

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 orchestra members are visible, some wearing face masks. The setting is a grand hall with wood-paneled walls.

N | E | C

**EXPERIENCE WORLD-CLASS ARTISTRY AT**  
**New England  
Conservatory**

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# 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

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**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, Imani 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 ever-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's 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. <http://davidloebel.com/>

### **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.

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**NEC PHILHARMONIA**, Carlos Miguel Prieto, guest conductor

Debussy *Nuages* and *Fêtes* from *Nocturnes*; Ortiz Téenek – *Invencciones 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**

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**"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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