic director

Monday, March 13, 2022 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

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Contributions to The NEC Fund directly support the musical journeys of our extraordinarily talented NEC students and help keep our concerts free. From student scholarships and faculty support to exceptional student resources and learning opportunities, your gift makes the unparalleled NEC experience possible. Learn more at necmusic.edu/give.



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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