Boston Landmarks Orchestra | Christopher Wilkins, Music Director

Mozart & More

Wednesday, August 14 at 7:00pm DCR Hatch Memorial Shell

Christopher Wilkins, conductor

Adrian Anantawan, violin

Lucio Silla: Overture Wolfgang Amadè Mozart (1756–1791) Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-George (1745–1799) Symphony No. 29 in A, K. 201 Mozart Allegro moderato Andante Menuetto: Allegretto—Trio Allegro con spirito intermission

Shuffle Along Overture

Can't You Line Em

Adoration

Eubie Blake (1887–1983) arranged Will Vodery

> William Grant Still (1895–1978)

Florence Price (1887–1953) arranged Peter Simcich

Adrian Anantawan, violin

Las cuatro estaciones porteñas (The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires):

Verano porteño (Summer) Otoño porteño (Autumn)

Adrian Anantawan, violin

Danzón No. 2

Arturo Márquez

l Peter Simcich

Astor Piazzolla (1921-1992)

(b. 1950)

Run Time

The total run time of this concert is approximately two hours, with one intermission.

Boston Landmarks Orchestra



Boston Landmarks Orchestra builds community through great music. Landmarks produces free concerts and musical events across the greater Boston area. Increasing access to music for everyone, and promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion are at the core of all its programming. Between 2018

and 2023, 70% of the repertoire Landmarks performed was written by composers of color or women. The orchestra intentionally promotes artists and targets audiences that have been historically excluded from orchestral music. Landmarks was founded in 2001 and began its signature summer concert series at the DCR Hatch Memorial in 2007. The orchestra also performs community concerts at local venues in neighborhoods such as Roxbury, Dorchester, and Jamaica Plain.



CHRISTOPHER WILKINS was appointed Music Director of the Boston Landmarks Orchestra in the spring of 2011. Since then, he has expanded the orchestra's mission of making great music accessible to the whole community. He has also helped develop the orchestra's Breaking Down Barriers initiative, making accessibility a priority in all aspects of the orchestra's activities.

Mr. Wilkins also serves as Music Director of the Akron Symphony. As a guest conductor, Mr. Wilkins has appeared with many of the leading orchestras of the United States,

including those of Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dallas, Detroit, Houston, Indianapolis, Los Angeles, Pittsburgh, and San Francisco. Previously, Mr. Wilkins served as Music Director of the Orlando Philharmonic, the San Antonio Symphony, and the Colorado Springs Symphony.

He has served as associate conductor of the Utah Symphony, assisting Joseph Silverstein; assistant conductor of the Cleveland Orchestra under Christoph von Dohnányi; conducting assistant with the Oregon Symphony under James DePreist; and was a conducting fellow at Tanglewood. He was winner of the Seaver/NEA Award in 1992.

Born in Boston, Mr. Wilkins earned his bachelor's degree from Harvard College in 1978. He received his master of music degree at Yale University in 1981, and in 1979 attended the

Hochschule der Künste in West Berlin as a recipient of the John Knowles Paine traveling fellowship. As an oboist, he performed with many ensembles in the Boston area, including the Berkshire Music Center Orchestra at Tanglewood, and the Boston Philharmonic under Benjamin Zander.

First Violin Gregory Vitale, *Concertmaster* Christine Vitale Yeolim Nam Yumi Okada Mina Lavcheva Jodi Hagen

Second Violin

Paula Oakes, *Principal* Colin Davis Stacey Alden Robert Curtis Lisa Brooke Clarinet Rane Moore, *Principal*

