



MUSIC from SALEM

Lila Brown, Artistic Director

Hubbard Hall

25 E. Main Street, Cambridge, NY

Sunday, March 22, 2026 - 4:00 pm

Cuarteto Latinoamericano:

Saúl Bitrán & Arón Bitrán, violins

Javier Montiel, viola

Alvaro Bitrán, cello

With **Lila Brown**, viola

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Program

Luigi Boccherini
(1743-1805)

String Quartet in A Major G. 206
I. Allegro
II. Andantino lentarello
III. Minuetto con moto
IV. Finale

Stefano Scodanibbio
(1879-1941)

I. Sandunga
II. Canción Mixteca

Astor Piazzolla
(1921-1992)

Four for Tango

Intermission

Anton Bruckner
(1824-1896)

String Quintet in F Major, WAB 112
I. Gemässigt
II. Scherzo. Schnell – Trio. Langsamer
III. Adagio
IV. Finale. Lebhaft bewegt

Cuarteto Latinoamericano:
Saúl Bitrán, Arón Bitrán, violins
Javier Montiel, viola
Alvaro Bitrán, cello
with Lila Brown, viola

About the Artists

Cuarteto Latinoamericano, is one of the world's most renowned classical music ensembles, for more than thirty years the leading proponent of Latin American music for string quartet. Founded in Mexico in 1982, the Cuarteto has toured extensively throughout Europe, North and South America, Israel, China, Japan and New Zealand. They have premiered more than a hundred works written for them and they continue to introduce new and neglected composers to the genre. Winners of the 2012 and 2016 Latin Grammys for Best Classical Recordings, they have been recognized with the Mexican Music Critics Association Award and three times received Chamber Music America/ASCAP's "Most Adventurous Programming" Award.

Members:

Saúl Bitrán (violin), first violinist of the award-winning Cuarteto Latinoamericano, is an Associate Professor at Boston Conservatory at Berklee. A devoted teacher and chamber music coach, Bitran was on the faculty of Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In Venezuela, together with the Cuarteto Latinoamericano, he created the Latin American Academy for String Quartets, which operated in Caracas from 2008 until 2013. He has taught at music festivals, including the Dartington International Summer School, Centre d'Arts Orford, Apple Hill Center for Chamber Music, Grenoble Festival, San Miguel de Allende Chamber Music Festival, and many others. Bitran's noted solo appearances have included the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Seattle Symphony, San Antonio Symphony, and the National Arts Center Orchestra in Ottawa, as well as with prominent conductors Esa-Pekka Salonen, Gerard Schwarz, Eduardo Mata, and Keith Lockhart, among others. He is a cum laude graduate of the Samuel Rubin Academy of Music in Tel Aviv, Israel, where he studied with Yair Kless. "Bitran's staggering virtuosity in the live violin part was jaw-dropping" – Florida Sun-Sentinel.

Born in Chile and a Mexican citizen by adoption, violinist **Arón Bitrán** studied at the National Conservatory in México under Luz Vernova and at Indiana University (USA) under Yuval Yaron and Joseph Gingold. Arón Bitrán has been a soloist with the main orchestras in Latin America, such as the Sinfónica Nacional de Argentina, Orquesta del SODRE in Uruguay, Orquesta Simón Bolívar in Venezuela, Sinfónica del El Salvador, Orquesta de Cámara de Chile, Orquesta Sinfónica de Costa Rica and all the orchestras in México, as well as the Dallas, San Antonio, Los Angeles and Seattle orchestras in the USA and the National Arts Center Orchestra in Ottawa, Canada. Arón Bitrán has been a full-time professor at the National Conservatory and the National University in México City. He has taught master classes in many universities in the USA and Latin America and is a founding member of Cuarteto Latinoamericano.

Mexico City native **Javier Montiel** (viola) graduated with honors from the Conservatorio Nacional de Música in 1978. His musical career started at age 19 when he joined the Orquesta Sinfonica Nacional. He is a founder member of the Cuarteto Latinoamericano, a group with international recognition that tours the world, teaching, playing concerts, and recording works of Mexican and Latino-American's composers. He teaches violin, viola and chamber music at Universidad

About the Artists

Autonoma de Puebla and the School “Vida y Movimiento” in Mexico City. He has been soloist of several of the main Mexican orchestras. In 1982 he composed the first work created for the Cuarteto Latinoamericano, “Variations on Paganini’s 24 Caprice”. This piece has been recorded and featured in USA and European radio stations, and in the DVD video clip “Visiones”. He has also composed several works for viola and piano, cello and piano, a piece for Saxophone Quartet, as well as works for chamber ensemble and a Concerto for Viola and strings. He teaches a seminar based on the music of The Beatles. In 2000 he was honored with the “Mozart” Medal and in 2007 the Silver Medal from “Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes” for the 25th anniversary of Cuarteto Latinoamericano. In 2012 the group presented a gala concert in Palacio de Bellas Artes in Mexico City celebrating their 30th anniversary.

Álvaro Bitrán (cello) started playing the cello at the age seven, and studied at Indiana University under the guidance of world-renowned cellist Janos Starker. In He was one of the Cuarteto Latinoamericano’s founder. The quartet tours North and South America, Europe, Israel, Japan, China and New Zealand. Recent performances have included New York’s Carnegie Hall, Washington’s Kennedy Center and Milan’s Teatro Alla Scala. He has recorded for various labels such as Dorian, New Albion and Urtext and has received several prizes, including the Diapason D’Or and two Latin Grammy Awards. Álvaro Bitrán is a soloist with some of the major symphony orchestras in Mexico, Uruguay, Argentina and Venezuela, Dallas Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Seattle and San Antonio Symphony in the U.S. and Ottawa’s National Arts Center Orchestra in Canada. Mr. Bitrán is firmly committed to the creation of new cello music. He has released five solo CD’s featuring new music by Latin American composers, as well as traditional repertoire and is devoted teacher responsible for the development of an entire generation of cellists in Mexico. Currently he is a faculty member at the National Conservatory, UNAM, and Ollin Yolitzli, all in Mexico City. Additionally, he offers seminars and master classes in many universities in the US and Latin America, and plays in a cello built in 1817 by Martin Stoss in Vienna.

With the participation of:

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, Kurtág, Adams, Reich, Rihm, 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 at the Vienna Hochschule, professor at the Hochschule in Duesseldorf, and returning to the US in 2009, at 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.

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Very special thanks to the Hubbard Hall staff and Board, *Music from Salem's* Board, Rob Bauer, Peter Subers, Elyssa Macura, Bill Badgley

March 22 Cuarteto Latinoamericano with Lila Brown



SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday June 7 - 4:00 pm at Hubbard Hall
25 E. Main St. • Cambridge, NY

Viola & Violin Emerging Artists Performance



Visit our website for 2026 concerts and events calendar
www.musicfromsaalem.org