

ENSEMBLE BIO

Houston (TX) based Apollo Chamber Players has “found fruitful territory” (Houston Chronicle) through its mission to explore the cultural and folkloric influences in classical music, and the ensemble's performances have "rhythmic flair and doses of virtuosity” (The Strad). Apollo presents thematically-programmed concerts both regionally and nationally including two recent tours of the East Coast, with a Carnegie Hall debut in 2013 and concerts in Hartford (CT), Pittsburgh, York and Lancaster (PA), Baltimore (MD), and at Symphony Space (NYC) in 2016. Additional touring engagements include concerts for Chamber Music Society of Little Rock, Seattle University (WA), and the Grand Junction Symphony (CO). This coming June, Apollo performs the season finale concert at the renowned Piccolo Spoleto Festival in Charleston, SC. The ensemble is featured frequently on American Public Media’s nationally syndicated program, *Performance Today*.

Winner of HoustonPress’ 2014 MasterMinds award, Apollo was one of three organizations in Houston to be recognized for positively impacting the local arts community. In recent seasons Apollo has collaborated with Houston METdance for concert productions at Wortham and Miller Outdoor Theaters; performed for Concert at the Villa, an AIDS Ministry event sponsored by Catholic Charities Houston; and will be the featured guest ensemble for Houston Ballet's upcoming production of *Cacti*, performing onstage with company dancers (May 2016). In September 2014, the organization launched a multi-year commissioning project, 20x2020, with a new work by Grammy winning composer Libby Larsen, and the ensemble has concertized with acclaimed artists James Dunham, Ivo-Jan van der Werff, Timothy Pitts, Ismail Lumanovski, Viktor Valkov, and Robin Kesselman.

"*European Folkscapes* makes folk music come to life effectively." (American Record Guide.) Apollo’s debut album earned ‘Album of the Week’ honors by WQXR in New York City and has reached millions of listeners through national and international airplay. Apollo's second studio album, *Blurred Boundaries*, was released in April 2016 by Parma Recordings and has been lauded as “truly lovely music played exceptionally well by an adventurous and gifted young ensemble” (Audiophile Audition). Passionate about arts education, the ensemble curates culturally-enriching programs for performance through Young Audiences of Houston, and it has performed concerts and presented masterclasses for schools and festivals across the country. Most recently, Apollo performed for and mentored students in Baltimore Symphony Orchestra's OrchKids outreach program, and it looks forward to serving as the quartet-in-residence for Youth Orchestras of San Antonio’s Summer Symphony Camp this June.

apollochamberplayers.org

ARTIST BIOS

Co-Founder and Artistic Director of internationally acclaimed Apollo Chamber Players, violinist Matthew J. Detrick enjoys an active performing and teaching career. He holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Rice University, where he studied with Kenneth Goldsmith and Raphael Fliegel, former concertmaster of the Houston Symphony. Since 2012 Mr. Detrick has served as concertmaster of The Symphony of Southeast Texas (SOST), in Beaumont, and he performs frequently with Houston Grand Opera and Ballet orchestras, Mercury, and other Houston-based ensembles. He has appeared as soloist with the York Symphony Orchestra (PA) and SOST, performing Saint-Saens’ Concerto No. 3 as well as Mozart’s *Sinfonia Concertante* and Vivaldi’s and Piazzolla’s *Four Seasons,* respectively. This coming November 2016, he performs the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto with SOST.

Outside of Houston, Mr. Detrick has performed with the Charleston Symphony Orchestra, Jacksonville Symphony, and in 2008 and 2009 he joined the Sarasota Opera Orchestra, in Florida, for its annual winter season. He has concertized around the world as member of the AIMS Festival Orchestra in Graz, Austria, and as artist of the Zephyr Ensemble during its tours of Japan and Panama. Mr. Detrick has been a participant in the Aspen Music Festival, Pine Mountain Music Festival, and Spoleto Festival USA.

In addition to his artistic and performing duties, Mr. Detrick serves as Apollo’s executive director; in these capacities he is a frequent guest speaker for alumni lectures and music entrepreneurship series at Rice University’s Shepherd School of Music, Brazosport College, and the Houston Symphony’s Ima Hogg Competition. Through his for-profit business, Detrick Arts, he contracts ensembles of all sizes for corporate events and a variety of regional functions, and he maintains a private teaching studio at his home. Fun fact: Mr. Detrick had the privilege of performing an improvised solo with legend Stevie Wonder during a March 2015 concert at the Toyota Center in Houston.

Mr. Detrick performs on a Giuseppe Testore violin, circa 1760, and Josephy Alfred Lamy bow, circa 1886.