Bassoon Gregory Newton, *Acting Principal*

> Kevin Owen, *Principal* Whitacre Hill

Horns

Trumpet

Dana Oakes, *Principal* Jesse Levine

Trombone Hans Bohn, *Acting Principal*

Kenneth Stalberg, *Principal* Abigail Cross Don Krishnaswami Ashleigh Gordon

Viola

Cellos

Aron Zelkowicz, *Principal* Melanie Dyball Piano

David Coleman

Timpani Jeffrey Fischer, *Principal*

Percussion

Stephen Marotto

Basses Robert Lyman, *Principal* Barry Boettger

Flute and Piccolo

Lisa Hennessy, Principal

Robert Schulz, Principal

Personnel Manager Christopher Ruigomez Librarian Daniel Meza Assistant Librarian

Sophie Steger

Oboe

Andrew Price, *Principal* Laura Shamu

Guest Artists



Adrian Anantawan holds degrees from the Curtis Institute of Music, Yale University and Harvard Graduate School of Education. As a violinist, he has studied with Itzhak Perlman, Pinchas Zukerman, and Anne-Sophie Mutter; his academic work in education was supervised by Howard Gardner. Memorable moments include performances at the White House, the Opening Ceremonies of the Athens and Vancouver Olympic Games and the United Nations. He has played for the late

Christopher Reeve, Pope John Paul IL and His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

Adrian has performed extensively in Canada as a soloist with the Orchestras of Toronto, Nova Scotia, Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Montreal, Edmonton and Vancouver. He has also presented feature recitals at the Aspen Music Festival and Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall. He has also represented Canada as a cultural ambassador in the 2006 Athens Olympics, and was a featured performer at the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics Opening Ceremonies. Adrian helped to create the Virtual Chamber Music Initiative at the Holland Bloorview Kids Rehab Centre. The cross-collaborative project brings researchers, musicians, doctors and educators together to develop adaptive musical instruments capable of being played by a young person with disabilities within a chamber music setting. He is also the founder of the Music Inclusion Program, aimed at having children with disabilities learn instrumental music with their typical peers.

From 2012-2016, he was the co-Director of Music at the Conservatory Lab Charter School, serving students from the Boston area, kindergarten through grade eight-his work was recognized by Mayor Marty Walsh as a ONEin3 Impact Award in 2015. Adrian is also Juno Award nominee, a member of the Terry Fox Hall of Fame, and was awarded a Diamond Jubilee Medal from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II for his contributions to the Commonwealth. He is the current Chair of Music at Milton Academy, the Artistic Director of Shelter Music Boston and is an Associate Professor of Music at Berklee College. Throughout the year, Adrian continues to perform, speak and teach around the world as an advocate for disability and the arts.



Shelter Music Boston delivers monthly chamber music concerts to Greater Boston homeless shelters and substance use recovery centers, providing classical music as a social service. Every note invests in the capacity of classical music to create social change in environments of great need. We believe all people deserve

access to the dignity, creativity, and passion of classical music.



Boston String Academy (BSA) is a non-profit organization providing rigorous string instrument instruction to children in under-served communities. The program is based on the Venezuelan El Sistema philosophy that utilizes music as a vehicle for social change. BSA aims to provide instruction of the highest quality, laying a musical foundation that could take a child to college or conservatory. Instruction of this caliber is something traditionally available only to higher income students whose parents have the means to purchase private instruction. The BSA program makes mastery of a string instrument reachable by

eliminating obstacles that stand in an inner city family's way. Tuition is subsidized, programs are offered in/near the children's schools, and private lessons and instrument rentals are included in the orchestral training.

BSA was founded in 2012 by Boston Conservatory graduates Marielisa and Mariesther Alvarez, and Taide Prieto, accomplished violinists and cellist who are also graduates of Venezuela's "El Sistema," and Peru's homologue program. The three of them lived both the social and musical mission of El Sistema — they felt the need to create a program in Boston that models their El Sistema experience, a program that nurtures both the individual person and the musician at the same time.

BSA currently offers three programs in the Chinatown and Allston neighborhoods, serving more than 120 students.

In 2019, BSA received the **2019 Commonwealth Awards**, which honor exceptional achievement in the arts, humanities, and sciences in the state of Massachusetts, granted by the <u>Mass Cultural Council</u>.

