

**Bridgewater State University  
Department of Music**

**Faculty Recital**

**Miguel Pérez-Espejo Cárdenas, *violin***

**with Guest Artists**

**Hsin-Lin Tsai, *violin***

**Michelle LaCourse and Hye Min Choi, *violins***

**Hyun Ji Kwon, *violoncello***



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**BRIDGEWATER**

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**STATE UNIVERSITY**

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Wednesday, October 18th, 2017

8 p.m.

Horace Mann Auditorium

Boyden Hall

# Program

Duo for violin & viola in B-flat, K. 424 Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Adagio – Allegro

Andante cantabile

Andante grazioso

Miguel Pérez-Espejo, violin

Michelle LaCourse, viola

*Cypresses*, for string quartet

Antonín Dvořák (1841-1904)

No. 1 – Andante con moto

No. 4 – Poco Adagio

No. 10 – Allegro scherzando

Hsin-Lin Tsai, Miguel Pérez-Espejo, violins

Hye Min Choi, viola

Hyun Ji Kwon, violoncello

---- *brief pause* ----

String Quintet in G Major, Op. 111

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

Allegro non troppo, ma con brio

Adagio

Un poco Allegretto

Vivace ma non troppo presto

Miguel Pérez-Espejo, Hsin-Lin Tsai, violins

Hye Min Choi, Michelle LaCourse, violas

Hyun Ji Kwon, violoncello

## Performers

**Miguel Pérez-Espejo Cárdenas** is recognized as “*an extraordinary violinist with an outstanding ability to interpret from the heart*” (Aaron Rosand), “*a very strong leader, a magnificent soloist, with a beautiful tone, impeccable intonation and rhythm, wonderful musicianship and artistic sensibility*” (Stanislaw Skrowaczewski), whose performances have been praised as “*extremely impressive, [...] of exceptional expressive depth*” (Geoffrey Norris, Chief Music Critic, *The Daily Telegraph*, UK.)

Pérez-Espejo concertizes throughout the U.S., Europe and Asia, and has released solo CDs for RTVE MÚSICA. He has performed with artists such as Roberto Díaz, James Dunham, James Buswell, Chee-Yun, Laurence Lesser, Colin Carr and Jérôme Mouffe, as well as the great conductors of our time, including Andris Nelsons, Bernard Haitink, Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos, Charles Dutoit, Christoph von Dohnányi and Leonidas Kavakos. Together with his wife violinist Hsin-Lin Tsai he is a member of the acclaimed *L'Étoile Violin Duo*, dedicatee of works by today's distinguished composers. Recent engagements include a collaboration with leading American composer Augusta Read Thomas, and a concert and residency tour of California.

Fulbright Scholar, member of the Honor Music Society of the United States and the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Spain, winner at The Olga Koussevitzky International Competition, he is the recipient of the Rotary Club's Paul Harris Award, the Theodore Presser Award, and the New England Conservatory's G. W. Chadwick Medal and Distinction in Performance, among other honors. A pupil of distinguished violinist Aaron Rosand, his teachers include Michèle Auclair, Eric Rosenblith, Yuri Mazurkevich, and Pina Carmirelli, founding leader of *I Musicci*.

Dr. Pérez-Espejo teaches at Bridgewater State University, the Boston University Tanglewood Institute, where he also served as String and Chamber Music Coordinator, and at Tufts University. His students have won numerous competitions, perform as soloists in the U.S. and abroad, and can be found in eminent institutions such as the Cleveland Institute of Music and Princeton University.

He performs with the Boston Symphony Orchestra. For more information, visit [www.perezspejo.com](http://www.perezspejo.com).

Violinist **Hsin-Lin Tsai** has concertized as soloist and chamber musician throughout the US, Europe and Taiwan, and has performed with artists such as Christoph Eschenbach, Sir Colin Davis, and players from the Boston Symphony, Cleveland Orchestra, Montréal and San Diego Symphony orchestras. The legendary pedagogue Yfrah Neaman said of her: “*I have not heard anyone play with such musicality, emotion, and beautiful sound in the last fifty years.*”

First Prize winner at the Taiwan National Competition and City of Tainan Competition, she is a member of the US National Music Honor Society. She has released solo CDs with RTVE MÚSICA, and gave her New York recital début at Carnegie Hall. Dr. Tsai has been invited to perform at the Lucerne Music Festival in Switzerland and venues that include Lincoln Center in New York City, the National Concert Hall in Taiwan, the

Víctor Villegas Auditorium in Spain, and Symphony Hall and Jordan Hall in Boston. A guest artist at numerous international festivals, she plays with the Boston Ballet Orchestra, and in the “extraordinary” (*Melómano* magazine, Spain) *L'Étoile Violin Duo* together with her husband, Miguel Pérez-Espejo, championing the music of composers of our era. Recent and upcoming highlights include a collaboration with Augusta Read Thomas and a concert and master class tour in California.

Dr. Tsai's students have performed as soloists and in recital at Carnegie Hall, and have won first prizes at competitions and professional orchestra positions. She has taught at the International Master Classes of the Mediterranean, Boston University, Boston Philharmonic Youth Orchestra and the New England Conservatory's Preparatory Division. She is currently on faculty at Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras, All Newton Music School, BU's Tanglewood Institute, and is affiliated with Tufts and Harvard universities.

