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[www.kingstonchambermusic.org](http://www.kingstonchambermusic.org)  
info line: 401-789-0665

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 19  
Wakefield, RI 02879

## Seating limited for another year

The university was unable to complete installation of a sprinkler system in the Fine Arts Center Concert Hall in time for the 2011 festival that begins this July 21.

This means the hall seating capacity will remain at 500 — down from 600 — for a second straight season.

Given the limitations, the public is urged to buy their tickets early. Ticket prices remain the same, \$20 for a single concert, or less by subscription to four or more concerts. All seats are unreserved.

The university has plans to install the sprinklers immediately following this year's festival, so the seating capacity should be increased before the 2012 festival.

### TO PURCHASE TICKETS

Tickets are available in advance on the Web, at [kingstonchambermusic.org](http://kingstonchambermusic.org), by mail to the festival, at P.O. Box 1733, Kingston, RI 02881, or at one of the following locations:

- AAA offices at 14 Woodruff Ave. in Narragansett, or 501 Centerville Road in Warwick.
- Beekman Violin in Peace Dale.
- The Standard Times office in Wickford.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Call the festival's info line, at 401-789-0665.

*Natalie Zhu, artistic director*

Kingston Chamber Music Festival  
at the University of Rhode Island  
PO Box 1733, Kingston, R.I. 02881

# Kingston Chamber Music FESTIVAL NOTES

Spring / Summer 2011

Natalie Zhu, artistic director

Vol. 13, No. 2

## SIX GREAT CONCERTS BEGIN JULY 20

Twenty-two artists, including nine making their festival debuts, will assemble in Kingston this July to perform classic chamber works from Bach and Bottesini, Mozart and Mendelssohn, and Schumann and Schubert.

The six-concert schedule begins on the evening of July 20 when clarinetist

Anthony McGill, horn player David Jolley and violist Teng Li make their festival debuts.

The scintillating twin-sister piano duo of Michelle and Christina Naughton returns for the second straight season in concerts on July 22 and 24.

And five more artists — pianist Ilya Poletaev, flutist Mimi Stillman, violinist

Kyu-Young Kim, cellist Jonathan Karoly and bassist Nathan Farrington — make their debuts on July 27 to kick off the festival's second week.

■ For a summary of each concert, see pages 2 and 3 inside. ⇨⇨⇨

## He Found His Own Path To Music

Joseph Lin, newest member of Juilliard String Quartet, to debut in Kingston

Thirty-two-year-old Joseph Lin was recently appointed first violinist of the renowned Juilliard String Quartet, an honor that also includes a full-time faculty position at the prestigious music conservatory the quartet is named for.

Many might assume Lin's climb to the top of this pinnacle of the classical music world included a big push from his Asian immigrant parents, admittance at a young age to Juilliard or some other lofty music conservatory, and a singular focus on music that violin virtuosity requires.

Well, not exactly. Lin, who makes his Kingston debut this summer, followed a path that included a number of detours — including one inspired by the 9/11 attacks on the U.S. — not normally associated with the careers of profes-

sional musicians.

His parents, immigrants from Taiwan, were not musicians, but they did start Joseph, at the age of 4, on music lessons with a local teacher in a suburb of New York City.

"Asian immigrant parents often start children on music lessons at an early age, not necessarily with the hope of them becoming professional but because they think it's a wonderful activity for them to be doing," Lin said recently in a telephone interview.

Lin excelled at the violin but remembers his first serious thoughts about a career in music came at the age of 14 when he played in a symphony at the ornate and beautiful Teatro Colon opera house in Buenos Aires. "It was very exotic," Lin recalled of the experience.

He was also enrolled in Juilliard's pre-college Saturday program, which he termed "a hard-core, extra-curricular activity for high school."