Mexican-born violinist Anabel Ramirez began studying the violin at age six in her native country with Russian violinist Gari Petrenko. By 1991 she had twice won the National Violin Competition in Mexico and the following year Ms. Ramirez was awarded a full scholarship to study at the Ollin Yoliztly School of the Arts in Mexico City. Under the tutelage of Natalya Gbodetskaya, she won the 'Carlos Chavez' competition in 1992. At age 16, she came to the US to study at the University of Houston under the sponsorship of the Starling Foundation Scholarship Fund, where she completed her Bachelor's of Music Performance under the supervision of Fredell Lack. She subsequently completed her Masters Degree at the University of British Columbia, having studied with Andrew Dawes. Returning to the US in 2004, she began coursework towards a Masters in Pedagogy with Emanuel Borok.

Ms. Ramirez has been a member of Apollo Chamber Players since 2012 and serves as Marketing Director in addition to core artist. She has been a member of the Houston Grand Opera and the Houston Ballet Orchestras since 2008, and she performs regularly with the period instrument ensemble, Mercury.

To further her education, Ms. Ramirez has participated in several music festivals throughout the world, including the Aspen Music Festival with Dorothy Delay, the Mozarteum of Salzburg with Carlo Chiarappa, and the Musicorda Festival with James Buswell. Ms. Ramirez was the winner of the 1998 American String Teachers Association regional competition as well as the Musicorda Concerto Competition. She was awarded the 2002 Mozart Medal for musical achievements and has also appeared as soloist with all the major orchestras in her home country, including the National Symphony and Mineria Symphony, and with the Galveston, Clear Lake, Woodlands, Ludwig and San Antonio Symphonies in the US.

Whitney Bullock, viola, is active as both a performer and teaching artist, and she has been a member of Apollo Chamber Players since 2012. In addition to her position as Apollo's core violist, Ms. Bullock also serves as the organization's Education Director, through which she brings Apollo's distinctive programming to life in schools and the community. Currently in her seventh season as Principal Viola of the Symphony of Southeast Texas, Ms. Bullock recently appeared with the symphony as the featured soloist in a performance of Mozart’s Sinfonia Concertante.

Ms. Bullock completed a two-year Young Artist Fellowship with Da Camera of Houston, receiving training in concert program curation, establishing community arts initiatives, and the development of educational outreach programs that integrate the arts with classroom curriculum. This intense program culminated in a viola performance and poetry therapy residency developed by Ms. Bullock at the Houston Area Women's Center.

Along with her performing commitments, Ms. Bullock is also the staff viola instructor for the Michael P. Hammond Preparatory Department at Rice University's Shepherd School of Music. In addition to her teaching position at Rice's Preparatory Department, she is also the chamber music and viola sectionals coach for the Houston Youth Symphony, and teaches lessons through that organization's Melody Program, which provides free private lesson instruction for economically disadvantaged musicians.

Ms. Bullock has given chamber music and solo masterclasses at Concordia College and led the viola ensembles at Texan Lutheran University's annual Viola Day. She has also coached chamber music for American Festival for the Arts' Chamber Music Academy, as well as served as a judge for the Houston Young Artists' Concert and Manhattan School of Music Precollege Concerto Competition.

Ms. Bullock also maintains a private viola studio in her home as well as actively freelancing in the Houston area. She received her undergraduate degree in viola performance and women's studies at Vanderbilt University and her graduate degree in music at Rice University.

Matthew Dudzik is a versatile cellist who is as passionate about early music as he is about the dynamic world of new music and the great masterpieces of the western tradition. He has performed in orchestral and chamber music settings throughout the United States and Japan. Highlights include appearances at the Pacific Music Festival with members of the Berlin and Vienna Philharmonics. Now in his sixth season as core cellist of Apollo Chamber Players, he has also served the organization as Chief Financial Officer since 2013.

In Houston he has performed in a wide variety of settings including with the Houston Grand Opera and Ballet orchestras, Mercury, the River Oaks Chamber Orchestra, the Houston Chamber Choir, Theater Under the Stars, and Aperio: Music of the Americas. A dedicated and enthusiastic teacher, he maintains a vibrant private studio at his home and is a teacher for the Houston Youth Symphony’s MELODY outreach program, which provides free private lesson instruction for economically disadvantaged students. He also enjoys serving as chamber music coach for American Festival for the Arts’ Chamber Music Academy.

Mr. Dudzik began playing the cello at the age of nine under the guidance of Minnesota Orchestra Cellist Sachiya Isomura. He continued his studies with Ko Iwasaki at Southern Methodist University and Norman Fischer at Rice University’s Shepherd School of Music, where he earned his undergraduate and master’s degrees in music, respectively. In addition to the diversity of his musical activities, Mr. Dudzik enjoys practicing yoga and traveling with his wife, fellow cellist Shino Hayashi. Recent and upcoming destinations include, Cambodia, Vietnam, the Hawaiian islands, Istanbul, Vienna, Bavaria and Japan.