

Fredericksburg Music Club, Inc. Presents Apollo Chamber Players In Concert October 16, 2016
Apollo Chamber Players - In Concert

Apollo Chamber Players - Performers Biography

Through its mission to explore the rich intersections of Western classical and ethnic folk music, Apollo Chamber Players has gained prestige through innovative, thematically-programmed concerts, culturally enriching educational activities, and the commissioning of new music. During their 2013 East Coast Tour and Carnegie Hall debut, the group performed for over 1,000 enthusiastic concert-goers, including dignitaries from the Consulates General of Bulgaria and the Czech Republic of New York. Winner of HoustonPress' 2014 MasterMinds award, Apollo was one of three organizations in Houston to be recognized for positively impacting the local arts community. This past September the organization launched a multi-year commissioning project, 20x2020, with a new work by Grammy winning composer Libby Larsen, and the ensemble recently made their national debut on American Public Media's Performance Today.

Touring engagements during the 2014/15 season include concerts for Chamber Music Society of Little Rock, Seattle University (WA), Grand Junction Symphony (CO), and in Lake Charles (LA) and Fredericksburg (TX). In April 2015, the organization collaborates with Houston MET Dance in a program featuring selected 20x2020 commissioned works and Apollo folk melody arrangements, and it is the featured ensemble for Concert at the Villa, an AIDS Ministry event sponsored by Catholic Charities Houston.

"European Folkscapes makes folk music come to life effectively." (American Record Guide). Apollo's debut album was named 'Album of the Week' by WQXR-FM in New York City and has garnered international recognition. It has reached millions of listeners, receiving regular airplay from WQXR-FM, Classical 91.7/Houston Public Media; WOMR 92.1 (Provincetown, MA); WRUVFM (Burlington, VT); and WFMR 91.3 (New Orleans, LA), as well as reviews by The Strad, American Record Guide, and Sonograma Magazine (Barcelona, Spain), among others. It continues to be one of the top downloaded/streamed albums through Navona Records. The album showcases traditional European folk melodies in dynamic new contexts, featuring original arrangements transcribed from field recordings and Fantasy on Bulgarian Rhythms, Apollo's first commissioned work. It was sponsored in part by the Houston Arts Alliance and the City of Houston.

Educational outreach initiatives are a core component of Apollo's mission. The group curates educational programs for performance through Young Audiences of Houston, a non-profit arts-in-education provider reaching 330,000 students, and it has performed for schools and festivals across the country in conjunction with touring engagements.

Apollo's musicians have been featured soloists with major orchestras, both nationally and internationally, including the Mexico City Philharmonic, National Symphony (Mexico), Minería Symphony, San Antonio Symphony, York Symphony, and the Symphony of Southeast Texas. Additionally, Apollo's musicians hold principal chairs in the Symphony of Southeast Texas and perform regularly with Houston Grand Opera and Ballet Orchestras, Sarasota Opera, Ars Lyrica and Mercury Baroque. In recent seasons Apollo has collaborated with James Dunham, Ivo-Jan van der Werff, and Viktor Valkov, among others. Apollo's musicians hold degrees from the Shepherd School of Music (Rice University), Vanderbilt University, University of Houston, and Southern Methodist University.

Matthew J. Detrick, violin

Co-Founder and Artistic Director of the internationally acclaimed Apollo Chamber Players, violinist Matthew J. Detrick enjoys an active performing and teaching career. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Rice University, where he studied with Kenneth Goldsmith and Raphael Fliegel, former concertmaster of the Houston Symphony. Since 2012 Mr. Detrick has served as concertmaster of The

Symphony of Southeast Texas, in Beaumont, and he performs frequently with Houston Grand Opera and Ballet orchestras, Mercury: The Orchestra Redefined, and other Houston-based ensembles. He has appeared as soloist with the York Symphony Orchestra (PA) and The Symphony of Southeast Texas, performing Saint-Saens' Concerto No. 3 as well as Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante and Vivaldi's and Piazzolla's Four Seasons, respectively.

Outside of Houston, Mr. Detrick has performed with the Charleston Symphony Orchestra, Jacksonville Symphony, and in 2008 and 2009 he joined the Sarasota Opera Orchestra, in Florida, for its annual winter season. He has concertized around the world as member of the AIMS Festival Orchestra in Graz, Austria, and as artist of the Zephyr Ensemble during its tours of Japan and Panama. Mr. Detrick has been a participant in the Aspen Music Festival, Pine Mountain Music Festival, and Spoleto Festival USA.

In addition to his artistic and performing duties, Mr. Detrick serves as Apollo's executive director; in these capacities he is a frequent guest speaker for alumni lectures and music entrepreneurship classes at Rice University's Shepherd School of Music. He has taught as a private instructor for the Houston Youth Symphony's MELODY outreach program since 2010 and maintains a private studio at his home. Fun fact: Mr. Detrick had the privilege of performing an improvised solo with legend Stevie Wonder during a March 2015 concert at the Toyota Center in Houston.