Still, Lin detoured from the well worn music path through a music conservatory. He majored in comparative religion at Harvard University,

See LIN Page 2

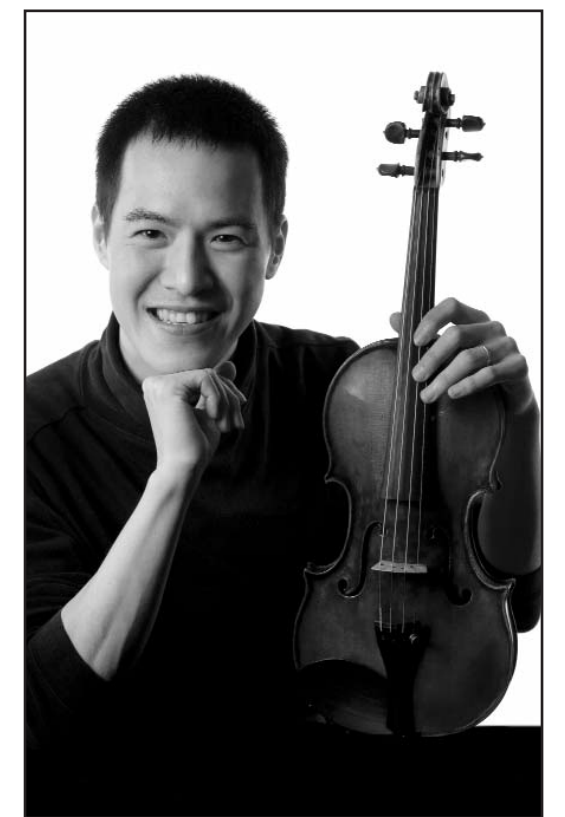


Photo by Koichi Miura

■ Violinist Joseph Lin was recently named first violinist of the Juilliard String Quartet.

# PRESENTING THE 2011 KINGSTON CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL

**1 Wednesday, July 20** Clarinetist Anthony McGill and violist Teng Li will make their festival debuts in two popular showpieces for their instruments, **Weber's** soulful **Clarinet Quintet in B Major** — the kickoff to the 2011 Kingston Chamber Music Festival — followed by **Paganini's** “**La Gran Viola**” Sonata. McGill, who performed with Yo-Yo Ma and Itzhak Perlman at President Obama's inauguration, is principal clarinetist for New York's Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. Teng Li is principal violist of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. She will be accompanied for the Paganini by the festival's longtime favorite artist, pianist Gail Niwa. Opening night concludes with **Dohnanyi's Piano Sextet**, featuring festival Artistic Director Natalie Zhu on piano, with an unusual configuration completing the sextet: violin, viola, cello, clarinet and horn. In the Dohnanyi, a third artist making a festival debut on opening night will be horn player David Jolley, who has performed with orchestras and chamber groups around the world.

**2 Friday, July 22** Horn player David Jolley follows his festival debut in Concert 1 with the lead role in **Brahms' Horn Trio** in E-flat Major, a mainstay of the horn repertoire and a one of Brahms' most popular chamber works. The adagio movement from the Horn Trio is known to be one of Brahms' most impassioned and heartfelt slow movements. Rounding out the trio will be violinist Jasmine Lin and pianist Niwa. Kicking off Concert 2 will be two festival premiere works: **Martinu's** mysterious and lyrical **String Trio No. 2** and a seldom-heard work by **Schumann**, his **Andante and Variations in B-flat Major**, featuring another unusual configuration

## Eight More Artists Making Their Kingston Debuts



■ David Jolley, horn



■ Teng Li, viola



■ Ilya Poletaev, piano



■ Anthony McGill, clarinet



■ Nathan Farrington, bass



■ Mimi Stillman, flute



■ Jonathan Karoly, cello



■ Kyu-Young Kim, violin

of instruments: two pianos, horn, and two cellos. The Martinu will be performed by violinist Ayano Ninomya, violist Teng Li and cellist Priscilla Lee. The Schumann marks the return of the twin-sister piano duo of Christina and Michelle Naughton, who made a spectacular festival debut last season.

**3 Sunday, July 24** Mozart's string quintets are among the most powerful and treasured works of the composer's wide-ranging chamber music output. His **String Quintet in B-flat Major** is Mozart's first and also a festival premier of the work. Following the Mozart, violinist Jasmine Lin and pianist Natalie Zhu perform **R. Strauss' Violin Sonata in E-flat Major**. The work demonstrates the composer's typical panache, with the strikingly flamboyant finale exerting the two performers to the outer limits of what can be expected of chamber musicians. Hang onto your seats after intermission for the return of the Naughton sisters, Michelle and Christina, who will perform two spectacular staples of the repertoire for two pianos: **Brahms' Variations on a Theme by Haydn**, and **Ravel's diabolical La Valse**.

