THE BOSTON CELLO QUARTET

The Boston Cello Quartet was founded in 2010 by four cellists of the Boston Symphony Orchestra: Blaise Déjardin, Adam Esbensen, Mihail Jojatu and Alexandre Lecarme. This is the first time in the history of the Boston Symphony Orchestra that such a cello ensemble has been formed. Since their debut concert, described by The Berkshire Eagle as "The best Prelude Concert at Ozawa Hall since the hall was built (in 1994)", the Boston Cello Quartet quickly won the hearts of music lovers everywhere. Through virtuosic programming featuring their own arrangements of staples of the classical music repertoire, as well as jazz, contemporary works and even comic medleys, the four cellists aim to showcase the limitless possibilities of the instrument they love.

Favorites of the Tanglewood audience, they opened the show for the Grammy Award-winning band Train at the Koussevitzky Music Shed in 2011. Two years later, the Boston Cello Quartet was the featured solo group at Tanglewood on Parade, performing the James Bond Concertino with the Boston Pops and Keith Lockhart. Arranged by Grammy-nominated composer Chris Walden, this unique concerto for cello quartet and orchestra was specifically commissioned for the Boston Cello Quartet by the Boston Pops. The premier took place at Symphony Hall in May 2013.

In September 2013, the Boston Cello Quartet became the first chamber music group to be featured on ESPN and MLB.com, performing the National Anthem and Metallica’s song Enter Sandman at Fenway Park, in honor of baseball legend Mariano Rivera.

Their first album, Pictures, was released in February 2013 and quickly rose to the Top 50 of the Top Classical Music Albums on iTunes. The Boston Cello Quartet also recorded Olivier Deriviere’s soundtrack for the videogame Of Orcs and Men, released in 2012 on Xbox 360, PS3 and PC.

MEMBERS

Blaise Déjardin


As a soloist, he performed with the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra, the Kuopio Symphony Orchestra, the French Camerata, and many others. His performances were broadcast on various radio stations, such as FranceMusique, YLE, Radio New Zealand, VPR, WGBH.

From 2001 to 2004, Blaise Déjardin was a member of the European Union Youth Orchestra and the Gustav Mahler Jugend Orchester, under the direction of Bernard Haitink, Ivan Fischer and Vladimir Ashkenazy. In 2010, he founded the Boston Cello Quartet, made up of four cellists from the Boston Symphony Orchestra.
Orcestra, which released its first CD in February 2013. As a composer/arranger, he writes numerous pieces for cello ensembles, which led to two ASCAP Plus Award for his work in 2011 and 2012. His piece for 12 cellos, “Aquarela do Violoncelo”, was commissioned by the Boston Symphony Orchestra and premiered at the Gala of Opening Night at BSO in 2012. In 2013, he launched Opus Cello, his online sheet music publishing company, dedicated to his arrangements for cello ensembles. He recently wrote a string orchestra version of Dvorak’s American String Quintet for the chamber orchestra A Far Cry, who premiered it at the Gardner Museum in Boston. Aside of playing the cello, he was recently featured at Film Night at Tanglewood playing the harmonica with the Boston Pops in Mancini’s music for “Breakfast at Tiffany’s”.

An active performer of new music, Blaise Déjardin gave the US premiere of "Les formes du vent" for cello solo by French composer Edith Canat de Chizy in 2008. A passionate chamber musician, he has performed in many festivals in France, and was invited for two summers at the Steans Institute of the Ravinia Festival in Chicago. He shared the stage with musicians such as Ralph Kirshbaum, Miriam Fried, Malcolm Lowe, Donald Weilerstein and Paul Katz.

He holds a First Prize of Cello with highest honors from the Conservatoire National Superieur de Musique of Paris, as well as a Master of Music Diploma and a Graduate Diploma from the New England Conservatory in Boston. His main teachers were Philippe Muller, Laurence Lesser and Bernard Greenhouse. Blaise Déjardin joined the Boston Symphony Orchestra in 2008.