In addition, BSA students have been accepted into prestigious music performance programs such as Boston University Tanglewood Institute, LA Phil's YOLA National Festival, Greenwood Music Camp, Kinhaven Music School, Point Counterpoint, Sphinx Performance Academy, New England Conservatory's Summer Orchestra Institute, among others. During the past 6 years a large number of our students have been invited to participate in Longy School of Music's Sistema Side by Side Orchestra. In the Fall of 2019, three BSA students were selected to be part of the Boston BEAM, the new Boston Bridge to Equity and Achievement in Music Initiative at New England Conservatory. We also take pride in the fact that 100% of our students were accepted into exam schools over the past four years.

As part of the efforts to expose the students to the highest level of musical expression, BSA provides them with opportunities to perform and work with internationally acclaimed artists including Rictor Noren, Lynn Chang, David Ying, Martin Chalifour, Edicson Ruiz, Arturo Marquez, Midori Goto, and world renowned conductors Gustavo Dudamel and Sir Simon Rattle.

In partnership with Boston Philharmonic Orchestra and Longy School of Music of Bard College, BSA counts with the support of graduate student teaching assistants from these institutions.

In order to expand our student's opportunities, BSA collaborates and partners with these Art organizations: Boston Symphony Orchestra, Boston Conservatory, Boston University, New England Conservatory, Celebrity Series of Boston, Harvard University, Sphinx Virtuosi, Princeton University.

As our programs grow into full fruition, and our early students advance through their educational careers, we are cultivating a community to support our young musicians' academic success, self-confidence, creativity and social-emotional development.

Prelude Concert

Boston String Academy

Libertango

Astor Piazzolla (1921-1992) arranged César Olguín Mozart

Concerto for Two Violins in D minor

Vivace

Fiona Yuan and Gisele Francisco, violins

Fuga y Misterio

Piazzolla arranged Coco Nelegatti

Viola
Ana Isabel Cardona
Camila Martinez
Richard Fang
Cello
Bryan DaCosta
Jennifer Gamez
Juna Yatsu
Faculty
Marielisa Alvarez, Boston String Academy Director
Mariesther Alvarez, Boston String Academy Director
Tony Morales, Youth Ensemble Director
Michal Shein, Director of Cello Studies

Podium Note

by Christopher Wilkins

Tonight's collaboration with <u>Shelter Music Boston</u> and their Artistic Director and Ensemble Leader <u>Adrian Anantawan</u>, begins a stretch of five concerts given on consecutive days at churches and community centers throughout the city of Boston (see interview below). Adrian Anantawan performs as soloist in music of Florence Price—who was herself at one time unhoused—and the Argentinian tango master Astor Piazzolla. The Orchestra and Mr. Anantawan perform similar programs in <u>Hibernian Hall</u> in Roxbury (Thursday, August 15), at <u>Bethel AME</u> <u>Church</u> in Jamaica Plain (Friday, August 16), and at <u>People's Baptist Church</u> in Roxbury (Saturday, August 17). Adrian and musicians from the Landmarks Orchestra also perform portions of the program at the <u>Pine St. Inn's</u> Shattuck Shelter on Friday afternoon, August 16th.

<u>Mozart and More at the Hatch</u> features two works for violin and strings; both are arrangements of music originally composed for other forces. The first is *Adoration*, a prayer-like meditation for solo organ by **Florence Price**. Then come two movements from **Astor**

Piazzolla's brilliant *The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires (Cuatro Estaciones Porteñas).* Piazzolla performed and recorded these tango-inspired pieces several times with his quintet. But they have become enormously popular in recent years in arrangements by Leonid Desyatnikov. The movements, each under ten minutes long, quote from Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons.* Tonight, we perform "Summer" and "Autumn."

Wolfgang Amadè Mozart was eighteen years old when he composed his sublime Symphony No. 26. This masterpiece forms the nucleus of the "Mozart" portion of the evening. Opening the program is another terrific, lesser-known youthful work, his overture to the opera *Lucio Silla*, composed when he was just 16. Mozart's contemporary <u>Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-George</u>—violinist, composer, and fencing prodigy—is represented by dances from his only surviving opera *The Anonymous Lover*. Boston Lyric Opera mounted a terrific production of the opera earlier this year.

