



**projectSTEP**  
championing equity in classical music

**Collaborations  
2024/2025**

# A Harmonious Collaboration:

Project STEP Students invited to join  
A Far Cry and Midori  
September 15th

We are thrilled to announce an extraordinary musical engagement this fall, where our talented Project STEP students will have the unique opportunity to record side-by-side with members of the renowned ensemble A Far Cry and the legendary violinist Midori. Together, they will bring Derek Bermel's evocative piece, Spring Cadenza, to life in a recording session scheduled for September 15th.



## About Midori

Midori, a violinist of unparalleled artistry and dedication, has captivated audiences worldwide with her technical brilliance and profound musicality—an artist who transcends the boundaries of performance. Midori is also a passionate educator and humanitarian.

## About A Far Cry

A Far Cry, known for their dynamic approach and collaborative spirit, has been redefining the chamber orchestra experience since their inception. This Grammy-nominated, self-conducted orchestra, based in Boston, thrives on the creativity and innovation that each "Crier" brings to the ensemble. Their commitment to artistic excellence and community engagement has made them a beloved fixture in the classical music world.



About Derek Bermel and Spring Cadenza: Derek Bermel is a composer celebrated for his eclectic style, blending influences from classical, jazz, and world music. His works are known for their rhythmic vitality, lyrical expressiveness, and unique color palettes. Spring Cadenza is a vibrant and intricate composition that challenges musicians with its technical demands while offering a rich tapestry of sounds that evoke the freshness and energy of spring.

# Castle of Our Skins and Project STEP:

A Musical Tribute to Frederick Douglass



In a powerful collaboration, Castle of Our Skins will work with Project STEP students to contribute a new composition, which will be performed alongside a Frederick Douglass opera as part of the Boston Modern Orchestra Project's (BMOP) groundbreaking series, *As Told By: History, Race, and Justice on the Opera Stage*. This series, which began in June 2022, stands as the most extensive and ambitious presentation of opera by Black composers ever to take place in Boston. The series features five phenomenal operas, each depicting the lives of key figures in Black liberation and thought, and presents distinct and necessary perspectives on American music and history. This initiative not only highlights the exceptional artistry of Black composers but also underscores the importance of their contributions to the operatic canon.

## About Castle Of Our Skins:

Castle of Our Skins is a Boston-based chamber music organization dedicated to celebrating Black artistry through music. Founded in 2013, the group is known for its innovative programming and commitment to fostering cultural curiosity through its exploration of Black history and culture. Their projects often blend music, spoken word, theater, and other art forms, creating immersive experiences that resonate deeply with audiences.

The collaboration not only offers our students a unique opportunity to engage in the creative process with professional composers and musicians but also allows them to contribute to a significant cultural event that celebrates the resilience and contributions of Black individuals throughout history.



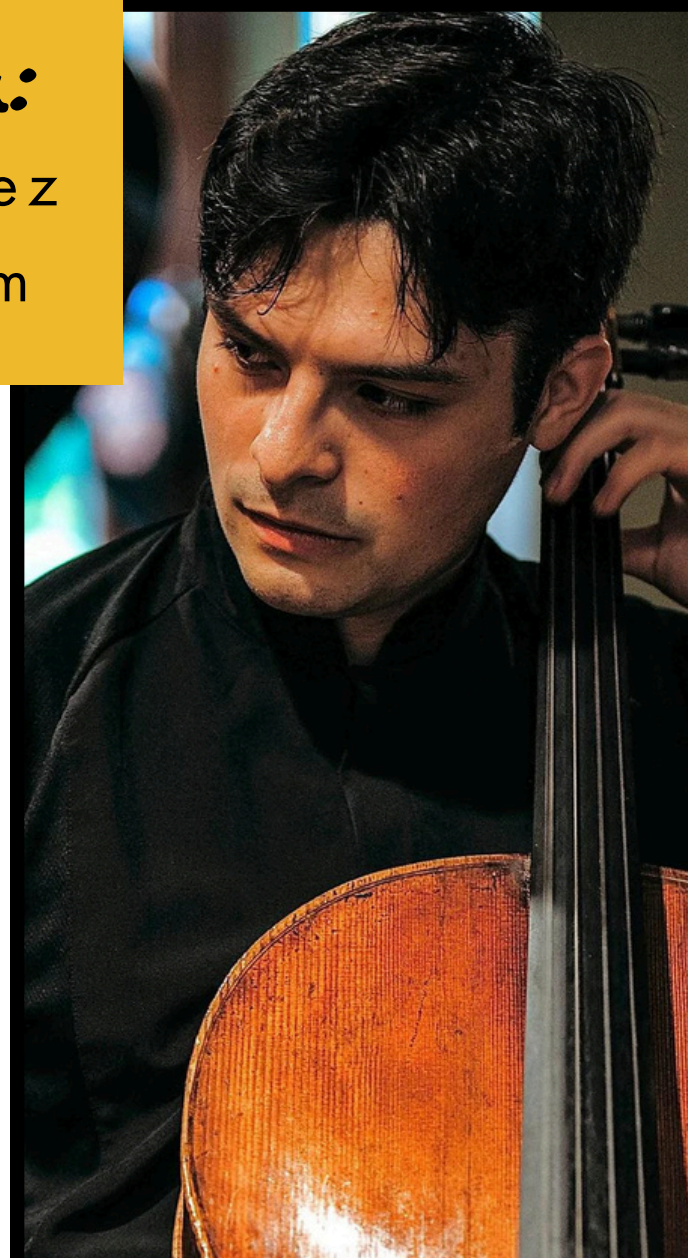
# Project STEP and Longwood Symphony Orchestra:

A Side-by-Side Concert with Cellist Andres Sanchez  
October 19th, 2024, at 8 pm

**Project STEP** returns to Jordan Hall with the **Longwood Symphony Orchestra** for a side-by-side concert featuring cellist, Andres Sanchez. Known for his expressive playing and technical mastery, Sanchez is a rising star in the classical music world.

**Honduran-Venezuelan cellist Andres Sanchez**, born in Allentown, PA, began his studies at age eight under Miguel Rojas, later continuing with Jesus Morales of the Dali Quartet. By age 13, he had already made his solo debuts at Carnegie Hall and with the Midwest Clinic of Chicago and the Ocean City Pops Orchestra. A Curtis Institute of Music graduate, Andres has performed with numerous orchestras and will appear this year with the PA Sinfonia and Waterbury Symphony. His interpretation of Dvořák's concerto promises to be both powerful and moving, bringing this iconic piece to life in a way that will resonate with audiences.

This event is sponsored in part by our friends at Faber Daeufer & Itrato, a boutique law firm that provides corporate and transactional counsel to clients in the drug and life sciences industries.



 Lipofsky Photo

## Masterclass with Andres Sanchez:

In addition to the evening concert, Andres Sanchez will generously share his expertise with Project STEP students in a masterclass held at 12 pm on October 19, 2024.

# Callisto Quartet Masterclass

November 16th, 2024, at 12 pm



We are excited to announce that Project STEP students will have the opportunity to participate in a masterclass led by the internationally acclaimed Callisto Quartet. This session promises to be an inspiring experience, offering our students valuable insights into the art of chamber music.

## About the Callisto Quartet:

The Callisto Quartet, formed in 2016 at the Cleveland Institute of Music, has quickly risen to prominence as one of the most dynamic and compelling young ensembles on the classical music scene. Known for their passionate performances and technical prowess, the quartet has won top prizes at prestigious competitions, including the Banff International String Quartet Competition and the Melbourne International Chamber Music Competition. Their repertoire spans from the classical canon to contemporary works, and they are dedicated to fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of chamber music.

**Ashmont Hill  
Chamber  
Music**

This masterclass is made possible through the generous support of the Ashmont Chamber Series and Mary Beth Alger.

# *Seth Parker Woods Workshop:*

A Special Session for Project STEP Students  
November 23rd, 2024, at 12 pm

Project STEP students will participate in a workshop led by the celebrated cellist Seth Parker Woods. **This session, generously made possible by Castle of Our Skins,** will provide our students with a unique and inspiring educational experience. Woods will share his insights on technique, interpretation, and the role of the cellist in both traditional and contemporary contexts. The session promises to be an inspiring and transformative experience for our students, who will gain invaluable knowledge and motivation from one of the most exciting figures in today's music scene.



 Ben Gibbs

## About Seth Parker Woods:

Seth Parker Woods is a versatile cellist whose work spans classical, contemporary, and experimental music. He has garnered international acclaim for his dynamic performances and innovative approach to the cello, performing with leading orchestras and at renowned festivals worldwide. In addition to his work as a performer, Woods is also an avid educator, committed to mentoring the next generation of musicians through workshops and residencies at prestigious institutions.