Anabel Ramirez, violin

Mexican-born violinist Anabel Ramirez began studying the violin at age six in her native country with Russian violinist Gari Petrenko. By 1991 she had twice won the National Violin Competition in Mexico and the following year Ms. Ramirez was awarded a full scholarship to study at the Ollin Yoliztly School of the Arts in Mexico City. Under the tutelage of Natalya Gbodetskaya, she won the 'Carlos Chavez' competition in 1992. At age 16, she came to the US to study at the University of Houston under the sponsorship of the Starling Foundation Scholarship Fund, where she completed her Bachelor's of Music Performance under the supervision of Fredell Lack. She subsequently completed her Masters Degree at the University of British Columbia, having studied with Andrew Dawes. Returning to the US in 2004, she began coursework towards a Masters in Pedagogy with Emanuel Borok.

Ms. Ramirez has been a member of Apollo Chamber Players since 2012 and serves as Marketing Director in addition to core artist. She has been a member of the Houston Grand Opera and the Houston Ballet Orchestras since 2008, and she performs regularly with the period instrument ensemble, Mercury: The Orchestra Redefined.

To further her education, Ms. Ramirez has participated in several music festivals throughout the world, including the Aspen Music Festival with Dorothy Delay, the Mozarteum of Salzburg with Carlo Chiarappa, and the Musicorda Festival with James Buswell. Ms. Ramirez was the winner of the 1998 American String Teachers Association regional competition as well as the Musicorda Concerto Competition. She was awarded the 2002 Mozart Medal for musical achievements and has also appeared as soloist with all the major orchestras in her home country, including the National Symphony and Minería Symphony, and locally, with the Galveston, Clear Lake, Woodlands and San Antonio Symphonies.

Whitney Bullock, viola

Whitney Bullock, viola, is active as both a performer and teaching artist, and she has been a member of Apollo Chamber Players since 2012. In addition to her position as Apollo's core violist, Ms. Bullock also serves as the organization's Education Director, through which she brings Apollo's distinctive programming to life in schools and the community. Currently in her fifth season as Principal Viola of the Symphony of Southeast Texas, Ms. Bullock recently appeared with the symphony as the featured soloist in a performance of Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante.

This past summer, Ms. Bullock completed a two-year Young Artist Fellowship with Da Camera of Houston, receiving training in concert program curation, establishing community arts initiatives, and the development of educational outreach programs that integrate the arts with classroom curriculum. This intense program culminated in a viola performance and poetry therapy residency developed by Ms. Bullock at the Houston Area Women's Center.

Along with her performing commitments, Ms. Bullock is also the staff viola instructor for the Michael P. Hammond Preparatory Department at Rice University's Shepherd School of Music. In addition to her teaching position at Rice's Preparatory Department, she is also the chamber music and viola sectionals coach for the Houston Youth Symphony, and teaches lessons through that organization's Melody Program, which provides free private lesson instruction for economically disadvantaged musicians. Ms. Bullock has coached chamber music for American Festival for the Arts' Chamber Music Academy, as well as served as a judge for the Houston Young Artists' Concert and Manhattan School of Music Precollege Concerto Competition.

Ms. Bullock also maintains a private viola studio in her home as well as actively freelancing in the Houston area. She received her undergraduate degree in viola performance and women's studies at Vanderbilt University and her graduate degree in music at Rice University.

Matthew Dudzik, cello

Matthew Dudzik is a versatile cellist who is as passionate about early music as he is about the dynamic world of new music and the great masterpieces of the western tradition. He has performed in orchestral and chamber music settings throughout the United States and Japan. Highlights include appearances at the Pacific Music Festival with members of the Berlin and Vienna Philharmonics. Now in his sixth season as core cellist of Apollo Chamber Players, he has also served the organization as Chief Financial Officer since 2013.

In Houston he has performed in a wide variety of settings including with the Houston Grand Opera and Ballet orchestras, Mercury: The Orchestra Redefined, the River Oaks Chamber Orchestra, the Houston Chamber Choir, Theater Under the Stars, the KUHf Ensemble, and the Foundation for Modern Music. A dedicated and enthusiastic teacher, he maintains a vibrant private studio at his home and is a teacher for the Houston Youth Symphony's MELODY outreach program, which provides free private lesson instruction for economically disadvantaged students. He also enjoys serving as chamber music coach for American Festival for the Arts' Chamber Music Academy.

Mr. Dudzik began playing the cello at the age of nine under the guidance of Minnesota Orchestra Cellist Sachiya Isomura. He continued his studies with Ko Iwasaki at Southern Methodist University and Norman Fischer at Rice University's Shepherd School of Music, where he earned his undergraduate and master's degrees in music, respectively. In addition to the diversity of his musical activities, Mr. Dudzik enjoys practicing yoga and traveling with his wife, fellow cellist Shino Hayashi. Recent and upcoming destinations include, Cambodia, Vietnam, the Hawaiian islands, Istanbul, Vienna, Bavaria and Japan.

Source: apollochamberplayers.org