

Francesca McNeeley & Friends – Artist Bios

Annie Rabbat, Violin

Violinist **Annie Rabbat** is a member of A Far Cry and the newly appointed Concertmaster of Boston Lyric Opera. She has performed with the Orpheus, St. Paul, and East Coast Chamber Orchestras, as well as with the Arcturus Ensemble, Walden Chamber Players, and North Country Chamber Players. For three years, she served as Concertmaster of the Gardner Museum Chamber Orchestra.

An avid chamber musician, Annie has performed at Ravinia's Steans Institute, Prussia Cove's Open Chamber Music, and the Caramoor, Yellow Barn, and Virginia Arts Festivals. Her chamber music collaborations include performances with members of the Cleveland, Juilliard, Mendelssohn, Takacs and Orion Quartets and the Florestan, Peabody and Beaux Arts Trios.

A graduate of The Juilliard School and Indiana University, Ms. Rabbat completed her studies at the New England Conservatory with Miriam Fried and Donald Weilerstein. Her mentors have also included Robert Mann, Pamela Frank, Paul Biss and Roger Tapping.

Lilit Hartunian, Violin

Violinist **Lilit Hartunian** performs at the forefront of contemporary music innovation, both as soloist and highly in-demand collaborative artist. First prize winner in the 2021 Black House Collective New Music Soloist Competition, Ms. Hartunian's "*Paganiniesque virtuosity*" and "*captivating and luxurious tone*" (Boston Musical Intelligencer) are frequently on display at the major concert halls of Boston, including multiple solo performances at Jordan Hall and chamber music at Symphony Hall (Boston Symphony Orchestra Insights Series), as well as at leading academic institutions, including the New England Conservatory, Berklee College of Music, Boston Conservatory, Brandeis University, and Tufts University, where she often appears as both soloist and new music specialist.

Described as "*brilliantly rhapsodic*" by the Harvard Crimson, Ms. Hartunian can be heard on Mode Records, Innova Recording, SEAMUS records, New Focus Records, and on self-released albums by Ludovico Ensemble and Kirsten Volness. She has appeared as soloist in the SEAMUS, SCI, NYCEMF, Electroacoustic Barn Dance, Open Sound, and Third Practice festivals. Ms. Hartunian frequently performs works written for her by leading composers, including a world premiere by Guggenheim Fellow Marti Epstein, duo recitals with composers John McDonald and Ryan Vigil, and both audio album and special video projects with composer Sid Richardson. A long-time collaborator with the the Museum of Fine Arts Boston, Ms. Hartunian curated and performed a season of chamber music paired with visual art in the museum's collection in her one-year chamber music residency, *Vellumsound*, and has also given numerous solo recitals at the museum, including an innovative online performance that reached over 20,000 viewers and was picked up by Forbes Magazine.

As collaborative artist and ensemble musician, Ms. Hartunian regularly performs with Boston Modern Orchestra Project, A Far Cry, Sound Icon, Emmanuel Music, Callithumpian Consort, Guerilla Opera, and Ludovico Ensemble, and recently performed as guest artist with the Lydian Quartet and the Arneis Quartet.

Miki-Sophia Cloud, Violin

Miki Cloud enjoys a rich musical life as a violinist and artistic director passionate about building community. Chosen as the inaugural recipient of the Sun-Law Vuillaume Fellowship, Miki is fueled by music's ability to connect people more deeply to one another and to themselves.

Since 2009, Miki has been a core member of the self-conducted chamber orchestra, [A Far Cry](#), where she serves as one of its violinists, 17 artistic directors, and since 2021, head of community partnerships and learning. Acclaimed for her thoughtful and innovative approach to the listening experience, her programming and artistic direction has been described as “[ingeniously crafted](#)” by the Boston Globe and “[intoxicating](#)” by the New York Times.

Miki is a former member of the New York-based [Solera Quartet](#), winners of the [2017 Pro Musicis International Award](#) and 2018 Guarneri Quartet Residency from Chamber Music America. She is also a former artistic director of the White Mountains Music Festival.

Past studies include Harvard College, Yale School of Music, New England Conservatory, and the Perlman Music Program. As an educator and teaching artist, Miki has been privileged to share music in educational and community spaces across America - most recently Dartmouth College, [Project STEP](#), Boston Children’s Hospital, Notre Dame University, and [Corrigan Radgowski Correctional Center](#).

Francesca McNeeley, Cello

Haitian-American cellist **Francesca McNeeley** has received critical acclaim as a collaborator and soloist, her playing described as “virtuosic”, “impressive” and “a remarkable display” by the Boston Musical Intelligencer. She enjoys an eclectic career in the Boston area as a chamber musician, orchestral player, and modern music advocate. She has premiered dozens of works, solo and chamber music—including pieces by John Harbison, Bongani Ndodana-Breen, Mark Neikrug, Augusta Read Thomas, Anna Thorvaldsdottir, Joseph Phibbs, and Tyson Davis. Since the fall of 2022 she has become a core member of the Grammy-nominated [A Far Cry](#) chamber orchestra. She frequently performs with [Castle of Our Skins](#) and the [Celebrity Series of Boston](#). She has also performed with the Boston Symphony, Boston Pops, Boston Ballet, and Sarasota Orchestras, and can be heard on BMOP/sound with the Boston Modern Orchestra Project, as well as on her new album release, ***Homage: Chamber Music from the African Continent & Diaspora***, performing with Castle of Our Skins and [Dr. Samantha Ege](#).

Ms. McNeeley graduated Princeton University *Phi Beta Kappa*, and went on to receive scholarships to attend the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University and the New England Conservatory for her graduate degrees in cello performance. She has earned fellowships and prizes from the Tanglewood Music Center, where she also served as a New Fromm Player. With her Fromm colleagues she has founded the Chroma Trio, championing modern string trio repertoire. She has received fellowships to attend the Music Academy of the West, Kneisel Hall Chamber Music Festival, and Toronto Summer Music. She has been awarded multiple grants from the Sphinx Organization, and now serves on The Artist Council for the National Alliance for Audition Support. She is additionally a recipient of the Sphinx Organization's **MPower Artist Grant**. Her teachers and mentors have included Tom Kraines, Darrett Adkins, Norman Fischer, Yeesun Kim, and Astrid Schween.

Francesca is dedicated to community engagement through teaching and mentoring. In addition to her private teaching studio, she serves on the faculties for the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra’s Intensive Community Program, Project STEP, as well as the Ridgefield, CT based Charles Ives Music Festival at the Western Connecticut Youth Orchestra.