



MUSIC from SALEM

Lila Brown, Artistic Director

Beloved Farm

105 McKie Hollow Rd. – Cambridge, NY

Sunday, August 17, 2025 - 4:00 pm

Jessica Tong & Helen Hyun Jeong Lee, violins

John Batchelder & Lila Brown, violas

Rhonda Rider, cello

Eric Thomas, clarinet

www.musicfromsaalem.org

Program

Elena Ruehr
(b.1963)

Icarus, for Clarinet in B flat and String Quartet

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor
(1875-1912)

Quintet for Clarinet and Strings

I. Allegro energico

II. Larghetto affettuoso

III. Scherzo

IV. Finale

Intermission

Antonín Dvořák
(1841-1904)

String Quintet in E flat Major, Op. 97

I. Allegro non tanto

II. Allegro vivo

III. Larghetto

IV. Finale

Jessica Tong & Helen Hyun Jeong Lee, violins

John Batchelder & Lila Brown, violas

Rhonda Rider, cello

Eric Thomas, clarinet



**Council on
the Arts**

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About the Artists

Canadian violinist **Jessica Tong** has garnered international acclaim as a soloist, recitalist and chamber musician, having been described as an "outstanding talent" (Performing Arts in Canada) with "keen sensitivity and receptivity" (Bloomington Herald Times), who "allow[s] us to savour her sense of ardour and intensity, but never at the detriment of her tonal beauty." (ClassiqueInfo France). She has been a top prizewinner at the Eckhardt-Gramatté Competition, the Toronto Symphony, Canadian Music and Yellow Springs International Chamber Music Competitions and has served as first violinist of both the Vinca and Larchmere String Quartets, during which time she was Artist-in-Residence for the Perlman Music Program in Florida, the ProQuartet Odyssée Program in France and at the University of Evansville in Indiana. She is currently the Violin Professor at the State University of New York at Fredonia, Chamber Music Director of the Composers Conference, and Co-Artistic Director of Avaloch Farm Music Institute.

Violinist **Hyun Jeong Helen**, praised for her "superior [and] excellent" artistry (*The Flint Journal*), has mesmerized audiences throughout North America and Asia. As a soloist, she has performed with the Garland Symphony, Los Colinas Symphony Orchestra, Symphony Arlington, Chichibu Festival Orchestra, Royal Oak Symphony Orchestra, and The Boston Conservatory String Ensemble as winner of the String Ensemble Concerto Competition. As a first violinist of the award-winning Julius Quartet, Helen performs regularly across the country in addition to continuing the group's commitment to engaging diverse communities through educational residencies and performance workshops. She is a graduate of The Boston Conservatory where she studied with Markus Placci and received an Artist Diploma from the John J. Cali School of Music Graduate Quartet Program at Montclair State University where she studied with Weigang Li of the celebrated Shanghai Quartet. Most recently, under the Peak Fellowship, Helen served as a Teaching Assistant and Assistant Chamber Music Coach at the Meadows School of the Arts at SMU. She is a regular performer at Music from Salem, in upstate NY.

Lila Brown (viola) is a co-founder and the artistic director of *Music from Salem*, founded in 1986, and of the *MfS* Viola Seminar since 2011. A graduate of the Juilliard School, Brown was a member of the Boston Symphony from 1982-84. Moving to Austria, she became principal violist of Sandor Végh's Camerata Academica Salzburg. As a member of the Ensemble Modern, in Frankfurt, Germany, Brown premiered works by Ligeti, Kurtag, Adams, Reich, Rhim, Zappa, and Lachenmann. She has toured England with the International Musicians Seminar and has participated in the Marlboro Music Festival, the Martha's Vineyard Chamber Music Society, Apple Hill Center for Chamber Music, and the Horten Kammermusikfest in Norway. Brown has been on the faculty of the Vienna Hochschule, professor at the Hochschule in Duesseldorf, and returning to the US in 2009, of The Boston Conservatory at Berklee where she received the 2012 "Outstanding Music Division Faculty of the Year" award. Recently she gave master classes in Germany, and performed in the Andernacher Musiktage on the Rhine.

About the Artists

Praised for his “persuasively emphatic and engaging” performances (Boston Musical Intelligencer), violist **John Batchelder** (viola), has captivated audiences as a passionate chamber musician, educator and administrator deeply committed to the values of chamber music. He has performed as soloist with numerous ensembles such as the Los Colinas Symphony Orchestra, Symphony Arlington, Garland Symphony Orchestra and Worcester Bach Consort as well as participated in various summer festivals such as The McGill International String Quartet Academy, the Banff Centre Masterclasses, St. Lawrence String Quartet Seminar and Music from Salem, in Salem NY. As a member of the award-winning Julius Quartet, John has performed coast to coast in the country’s most esteemed venues such as Carnegie Hall’s Weill Recital Hall, the Moss Arts Center, Shalin Liu Performance Center, and Bing Concert Hall. Beginning his musical education in Boston, John is a graduate of The Boston Conservatory where he studied with Lila Brown, and of the John J. Cali School of Music Graduate String Quartet in Residence program where he studied with Honggang Li of the celebrated Shanghai Quartet. In addition to his work as a performer and educator, John now serves as Executive Director of the Dallas Chamber Music Society, now celebrating its 80th season. John performs on a viola crafted by Michele Deconet (Venice, 1780) that was previously played by Boris Kroyt of the Budapest String Quartet, loaned to him in memory of Boris and Sonya Kroyt.

Eric Thomas (clarinet), A graduate of New England Conservatory of Music where he completed major studies with Peter Hadcock. Mr. Thomas is a recipient of the Concert Artist Guild Award and has appeared as a guest artist with several chamber groups throughout the country. He was the Director of the Wind Ensemble and Jazz Band at Colby College for over 20 years and is now the Music Director and Conductor of the Keene Chamber Orchestra. He has been an adjunct for several colleges and prep schools throughout his career and just rejoined the faculty at the University of Maine Orono teaching Saxophone and Jazz Theory. Eric is currently working on commissions for “Around Hear” Marji Gere and Dan Sedgwick’s organization and the Bar Harbor Music Festival. Robert Koff (violinist with the original Juilliard String Quartet) has said “It is a rare opportunity to meet a virtuoso musician who is as articulate about his art as he is with his art,” Gene Pack (Classical music expert NPR affiliate KUER) has said “Eric Thomas is the world’s finest clarinetist. The Los Angeles Times wrote “[he] drew a pallet of musical color from [his] instrument.” And the New York Times “talent multiplied, a superb musician, an important addition to the musical scene” While Downbeat Magazine “[a] remarkably clean and inventive improviser stretching [jazz] tradition while adding to its language” and the Boston Globe “he shines as a wizard at subtle, super-quiet playing.



SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday October 19, 2025 – 3:00 pm at Hubbard Hall
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Complete Brahmas Piano Quartets!

Half Hour Intermission with refreshments

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