Works by two groundbreaking American composers round out the program. **Eubie Blake's** *Shuffle Along*, with lyrics by Noble Sissle, opened in 1921 on West 62nd St in New York. The all-Black cast musical was so successful that New York City permanently changed the traffic patterns in the San Juan Hill neighborhood on the West Side to accommodate the huge influx of theatergoers eager to see the show. *Shuffle Along* not only altered the racial success formula on Broadway, it also changed forever the course of American popular music. Artists as diverse as George Gershwin, Al Jolson, and Langston Hughes heralded the arrival of a new sound in American musical theater.

William Grant Still played a central role in that cultural shift, a change propelled by the democratic movement of the New Negro, also known as the Harlem Renaissance. Still drew on sources from Black writers and poets, Black history and experience throughout his career. For his short orchestral setting of *Can't You Line 'Em*—a work song from Black laborers laying track for the railroads in the South—he drew on <u>photographs and films</u> by folklorist and historian Alan Lomax.

Arturo Márquez's Danzón No. 2 has rapidly become one of the most frequently performed orchestral works by any living composer. It is admired—adored even—throughout the world for its propulsive rhythms, sweeping lines, irresistible sensuality, and the warmth of its Cuban-Mexican soul. One of its delights is the orchestration, which includes wonderfully idiomatic solos for clarinet, oboe, piano, violin, trumpet, and piccolo.

In the following conversation, Adrian Anantawan speaks with me about his career and his performance with the Landmarks Orchestra:

CW: We're all excited to have you with us next week, Adrian. It will be a full week, to say the least. But I know you always have lots going on. What's happening with you right now?

AA: This is Shelter Music week. I'm playing duets with a wonderful tuba player, <u>Eric Goode</u>. We're doing Chopin Nocturnes, the Bach Double, some fiddle tunes, and repertoire that's just kind of all over the place! Eric's a great player. He's also a teaching assistant with me at Milton Academy, and the Children's Program Director at Shelter Music. We do one or two children's sites a month at Shelter Music. We have six regular adult partner sites, and two for the children. Consistency is key.

CW: You've worked with the Landmarks Orchestra in so many different capacities: as soloist, conductor, and teacher. Next week you appear in your role as Artistic Director of Shelter Music. In addition, you've influenced us in your work in the abilities space, as an advocate, advisor, and as a scholar. How does applying so many different skills allow you to realize your goals as an artist?

AA: I think I've just always wanted to do some good in the world. It's a very personal thing, because I could easily have been someone who didn't have access to music because I needed an adaptation in order to play the violin. I wouldn't be performing today if it wasn't for a confluence of factors, including a music teacher— a childhood instructor in Canada—and engineers working together to develop how I could play the instrument.

CW: That early support must have been remarkable, because you got into the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, arguably the most prestigious music school in the world. No doubt you received exceptional training there in musical performance. But did they also support you in pursuing the things you were interested in as your life mission?

AA: Curtis was a wonderful experience. I got to play with some of the future stars in the field it was a blessing. At the time, Curtis didn't really have a robust understanding of how to encourage musicians to make an impact through the knowledge translation field.

Yet, interestingly, there were a lot of people in my cohort—like <u>Stan Thompson</u>, for instance—working on issues of access. So I was aware of an appetite to do that amongst my peers, to impact community as related to our specific identities. I think that the Curtis Institute of today is a different institution, constantly looking for new ways to foster accessibility.

CW: Landmarks programming is always eclectic. Drawing from many different traditions helps us connect to the diverse populations of Boston. The program we're doing together next week is a great example— it's incredibly diverse. What role does programming play in serving the mission of Shelter Music?

AA: The two organizations definitely align in terms of exploring the diverse range of composers who write currently, and have written throughout the past. The point is to reflect the populations we're serving. With Shelter Music, like most organizations, it's how you balance it. If you're new to classical music and you're listening to Mozart for the first time, then that's new and exciting, and that should be celebrated.

