

World Concerto for Cello and Orchestra

Artist Bios

Maya Beiser, cello

Described by the *The New Yorker* as a "cello goddess" and by the San Francisco Chronicle as "the queen of post-minimalist cello," Maya Beiser has captivated audiences worldwide with her virtuosity, eclectic repertoire, and relentless quest to redefine her instrument's boundaries. She has collaborated with composers Tan Dun, Brian Eno, Philip Glass, Osvaldo Golijov, Steve Reich, Louis Andriessen and Mark O'Connor among many others. Maya is a featured performer on the world's most prestigious stages, having appeared recently at the Sydney Opera House, New York City's Lincoln Center, the World Expo in Nagoya, Japan, and in Barcelona, Paris, Tokyo, Shanghai, and San Francisco. Maya's recent appearances with orchestras included the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Montreal Symphony, the Brooklyn Philharmonic, the Sydney Symphony, and the China Philharmonic among others. She has released four solo CD's with Koch Entertainment label including "Oblivion", "Kinship", "World To Come" and "Almost Human".

Jiebing Chen, erhu

Jiebing Chen has been hailed as one of the foremost erhu virtuosos in the world. In addition to her classical Chinese repertory (over 20 CDs), Chen's work received a Grammy-nomination for Best World Music Album for her jazz improvisations with Bela Fleck and Vishwa Bhatt. Jiebing has frequently appeared as soloist with the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra, the Shanghai Chamber Orchestra and the Shanghai Opera House., and has appeared as a featured soloist with orchestras such as the Buffalo Philharmonic, the San Francisco Symphony, the New Moscow Symphony, the Hungarian Symphony, the New Century Chamber Orchestra, the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra and many others.

Aruna Narayan Kalle, sarangi

Born in Mumbai, Aruna Narayan Kalle is the daughter of the renowned Sarangi maestro andit Ram Narayan – who is credited for bringing the instrument into the mainstream of Indian classical music. Aruna is one of only a handful of solo Sarangi players, and the only woman to play the instrument professionally, with several CDs. She has given numerous concerts in India, Europe, Australia, the US and Canada. Recently, she was a soloist with the Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra (Vivaldi's Four Seasons). Her music has likewise been featured in several international films.

Bassam Saba, oud

Bassam Saba is one of the nation's leading figures of Arabic music. He is a world-renowned oudist and ney player, and likewise plays violin, buzuq, saz and classical flute. Bassam has worked with artists such as Yo-Yo Ma, Simon Shaheen, Marcel Khalife, Paul Simon, Alicia Keys, Sting, Santana, and jazz musicians like Herbie Hancock, Sonny Fortune, Wayne Shorter and Quincy Jones. Saba currently performs his compositions with his own group, the Bassam Saba Ensemble, and performs with Simon Shaheen's Al-Qantara and Near Eastern Music Ensemble; Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Ensemble.