

# Morningside Music Bridge

June 2022  
Newsletter





**Morningside Music Bridge 2021 was held online due to the COVID-19 pandemic; however, we are returning to an in-person program for 2022. Morningside Music Bridge will celebrate its 26th year with the summer program taking place July 7 to 30, 2022 at the New England Conservatory in Boston, MA. USA.**

**Morningside Music Bridge embodies the highest international standards of excellence, bringing together outstanding young violin, viola, cello, and piano musicians ages 12-18 from around the globe for a month of intensive music making including extensive solo, chamber music, string orchestra and performance opportunities.**

**In our first 25 years, about 1,000 young artists have benefited from our barrier-free music making experience. Our alumni have become today's leading classical musicians performing on stages around the world, in key positions with the best orchestras, and teaching at top music schools.**

**Equally important are the cultural bridges and life-long friendships Morningside Music Bridge participants, guest artists, and partner organizations enjoy.**

**Our young musicians perform in memorable public venues, participate in Morningside Music Bridge's prestigious concerto competition and chamber music concerts, and bond with one another through the exquisite language of music. The program is provided on a full-scholarship basis and is a summer classical music festival.**

**The program will also feature the Emerging Artist Recital series presenting the students and several Artists in Residence concerts with notable performers from around the globe. All recitals and concerts are free and open to the public. The full schedule can be viewed [here](#). We will see you in-person July 2022 when we return to Boston and the New England Conservatory!**

# Application

We received 353 applications for this summer's program from 24 countries.

65 students were accepted on full scholarship for this summer's program.

18 cellists and pianists, 10 violists and 19 violinists representing Argentina, Austria, Canada, China, Colombia, Israel, Poland, South Korea, Taiwan, USA and Zimbabwe.



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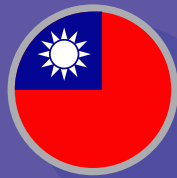
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# Back in Person

The July 2022 Program welcomes back many of our long-time Resident Artists who we haven't seen in-person since pre-COVID. Notable new or returning faculty members for this summer include:

- **Midori, violin** Returning for the first time since 2018
- **Robin Wilson, violin** Australian National Academy of Music
- **Daniel Stabrawa, violin** Concertmaster (Emeritus), Berlin Philharmonic
- **Timothy Chooi, violin** Associate Professor at the University of Ottawa and MMB alum
- **Arie Vardi, piano** Professor at the Hochschule fuer Musik in Hannover and at the Buchman- Mehta School of Music, Tel Aviv University. He is the Artistic Director and Jury Chair of the Arthur Rubenstein Competition and has been a jury member of the Chopin, Leeds, Van Cliburn, and Tchaikovsky Competitions among many others
- **Piotr Paleczny, piano** Chopin University, Warsaw also a laureate of five international piano competitions
- **Antonio Pompa-Baldi, piano** Cleveland Institute of Music
- MMB Cello alumn's **Maciej Kulakowski** and **Tao Ni**
- **Hsin-Yun Huang, viola** Curtis Institute and Juilliard School
- **Dimitri Murrath, viola** San Francisco Conservatory of Music
- **Carol Roland, viola** Juilliard School
- Cellists **Laurence Lesser, Paul Katz** and pianists **Wha Kyung Byun** and **HaeSun Paik** will join us from the New England Conservatory.

A full listing of Resident Artists and their dates can be found at [mmb.international/our-people/overview](https://mmb.international/our-people/overview).

# MMB Alumni Updates

Nothing makes us happier at Morningside Music Bridge than seeing our alumni do great things. In the past year:

- **Yuja Wang, piano** re-opened Carnegie Hall. Yuja appeared as a soloist with Yannick Nézet-Séguin for Carnegie Hall's Opening Night Gala after the hall was closed for 572 days due to the pandemic.
- MMB Resident Artist and cello alumnus **Earl Lee** was appointed as the Assistant Conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, received the 2022 Sir George Solti Conducting Award and made his conducting debuts with the New York Philharmonic and San Francisco Symphony.
- **Mei Diyang, viola** was appointed Principal Viola with the Berlin Philharmonic and will become the first Chinese musician to be given a position with the orchestra.
- **Clayton Stephenson, piano** became a 2022 Gilmore Young Artist.
- **Timothy Chooi, violin** was appointed Professor of Violin at the University of Ottawa.
- **Ning Feng, violin** received critical acclaim for their new album "Paganini 24 Caprices + 1"
- **Jaeden Izik-Dzurko, piano** was awarded First Prize at the 2022 Hilton Head International Piano Competition and the 2022 Maria Canals International Piano Competition.
- **Luka Coetzee, cello** won the cello division of the Johansen International Competition.



## Active Recruitment in South America

In Fall of 2021 Morningside Music Bridge staff met with representatives of the Universidad Nacional De Columbia to discuss collaboration and support by that organization to encourage Colombian students to apply online for Morningside Music Bridge. With the support of the Universidad Nacional De Columbia, our promotional materials were distributed to music schools and private teachers throughout South America.

July of 2022 will see the participation of our first students from Columbia and Argentina.

# Supporting Morningside Music Bridge

A Friends of Morningside Music Bridge group has been established. The Friends of Morningside Music Bridge is a dynamic group of supporters who share in the values and goals of MMB: providing barrier free access to the best young emerging artists from around the globe. The Friends of Morningside Music Bridge provide exclusive performances and connection opportunities through special events and curated opportunities to engage with Morningside Music Bridge Alumni, Resident Artists, and Students.

An introductory event was held in Boston on March 13, 2022, co-hosted by Gerald Chan and Paul Dornian featuring the Rosamunde String Quartet (Noah Bendix-Balgley, Shanshan Yao, Teng Li and Nathan Vickery) and pianist alumnus Clayton Stephenson.