But every year we also have special projects that bring new works into the world, music that is especially applicable to the world we live in. A couple years ago, we commissioned composers to set music to poetry written by individuals who are experiencing homelessness. We collected pieces of music that were meaningful to them—"Eye of the Tiger," for instance—and then created new works based on these songs. Playing them back to the audience, they hear their favorite songs in fresh and interesting ways. It's a great way to create conversations that go deeper with these communities.

We're currently working on a different project in partnership with Carnegie Hall and one of our partner sites where we create lullables for moms—songs that reflect and amplify their stories. In the context of homelessness, we constantly see a narrative of "fear of othering." Art can be a direct resistance to that. Music in particular has this power.

In terms of who performs with Shelter Music, the musicians we invite are folks who engage well with our audiences no matter who they are. The idea is to minimize barriers, to create spaces for conversation, which are as important—in some cases more important—than the music itself. And we have ensemble leaders in our monthly programming who guide newer musicians to engage in this work.

CW: We will perform in five different venues: the Hatch Shell, three neighborhood venues, and the Pine Street Inn. Performing in a shelter will be a first for us. Tell us what you're learned about making music in such varied settings.

We visit the Pine Street Inn every month. This program will be for men who are going through recovery from substance use. In the Shattuck facility, there is an attached shelter as well. We've had incredibly moving interactions with these men. Some of them will go deeply into their relationships with music. One might say, for instance, that he has a musical background, but doesn't currently have access to a musical instrument. Bringing live music into the space changes the relational dynamic in a crucial way.

There is a lot of difficult and powerful work that contributes to recovery. Music can help alleviate the toughness throughout the day. But it can also provide a platform for discussion as we form new bonds. To encourage dialogue, we typically plan a shorter program. That's true for next week's program with Landmarks musicians at the Pine Street Inn. The musical portion is truncated because we want to add to the experience a robust back-and-forth with the audience.

CW: It's such important work, Adrian. And you're helping us all conceive how to do it usefully. Where would you like to go next with all of this as your career develops?

I would love to be able to help shift our thinking about disability in classical music—to view it as its own culture that can be celebrated. I'm interested in creating spaces for would-be musicians who are currently disabled but don't disclose it, because there's a stigma around the perception of not being capable. I would like to continue working with young people who have disabilities, supporting their development and confidence. That's where I find my passion.

I'd like to travel and see other programs in Asia, in Europe, and play music and just use my gifts and whatever I can do from my unique vantage to create positive impact. And then, while I can, to perform and just express myself, always championing the incredible things that are happening in the world around these intersections. They can be difficult to see because we tend to work in isolation.

CW: The performing piece is key. It's the draw. It's what creates the beauty and the energy that attracts people to the experience and makes them want to be a part of it. But you're also showing the way. You're opening up a path for people who may not see it as available to them. It's

exciting for us at Landmarks to work with you on so many levels, as it has been well over decade now. Thank you for your time. We can't wait for our work together next week!

AA: I'm really excited about it.

CW: And for more information?

AA: For more information, people can go to <u>my website</u> or <u>Shelter Music's</u> website. They can also check out the work I'm doing at Berklee with the <u>Music Inclusion Ensemble</u>, which is awesome.

Ambassador Program

Started in 2022, the Ambassador Program aims to seasonally employ enthusiastic, music-loving folks from a variety of backgrounds, representing the diversity of Boston's neighborhoods. With 54% of our Ambassadors speaking more than one language—including Spanish, Portuguese, and French—they help spread the word of Boston Landmarks Orchestra to a vast number of Boston communities, including Roxbury, Jamaica Plain, East Boston and more. From promoting our concerts in their own neighborhoods, to helping patrons both new and familiar navigate the Esplanade, our Ambassadors are here to engage as many people as possible, promoting Boston Landmarks Orchestra's mission of building community through great music.

We are supported by many individual donors who believe in free music for all. Please support us by <u>donating today</u>!

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