# Celebrity Series Stringfest:

The Rasa Quartet with Boston Music Project, City Strings United, and Project STEP

Kroc Center | December 14, 2024

Join us for an inspiring afternoon of music as the Celebrity Series presents Stringfest, featuring The Rasa Quartet in collaboration with talented young musicians from Boston Music Project, City Strings United, and Project STEP. This special performance will take place on December 14, 2024, at 3:00 pm at the Kroc Center.

## About The Rasa Quartet

The Rasa Quartet, known for their dynamic performances and commitment to community engagement, will lead this unique concert, showcasing the vibrant potential of Boston's next generation of string players. Students from these esteemed music programs will have the opportunity to perform alongside the Quartet, creating a powerful musical experience that celebrates both mentorship and the shared joy of music-making.

**Don't miss this opportunity to witness the intersection of professional artistry and youthful talent in a concert that promises to be both uplifting and memorable.**



## *Project STEP and Emmanuel Music*

Side by Side Christmas Concert  
December 15, 2024

We are thrilled to announce that Project STEP has been invited to perform J.S. Bach's *Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ*, BWV 91, alongside the renowned Emmanuel Music during their Christmas concert on December 15, 2024. This special collaboration brings together the emerging talent of our students with the seasoned expertise of Emmanuel Music's artists, promising an unforgettable celebration of the holiday season through the timeless music of Bach.

### About Emmanuel Music

Founded in 1970, Emmanuel Music has earned a distinguished reputation for its unparalleled dedication to the works of J.S. Bach, particularly through its ongoing Bach Cantata Series. For over five decades, Emmanuel Music has been at the forefront of Boston's classical music scene, offering profound and spiritually resonant performances. The ensemble's commitment to musical integrity and its collaborative spirit make it a cherished institution within the community.

EMMANUEL  
MUSIC

Ryan Turner, Artistic Director





# *Audition Workshop with Violist Leonardo Vásquez Chacón*

February 1, 2025 | 12:00 pm

Project STEP is delighted to host an exclusive audition workshop led by the accomplished violist Leonardo Vásquez Chacón. Hailing from Lima, Peru, Leonardo's journey into the world of classical music is as inspiring as his performances.

## *About Leonardo Vásquez Chacón*

Leonardo holds degrees from Bard College and Indiana University and has established a remarkable career as both a soloist and an ensemble player. He is a two-time Tanglewood Music Center Fellow and has served as the principal violist of The Orchestra Now at Bard College. His impressive resume also includes performances with the Evansville Philharmonic, the Owensboro Symphony, and appearances in prestigious chamber music programs at the Jacobs School of Music and Tanglewood Music Center. He is also among the inaugural and esteemed Boston Symphony Orchestra Fellows.

In his native Peru, Leonardo has been a guest artist at the International Chamber Music Festival and has performed as a soloist with both the National Youth Symphony and the National Symphony Orchestra of Peru.

# *Workshop with Composer Horacio Fernández Vázquez:*

Exploring Latin American Musical Genres

March 15, 2025 | 12:00 pm

Project STEP is excited to present a special workshop led by composer Horacio Fernández Vázquez, where students will explore popular Latin American musical genres like salsa, bachata, and reggaeton. This workshop, taking place on March 15, 2025, at noon, will offer a deep dive into the rhythms and melodies that define these genres.

## About Horacio Fernández Vázquez

Horacio Fernández Vázquez is celebrated for his ability to blend cultural traditions with modern music. In this session, students will not only learn about the history of Afro-Cuban music and its instruments but also engage with the music through Latin American dance and audio production. The workshop will help students understand the construction and stylistic distinctions of these dance forms, using familiar songs and discussing their social significance.

We look forward to an inspiring and educational experience that will expand our students' musical perspectives.



**AMERICAN  
COMPOSERS  
ORCHESTRA**

This unique learning opportunity is made possible by the support of the American Composers Orchestra and Curtis Stewart.



# *Masterclass with Violinist Nathan Amaral*

April 26, 2025 | 12 pm

Project STEP is proud to host a masterclass with the distinguished violinist Nathan Amaral. This session offers our students a unique opportunity to learn from a violinist who has achieved remarkable success in the classical music world.

## About Nathan Amaral

Nathan Amaral consistently delivers expressive performances marked by deep musicality, as demonstrated by his victory in the 2024 Sphinx Senior Division Concerto Competition. His blend of technical brilliance and artistic sensitivity has garnered him accolades and opportunities to perform with leading orchestras in major concert halls around the globe.

## 2024 - 2025 Funders

Barbara and Amos Hostetter  
The Mary Saudek Jaffee Fund  
The Louis H. Hamel Fund (+)  
Christian Dior  
Town Faire Tire Foundation  
Diana & Nat Alpert