**4 Wednesday, July 27** Renowned flutist Mimi Stillman makes her festival debut in **Mozart's Flute Quartet in D Major**, the first of three flute quartets by Mozart and a showpiece for the instrument. Cellist

Jonathan Karoly, a member of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, also makes his festival debut in the quartet. They are joined by violinist Daniel Han, who made his festival debut in our Schools Outreach Program in 2009, and violist Che-Hung Chen. Stillman stays in the spotlight for **Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 5**, but she shares featured roles with two other artists making festival debuts, pianist Ilya Poletaev, first prize winner at a prestigious Bach competition in Leipzig, on harpsichord and violinist Joseph Lin, the newest member of the Juilliard String Quartet. Accompanying them will be violinist Han, violist Che-Hung Chen, cellist Karoly and another festival debut artist, bassist Nathan Farrington. Poletaev and Farrington stick around for one of the most popular works of the chamber music repertoire, **Schubert's "Trout" Quintet**. Joining them will be yet another festival debut artist, violinist Kyu-Young Kim, as well as returning favorites, cellist Kenneth Olsen and violist Cheyenne Chen.

**5 Friday, July 29** Dvorak dedicated his **Sonatina in G Major** for violin and piano to his children. The work, which represents simplicity, elegance and happiness, will be played here by violinist Daniel Han and pianist Natalie Zhu. Flutist Mimi Stillman is featured again in a suite of well known songs by **Gerswin, Cole Porter and Joplin**, arranged for flute, violin, viola and cello. **Bottesini**, sometimes known as the Paganini of the double bass, composed his **Grand Duo Concertante** for two double basses, but it was rewritten by his only student so that one part is played by a violin. Bassist Nathan Farrington and violinist Kyu-Young Kim tackle this fun piece of music. Two of **Schumann's** most enduring and popular works are his **piano quartet and quintet**. Pianist Natalie Zhu and four others — violinists Joseph Lin and Daniel Han, violist Che-Hung Chen and cellist Jonathan Karoly — comprise the quintet for this concert.

**6 Sunday, July 31** Pianist and Artistic Director Natalie Zhu takes a solo bow with a series of **Rachmaninoff preludes** that represent a variety of sentiments, including joy, sadness, nostalgia and passion. **Mendelssohn's String Quartet in D Major** packs both a fiery punch and a beautiful slow movement. It will be played here by violinists Kyu-Young Kim and Daniel Han, violist Che-Hung Chen and cellist Jonathan Karoly. Brahms' two string sextets — for two violins, two violas, and two cellos — are among his two finest works, with his **String Sextet No. 1** in B-flat Major known for its cheerful exuberance. The artists in the festival's finale are violinists Joseph Lin and Kyu-Young Kim, violists (and brothers) Cheyenne and Che-Hung Chen, and cellists Jonathan Karoly and Kenneth Olsen.

## Lin Makes Debut, from Page 1

from which he graduated magna cum laude in 2000.

His time at Harvard and earning a degree outside of music made him a better musician, Lin said.

“My major was a very flexible one that allowed me to keep up with music, but the environment (at Harvard) was stimulating not just because of other musicians but because of people who are excelling in every field. Seeing people so devoted to their various pursuits, you can't help but be inspired to follow your own pursuit.”

Throughout his high school and college years Lin kept enough of a focus on music to compile several awards at international competitions. He was awarded first prize at the Concert Artists Guild International Competition in 1996 at the age of 17. In 1999, he

became the youngest musician ever to receive the Pro Musicis International Award and, in 2000, won one of the top prizes at the Hannover International Violin Competition. He followed that, in 2001 with a first prize at the Inaugural Michael Hill World Violin Competition in New Zealand.

One year out of Harvard, Lin was well on his way to making music his career. Then came the 9/11 attacks.

