

Bard College Conservatory of Music

presents

Paths to Enlightenment: Beethoven's Opp. 95, 96, and 97

featuring

Joseph Lin and Claire Bourg, *violins*

Natalie Loughran, *viola*

Raman Ramakrishnan, *cello*

Helen Huang, *piano*

Sunday, March 30 at 2:00 pm

László Z. Bitó '60 Conservatory Building, Performance Space

String Quartet in F Minor, op. 95, "*Serioso*"

Allegro con brio

Allegretto ma non troppo

Allegro assai vivace ma serio

Larghetto espressivo – Allegretto agitato

Ludwig van Beethoven

(1770-1827)

Joseph Lin and Claire Bourg, *violins*

Natalie Loughran, *viola*

Raman Ramakrishnan, *cello*

Violin Sonata No. 10 in G Major, op. 96

Allegro moderato

Adagio espressivo

Scherzo: Allegro - Trio

Poco allegretto

Joseph Lin, *violin*

Helen Huang, *piano*

Piano Trio No. 7 in B-flat Major, op. 97, "*Archduke*"

Allegro moderato

Scherzo. Allegro - Coda

Andante cantabile ma però con moto

Allegro moderato

Joseph Lin, *violin*

Raman Ramakrishnan, *cello*

Helen Huang, *piano*

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

A renowned performer and teacher, **Joseph Lin** appears regularly throughout the U.S., Asia, and Europe. He was first violinist of the Juilliard String Quartet from 2011 to 2018, and he continues to teach violin and chamber music at the Juilliard School. Lin's recent projects include a collaboration with Robert Levin featuring Beethoven and Schubert on period instruments, performances of Bartók's Second Violin Concerto, Beethoven's late string quartets, and the complete Beethoven Violin Sonatas with Helen Huang at Juilliard. Marking the 300th year of Bach's Violin Sonatas and Partitas in 2020, Lin presented complete cycles in Boston and Philadelphia. Recent seasons have included baroque and classical period instrument performances on both viola and violin. In 2025, Joseph Lin presents a special Beethoven program (Op. 95 "Serioso" Quartet, Op. 96 Sonata, and Op. 97 "Archduke" Trio) in numerous cities around the U.S.

Lin was a founding member of the Formosa Quartet, which won the 2006 London String Quartet Competition. In 1996, he won first prize at the Concert Artists Guild Competition and was named a Presidential Scholar in the Arts. In 1999, he was selected for the Pro Musicis Award and, in 2001, he won first prize at the inaugural Michael Hill Violin Competition in New Zealand. His recordings include the music of Korngold and Busoni with pianist Benjamin Loeb; an album of Debussy, Franck, and Milhaud with pianist Orion Weiss; and the complete unaccompanied works of Bach and Ysaÿe.

Joseph Lin graduated magna cum laude from Harvard in 2000. In 2002, he began an extended exploration of China, where he studied Chinese music, including the guqin, as a Fulbright scholar.

Violinist **Claire Bourg** has performed extensively as a soloist and chamber musician at prestigious venues across the United States and Europe, including Carnegie Hall, Chicago's Orchestra Hall, the Kimmel Center, and venues in Bremen, Warsaw, and Brussels. Notable performances include Mozart's First Violin Concerto with the Camerata Bern in Hannover and participation in the Queen Elisabeth Competition in Brussels.

A sought-after chamber musician, Claire has collaborated with distinguished artists like Mitsuko Uchida, Kim Kashkashian, and Jörg Widmann. She performs regularly with Musicians from Marlboro, Jupiter Symphony Chamber Players, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, among others, and previously served as concertmaster of Symphony in C in Philadelphia.

Claire's dedication to contemporary music is evident in her collaborations with composers such as Augusta Read Thomas, Bright Sheng, and Helmut Lachenmann. She holds degrees from the New England Conservatory, Curtis Institute of Music, and The Juilliard School, and is pursuing her Doctorate at the City University of New York's Graduate Center. Her primary mentors include Miriam Fried, Pamela Frank, Arnold Steinhardt, Joseph Lin and Mark Steinberg. Claire performs on a violin crafted by Zosimo Bergonzi of Cremona, generously on loan through Guarneri Hall NFP and Darnton & Hersh Fine Violins, Chicago.

