

Sunday, April 27, 2025

STERLING ELLIOTT, CELLO with WYNONA WANG, PIANO



Four Sketches, Op. 15 (1892)

Amy Beach (1867–1944)

III. Dreaming

Gymnopédie I (2018)

Kevin Day

Cello Sonata No. 1 (2016)

Day

I. Allegro agitato

II. Lento

III. Giocoso

Romance, Op. 23 (1893)

Beach

INTERMISSION

Brother Malcolm (2009)

Jean Rudy Perrault

Cello Sonata (1957)

George Walker (1922–2018)

I. Allegro passionato

II. Sostenuto

III. Allegro

Mother and Child (1943)

William Grant Still (1895–1978)

Sterling Elliott is represented by Colbert Artists Management, Inc., 180 Elm Street, Suite I
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NOTE FROM THE CURATOR

Sterling Elliott is a phenomenon, so it is a particular joy to present his Gardner Museum debut. The great George Walker, who died only a few years ago at the age of 96, left an enormous body of music, ranging from early “Americana” to late, thornier works. His beautiful sonata from 1957 balances those two poles. Sterling Elliott has paired that with the handsome cello sonata of Kevin Day, who not only writes chamber music and opera, but is also an active and excellent jazz pianist. *Brother Malcolm*, by Haitian-born Jean R. Perrault, is at once an elegy and a paean. William Grant Still was inspired to write his *Mother and Child* by the 1932 drawing of the same name by West Coast artist Sargent Johnson. Finally, Elliott offers two works by Boston’s own Amy Beach.

—George Steel, Abrams Curator of Music



ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Acclaimed for his stellar stage presence and joyous musicianship, cellist **Sterling Elliott** is a 2021 Avery Fisher Career Grant recipient and the winner of the Senior Division of the 2019 National Sphinx Competition. Already in his young career, he has appeared with major orchestras such as the Philadelphia Orchestra, the New York Philharmonic, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Cleveland Orchestra, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the

Detroit Symphony, and the Dallas Symphony, with noted conductors Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Thomas Wilkins, Jeffrey Kahane, Mei-Ann Chen, and others.

In the 2024–25 season, Sterling debuts with the Atlanta Symphony, Reno Philharmonic, Columbus Symphony, Ann Arbor Symphony, Des Moines Symphony, and Winston-Salem Symphony, and returns to the Wilmington Symphony. He joins the Madison Symphony for the Beethoven Triple Concerto with Gil and Orli Shaham and returns to Carnegie Hall with the Orchestra of St. Luke’s led by Louis Langree.

As the YCAT-Music Masters Robey Artist with the London-based Young Classical Artists Trust, he will tour New Zealand in addition to appearances at Wigmore Hall, Hamburg’s Elbphilharmonie, Konzerthaus Berlin, the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, and others. This season he also begins his tenure as a BBC New Generation Artist and a three-year residency in the Bowers Program of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, appearing with CMSLC at Alice Tully Hall and on tour throughout the U.S.

Sterling has a long history with the Sphinx Organization, where he won the 2014 Junior Division Competition, becoming the first alumnus from the Sphinx Performance Academy to win the Sphinx Competition. Last season, Sterling received the Sphinx Medal of Excellence, the highest honor bestowed by the Sphinx Organization.

Sterling is pursuing an Artist Diploma at the Juilliard School under the tutelage of Joel Krosnick and Clara Kim, following completion of his Master of Music and undergraduate degrees at Juilliard. He is an ambassador of the Young Strings of America, a string sponsorship operated by Shar Music. He performs on a 1741 Gennaro Gagliano cello

on loan through the Robert F. Smith Fine String Patron Program, in partnership with the Sphinx Organization.

Chinese pianist **Wynona Wang** has captured the attention of audiences around the world with a string of impressive competition successes, including winning the Bronze Medal at the 2024 Gina Bachauer International Artists Piano Competition; first prize at the 2018 Concert Artists Guild International Competition, and 2017 Wideman International Piano Competition in Louisiana; and as a finalist and multi-prize winner in the 2023 Sydney International Piano Competition. Wynona was also awarded the Juilliard School's 2022 Rubenstein Prize and a 2019 Charlotte White Career Grant from the Salon de Virtuosi in New York City, and she was named a Legacy Pianist by the Joaquín Achúcarro Foundation. A two-CD album of her live performances was released on Decca in April 2024.

Wynona has performed with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Academic Symphony of the National Philharmonic Society of Ukraine, Romanian Mihail Jora Philharmonic Orchestra, Utah Symphony, Pasadena Symphony, Hilton Head Symphony, the Orchestra NOW, and the Northwest Florida Symphony. She has performed in such major venues as the Sydney Opera House, Lincoln Center's David Geffen Hall, Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall, the Metropolitan Museum's Grace Rainey Rogers Auditorium, the Merkin Concert Hall in New York City, Abravanel Hall, the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, the Kravis Center for the Performing Arts, the Dallas Winspear Opera House, and the Conrad in La Jolla.

In recent seasons, Wynona has been presented by the New York Philharmonic's Artist Spotlight Series, Shriver Hall's Discovery series, and at Tippet Rise Art Center. She was

invited to perform at festivals including Music@Menlo, La Jolla SummerFest, Mostly Mozart Festival, Bard Music Festival, International Keyboard Institute and Festival, the Lieven Foundation, and the Chautauqua Institution. Chamber music collaborations include Garrick Ohlsson, Gilbert Kalish, Joyce Yang, Inon Barnatan, Kristin Lee, Paul Neubauer, Ani Kavafian, Marcy Rosen, Andrés Díaz, Sterling Elliott, and Jordan Bak.

Born in Beijing, Wynona (Yinuo) began playing the piano at age 4 and studied at the Music Middle School at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing. In 2016, she was awarded a full scholarship for study at Southern Methodist University in Dallas and earned her Performer's Diploma under the tutelage of the eminent pianist Alessio Bax in 2018. She was awarded both the Paul Vellucci Piano Award and the Harold Von Mickwitz Prize in Piano by SMU. Wynona earned her bachelor's and master's degrees at the Juilliard School, receiving the Arthur Rubinstein Commencement Award, and continues to pursue her Artist Diploma at Juilliard starting in fall 2024 with Robert McDonald. Wynona is a Young Steinway Artist.



Kindly turn off all electronic devices during the concert and refrain from any photography or filming in the hall. Also, please note the location of the emergency exit doors: across the hall from the doors through which you entered.

The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum resides on the homelands of the Massachusetts Tribe, who belong to this place and continue to regard these lands and waters as sacred.

Music at the Gardner is supported by Nora McNeely Hurley / Manitou Fund. Hemenway & Barnes LLP is the lead corporate sponsor of the Weekend Concert Series. The Museum thanks its generous concert donors: The Coogan Concert in memory of Peter Weston Coogan; Fitzpatrick Family Concert; James Lawrence Memorial Concert; Alford P. Rudnick Memorial Concert; David Scudder in memory of his wife, Marie Louise Scudder; Wendy Shattuck Young Artist Concert; and Willona Sinclair Memorial Concert. The piano is dedicated as the Alex d'Arbeloff Steinway. The harpsichord was generously donated by Dr. Robert Barstow in memory of Marion Huse, and its care is endowed in memory of Dr. Barstow by The Barstow Fund. Music at the Gardner is also supported in part by the Francis Goelet Charitable Lead Trusts, New Music USA's Organization Fund, Nicie and Jay Panetta, and the Massachusetts Cultural Council, which is supported by the state of Massachusetts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