For more information on the Friends, and a list of upcoming events, check our website: [mmb.international/giving-and-sponsorship](http://mmb.international/giving-and-sponsorship).

# Special Events

During the July 2022 Program, there will be two special post-concert events open to the Friends of Morningside Music Bridge on Thursday July 14th and Friday July 29th. If you would like to attend, please reach out to MMB to learn how you can join the Friends of MMB program: [info@mmb.international](mailto:info@mmb.international).

# Free Performances

8 Emerging Artist Recitals, Concerto Competition, 3 Resident Artist Concerts, Annual Highlights Concert, String Orchestra Concert & Outreach Events. Full schedule and program details can be found here: [mmb.international/concerts](http://mmb.international/concerts).

In collaboration with  
Rockport Music

## Morningside Music Bridge Virtuosi

Friday July 8 / 11AM  
Shalin Liu Performance  
Center Rockport, MA

## Artists in Residence Concert

Thursday July 14 / 7PM  
New England Conservatory

Yu Wei, cello  
Steve Tenenbom, viola  
Ian Swensen, violin  
Robin Wilson, violin  
Antonio Pompa-Baldi, piano

## Concerto Competition Finals

Friday July 15 / 7PM  
New England Conservatory

This exciting final round of the Morningside Music Bridge concerto competition makes for a breath-taking evening.

## Artists in Residence Concert

Thursday July 21 / 7PM  
New England Conservatory

Daniel Stabrawa, violin  
Timothy Chooi, violin  
Maciej Kulakowski, cello  
Ori Kam, viola  
Krzysztof Jablonski, piano

## Artists in Residence Concert

Thursday July 28 / 7PM  
New England Conservatory

Noah Bendix-Balgley, violin  
Shanshan Yao, violin  
Atar Arad, viola  
Clara Minhye Kim, cello  
Jay Sun, piano

## Emerging Artists Recital

July 13, 16, 18, 20, 22, 23, 25, 27  
7PM (July 16 & 23 — 3PM & 7PM)  
New England Conservatory

## Highlights Concert

Friday July 29 / 7PM  
New England Conservatory

The highlights of a month's events in one stellar performance. The evening features a variety of solo and chamber ensemble performances featuring Morningside Music Bridge participants.

## Orchestral Works featuring MMB Participants

Saturday July 30 / 4:30PM  
New England Conservatory

Premier of new work by  
Michael van der Sloot, composer;  
conducted by Earl Lee

# Boston Profiles

Not only will our program be held in Boston this year, but we are very lucky to have several locals as our Alumni and Faculty.

## Earl Lee

MMB Resident Artist and cello alumnus Earl Lee is the Assistant Conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. This year Earl received the 2022 Sir George Solti Conducting Award and made his conducting debuts with the New York Philharmonic and San Francisco Symphony.

“I have gained much musical knowledge during my time at Morningside Music Bridge and I also learned that music can bring people together without any boundaries. Some of the fellow students I met during my summers with the program have become my lifelong friends and now colleagues too. I am forever grateful for that,” said Earl Lee, a Morningside Music Bridge alumni and current Assistant Conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra who has recently been awarded the prestigious 2022 Sir Georg Solti Conducting Award.

## Clayton Stephenson

Four-time MMB alumnus, Clayton Stephenson, piano, was named the 2022 Gilmore Young Artist, the 2020 Gheens Young Artist, and in 2016 was recognized with prizes at the Cooper International Piano Competition and received From the Top's Jack Kent Cooke Young Artist Award.

“Morningside Music Bridge is truly a life-changing experience - I was exposed to countless musical insights from renowned faculty, collaborated and bonded with talented fellow musicians, received numerous performing opportunities, and was inspired by many well-established alumni who came back to teach and perform,” shared Clayton Stephenson, who is currently pursuing a Harvard University and New England Conservatory dual degree program of Economics and Piano Performance. “I attended the program 4 times, and those experiences were instrumental in shaping and enriching my musical aspirations during my formative years, and still elevate me to this day.”

## Laurence Lesser

Long-time Morningside Music Bridge Faculty and Member of the Morningside Music Bridge Advisory Council, Laurence Lesser is a native of Los Angeles. A graduate of Harvard College where he studied mathematics, Laurence's music career has been, and continues to be, exceptional. He was a top prizewinner in the 1966 Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow and a participant in the historic Heifetz-Piatigorsky concerts and recordings. Laurence has appeared as a soloist with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the London Philharmonic, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the New Japan Philharmonic, the Tokyo Philharmonic and other major orchestras.

As a chamber musician Laurence has participated at the Casals, Marlboro, Spoleto, Ravinia, Music@Menlo and Santa Fe festivals. He has also been a member of juries for numerous international competitions. Laurence was invited in 1974 by Gunther Schuller, the then President of New England Conservatory, to head NEC's cello department. In 1983 he was named the school's President, a position from which he retired in 1996 to return to performing and teaching. A high point of his tenure as President was the complete restoration of the 1000-seat Jordan Hall, one of the world's greatest acoustical spaces.

Teaching has always been an important part of Laurence's artistic activity. His former students, numbering in the hundreds, are soloists, orchestra section leaders and members, chamber musicians and teachers, active throughout the USA and in many other countries around the world.

**Laurence's complete profile can be found here: [mmb.international/our-people/visiting-guest-faculty/cello/laurence-lesser](https://mmb.international/our-people/visiting-guest-faculty/cello/laurence-lesser).**



MORNINGSIDE  
MUSIC BRIDGE



New England  
Conservatory