Twenty-seven year old American violist **Natalie Loughran** is quickly establishing herself as one of the most versatile young artists of our time. Natalie was awarded First Prize at the 2021 Primrose International Viola Competition, along with the Audience Award, as well as the BIPOC Composer Prize for her arrangement and performance of William Grant Still's 'Mother and Child'. She has also appeared as a finalist for the 2020 Young Concert Artist Auditions, and was awarded a special prize for her performance of the Bowen Viola Sonata in C Minor at the Tertis International Viola Competition. Natalie has also been awarded with the William Schuman prize for her outstanding leadership and achievement in music, from the Juilliard School.

As the newest violist of the Castalian String Quartet, Natalie has appeared in many internationally renowned chamber music series, including Konzerthaus Berlin, Wigmore Hall, 92NY, San Francisco Performances, and Dallas Chamber Music Society. The quartet is currently in residence at Oxford University and Wigmore Hall. Additionally, Natalie has performed extensively at Marlboro, Yellow Barn, The Perlman Music Program Chamber Workshop, and Kronberg's Chamber Music Connects the World.

Natalie earned her B.M. and M.M. in Viola Performance at The Juilliard School, under the tutelage of Roger Tapping, Misha Amory, where she was a proud recipient of the Kovner Fellowship. Natalie is continuing her professional studies at the Kronberg Academy with Tabea Zimmermann. Natalie plays on a 1976 viola by Sergio Peresson.

Cellist **Raman Ramakrishnan** enjoys performing chamber music, old and new, around the world. For two decades, as a founding member of the Horszowski Trio and the Daedalus Quartet, he toured extensively through North and South America, Europe, and Asia, and recorded for Bridge Records and Avie Records, including the complete piano trios of Robert Schumann and the complete string quartets of Fred Lerdahl. Mr. Ramakrishnan is currently an artist member of the Boston Chamber Music Society, and is on the faculty of the Bard College Conservatory of Music.

Mr. Ramakrishnan has given solo recitals in New York, Boston, Seattle, and Washington, D.C., and has performed at Caramoor, at Bargemusic, with the Chicago Chamber Musicians, and at the Aspen, Bard, Charlottesville, Four Seasons, Kingston, Lincolnshire (UK), Marlboro, Mehli Mehta (India), Oklahoma Mozart, Portland, Skaneateles, and Vail Music Festivals. He has toured with Musicians from Marlboro and has performed, as guest principal cellist, with the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra. As a guest member of Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Ensemble, he has performed in New Delhi and Agra, India and in Cairo, Egypt. He has served on the faculties of the Kneisel Hall, Norfolk, and Taconic Chamber Music Festivals, as well as in the Music Performance Program of Columbia University.

Mr. Ramakrishnan was born in Athens, Ohio and grew up in East Patchogue, New York. He holds a Bachelor's degree in physics from Harvard University and a Master's degree in music from The Juilliard School. His principal teachers have been Fred Sherry, Andrés Díaz, and André Emelianoff. He plays a Neapolitan cello made by Vincenzo Jorio in 1837.

Born in Japan of Taiwanese parents, **Helen Huang** has enjoyed to date a multi-faceted career as a soloist and chamber music player and has appeared with such orchestras as the Cleveland Orchestra, the National Symphony, the New York Philharmonic, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Saint Louis Symphony, the Pittsburgh Symphony, the Cincinnati Symphony, the Montreal Symphony, the Colorado Symphony, and the Fort Worth Symphony. Abroad she has appeared with the Berlin Philharmonic, the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, the Orchestre National de France, the London Philharmonic, the Israel Philharmonic, the Israel Chamber Orchestra, and the Vienna Chamber Orchestra. Helen developed a close relationship with Maestro Kurt Masur upon winning the Young People's Competition, resulting in engagements with the New York Philharmonic and a recording contract with the Teldec record label. Known for immaculate technique and eloquent sensitivity, Helen is one of the youngest recipients of the Avery Fisher Career Grant. She especially enjoys chamber music, and has appeared at the Marlboro Music Festival, La Jolla SummerFest, and Ravinia's Steans Institute For Young Artists. She co-founded the Formosa Chamber Music Festival with the vision of bringing the art of chamber music playing to students in Taiwan.

Helen received the Arthur Rubinstein Prize upon graduating from the Juilliard School in 2004, where she was a student of Yoheved Kaplinsky. She went on to pursue her Master's degree from Yale, where she studied with Peter Frankl. A dedicated teacher, she served on the faculty of the Juilliard PreCollege until 2022. She currently resides in New Jersey with her husband and two daughters.