“Sept. 11 made me do a lot of thinking ... It made many people open their eyes to the world and see how much things that happen far away can affect you here at home. One part of the world that seemed to be playing a greater and greater role — China — also happened to be my cultural background.”

Lin said he could have gone to Taiwan where he had lots of relatives, but he could more easily “disappear” in China and still explore his family's culture and background. He spent most of the next three years based in

China, traveling, exploring and studying. “Rarely did I ever have any long term goals,” he says now.

Still, music was often part of his exploration. In 2004, he studied the ancient Chinese seven-string zither as a Fulbright Scholar in Beijing and, in 2005, he began an annual chamber music workshop at the China Conservatory in Beijing.

Lin moved back to New York City in 2005, played with the Formosa Quartet, a group he had organized with three other musicians, including violinist and Kingston favorite Jasmine Lin (no relation), and made solo and chamber music appearances. In 2007, he joined the faculty at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., a post he will be leaving to return to New York City and his new duties at Juilliard.

You don't become a candidate for the Juilliard String Quartet by applying. Juilliard does its own research and extends offers to musicians to audition.

“It's both a great honor and a great responsibility,” Lin said.

In Kingston, Lin will be featured in three concerts during the second week of the 2011 festival, taking a prominent role in Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 5 on July 27, and the first violin parts in Schumann's Piano Quintet in E-flat Major on July 29 and Brahms' String Sextet No. 1 on July 31.

How have Lin's travels and detours informed the music he makes today?

“I think it's only increased my appreciation. When you put it into the perspective of broader musical and artistic expression, you really think of it as an incredibly powerful and beautiful opportunity to commune with a great genius of a composer and share with audience members the wonderful and always evolving dialogue that connect past and present with people of all different cultures.”



Photo by Susan Hammen-Winn

## Festival Goes to Schools

■ Bassoonist Harrison Hollingsworth, left, above and below, and clarinetist Johnny Teyssier, right, above and below, brought their brand of classical, bluegrass and klezmer music to young people in 15 schools in South County, Cranston and Providence during the Kingston Chamber Music Festival's annual Schools Outreach Program this past April. The pair played at Wakefield Elementary School, above, and answered questions in a North Kingstown school, below. The outreach program is supported, in part, by a donation from the Wakefield Rotary Club.

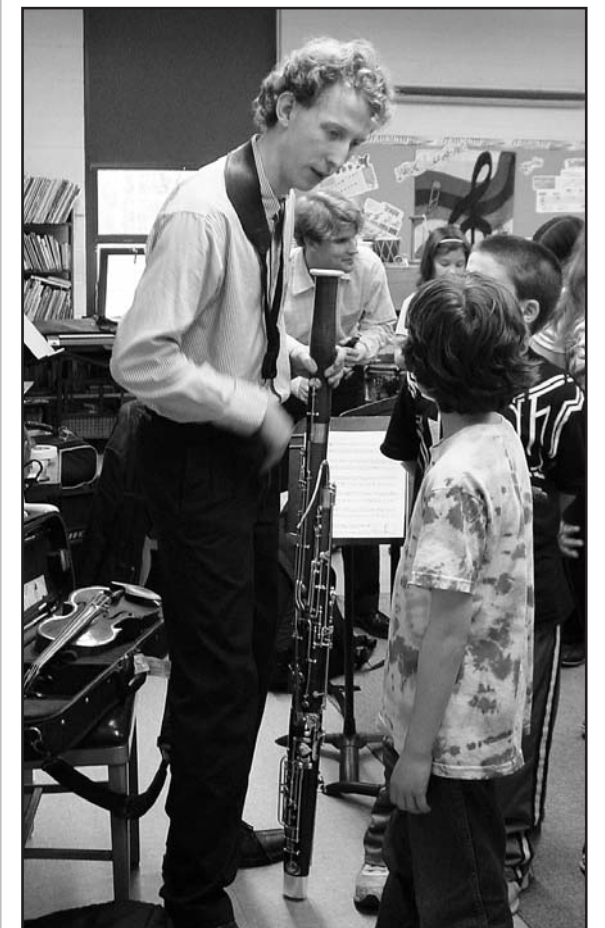


Photo by Brian Mitchell