She graduated from the New England Conservatory with Distinction in Performance, received the Artist Diploma from the Guildhall School of Music (UK), and her Doctoral degree from Boston University. Her dissertation "Poulenc's Violin Sonata - An Analysis" is referenced by scholars and performers worldwide. Her teachers include Yuri Mazurkevich, Harvey Shapiro, Michèle Auclair, Eric Rosenblith, Eduard Schmieder and Erick Friedman. For more information, please visit [www.perezspejo.com/biography\\_tsai.html](http://www.perezspejo.com/biography_tsai.html)

**Michelle LaCourse** has appeared as soloist and chamber musician on four continents, including recent performances in France, Italy, Spain, Brazil, and South Korea. Critics have described her playing in such terms as “a miraculous blend of intense passion and artistic elegance” and “has a mastery of the instrument like a sixth sense, and with it reveals to us the most profound secrets.” An enthusiastic advocate for new viola repertoire, she has also commissioned and premiered many new pieces for the instrument. Her recording “Chocolates” was released by MSR Classics in 2009 to rave reviews, praising “the raw emotion of her playing” and calling the disc “enough to make one reframe one’s image of the viola”. Her 2015 MSR release, “An American Menagerie” received praise from *Fanfare Magazine*, noting “stellar performances,” including playing “in the sweetest and most exquisite way imaginable”, “stunningly realized”, and declaring the recording “A surefire winner.”

LaCourse has performed at numerous festivals such as Aspen, Bowdoin, Eastern, Interlochen, Skaneateles, Musicorda, the Heifetz Institute, Positano, Vianden, and Campos do Jordão, as well as at some of the world’s leading concert venues, such as Vienna’s Musikverein, Berlin’s Kammermusiksaal and Washington’s Kennedy Center. She served for many years as teaching assistant to renowned pedagogue Karen Tuttle at the Peabody Conservatory of Music, and currently teaches viola and chairs the String Department at Boston University’s School of Music, where she was awarded BU’s 2009 Metcalf Cup and Prize, the university’s highest honor for excellence in teaching. She frequently presents master classes at music schools across the United States and internationally, and teaches and performs at the annual Karen Tuttle Viola Workshops, the Duxbury Music Festival, and BU’s Tanglewood Institute, where she is Director of

the Viola Workshop. Many of her former students currently enjoy playing and teaching positions around the globe.

Violist **Hye Min Choi** has received numerous awards and honors in both Korea and the United States, including prizes in the Music Journal Competition, the Music Choon Choo Competition, the World Newspaper Competition, the Kyung Hee University Competition, the Sung Shin Women's University Competition, the Duxbury Music Festival Soloists' Competition, and Boston University's Bach Competition as well as BU's String Department Honors Award. The Boston Musical Intelligencer has described her playing as "wonderful tone, expression and poise," and called her "someone to watch." Ms. Choi has appeared as soloist with the Boo Am Art Hall Young Artist Concert, the Young San Art Hall Artist Concert, the Unis Chamber Orchestra, the Gangdong Orchestra, the Haffner Sinfonietta, the BU Symphony Orchestra, the New England Repertory Orchestra, and the Duxbury Music Festival Orchestra, and. As chamber musician, she has won prizes from the International Chamber Music Competition, Needham Music Award, the American Protégé Competition, and the American Fine Arts Festival Competition. As a member of the prize-winning Charis Quintet, she was presented in two separate laureate concerts in New York's Carnegie Recital Hall. She was also chosen by the Bowdoin International Music Festival to perform live on Maine Public Radio. As orchestral musician, Choi has frequently performed as principal violist in ensembles such as the Haffner Sinfonietta, the Hwaum Boston Chamber Orchestra, and the Boston Chamber Symphony.

Ms. Choi has participated in the Music Alp Festival, the Montpellier International Music Festival, the Busan International Music Festival, the Bowdoin International Music Festival, the Duxbury Music Festival, and the Banff Centre Chamber Music Residency. Hye Min Choi received her Bachelor of Music degree from Seoul National University, her Master of Music degree from the New England Conservatory as a student of Martha Strongin Katz, and her Doctor of Musical Arts degree as well as the coveted Artist Diploma from Boston University's School of Music where she studied with and served as teaching assistant to Michelle LaCourse. Ms. Choi has taught at BU's Tanglewood Institute and the BUTI Viola Workshop, and joined the String Faculty of BU's School of Music in 2016.

**Hyun-ji Kwon**, cellist, currently maintains an active schedule as soloist, chamber musician, and pedagogue. She earned her Bachelor of Music degree at Ewha Women's University in Seoul, Korea, and was the winner of the top prize at the Seoul Symphony Orchestra Competition and the third prize at the Seoul Youth Chamber Music Competition. She was the principal cellist for the Ewha orchestra and performed as a soloist with the orchestra in two consecutive years. She came to Boston to study at the New England Conservatory, where she earned the Master of Music degree in Cello Performance as well as a Graduate Diploma, after which she completed the Doctor of Musical Arts degree program in Cello Performance at Boston University's School of

Music, in the studio of Rhonda Rider. Her other teachers have included Natasha Brofsky, Il-Hwan Bai and Sungwon Yang. She has performed in master classes for renowned cellists such as Natalia Gutman and Anner Bylsma, and she has participated in numerous music festivals and concerts in both Korea and North America. Kwon was selected numerous times to perform in joint Faculty/DMA candidate “Chamber Music Masterworks” concerts during her BU studies, and she was awarded special String Department Honors upon graduation. She has performed as guest alumna along with the celebrated Muir Quartet and violist Michelle LaCourse at BU’s Tsai Center, with the Convergence Ensemble, and in several other Boston area ensembles. During recent summers she has served on the faculty of Boston University’s Tanglewood Institute, working with students of the Young Artist Orchestra program as well as BUTI’s Cello Workshop. She joined the BU School of Music cello faculty in 2015.



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