**Adam Esbensen**

Adam Esbensen joins the Boston Symphony Orchestra in September 2008 after spending five years as a cellist with the Oregon Symphony. Mr. Esbensen began his studies at the Cleveland Institute of Music where he studied with Stephen Geber. He went on to earn a master of music degree and performance award from the Mannes College of Music. During his two years in New York City he studied with Timothy Eddy and performed around the state as part of the Mozart and Chopin festivals. Mr. Esbensen joined the cello section of the Louisville Orchestra in 2001, where he played for two years before moving back to his home state of Oregon. While living in Portland, he took an interest in new music as a member of the Fear No Music ensemble and at the Ernest Bloch Composer’s Symposium. He has spent summers at festivals in Taos, Vail, Spoleto–Italy, Bellingham, and San Luis Obispo. Mr. Esbensen’s other teachers and influences include Hamilton Cheifetz, John Kadz, and Pamela Frame.

**Mihail Jojatu**

Romanian-born cellist Mihail Jojatu joined the Boston Symphony Orchestra in 2001 and became fourth chair of the orchestra’s cello section at the start of the 2003-04 season, occupying the Sandra and David Bakalar Chair. Mr. Jojatu studied at the Bucharest Academy of Music before coming to the United States in 1996. He then attended the Boston Conservatory of Music, where he studied with former BSO cellist Ronald Feldman, and worked privately with Bernard
Greenhouse of the Beaux Arts Trio. Through Boston University, he also studied with BSO principal cellist Jules Eskin. Mr. Jojatu has collaborated with such prestigious artists as Yefim Bronfman, Sarah Chang, Glenn Dicterow, Peter Serkin, Gil Shaham, members of the Juilliard and Muir string quartets, and Seiji Ozawa, who asked him to substitute for Mstislav Rostropovich in rehearsing the Dvořák Cello Concerto with the Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra. A winner of the concerto competition at Boston University School for the Arts (subsequently appearing as soloist with Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops Orchestra), he also won first prize in the Aria Concerto Competition at the Boston Conservatory and was awarded the Carl Zeise Memorial Prize in his second year as a Tanglewood Music Center Fellow. He has performed as guest soloist with the Radio Symphony Orchestra of Bucharest and has won numerous awards in Romania for solo and chamber music performance. Recent performances have included chamber music with pianist Yefim Bronfman, Shostakovich's Cello Concerto No. 1 with the Berkshire Symphony and Longwood Symphony, and the Dvořák concerto with the Radio Symphony Orchestra of Bucharest under Sergiu Comissiona and the Indian Hill Symphony Orchestra under Bruce Hangen. A faculty member at the Longy School of Music, Mihail Jojatu is also a member of the Triptych String Trio, which recently released its first compact disc.

Alexandre Lecarme
A native of Grasse, France, Alexandre Lecarme joined the Boston Symphony Orchestra at the start of the 2008-09 season. He graduated with the Premier Prix de Violoncelle from the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris in 1997. Mr. Lecarme holds the Artist Diploma and Master of music degrees from Boston University as a recipient of a Cohen Foundation grant and a Dean’s scholarship. His major teachers have included Jean-Marie Gamard in Paris, David Soyer, and Andrés Díaz at Boston University. An avid chamber musician, Mr. Lecarme has appeared on the Rockport Chamber Music Festival, Hammond Performing Arts Series, Copley Society Series, Hebron and Thayer Academy Concert Series, Temple Emmanuel Chamber Music Series and the chamber music series of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. As a founding member of the Tancrede Trio, he has performed extensively in the United States and Europe. Highlights include concerts at Shermetiev Palace in St. Petersburg for the 300th Anniversary of the city, Opera de Nice, and Salle Olivier Messiaen, Grenoble, France. Mr. Lecarme has participated at the Pablo Casals, Domaine Forget, Kneisel Hall and Norfolk Chamber Music festivals and collaborated with Roman Totenberg, Seymour Lipkin, and members of the Tokyo String Quartet. Since 2010 he has been a member of the Alianza String Quartet. Mr. Lecarme has released CDs for Hammond GMAC Performing Arts of works by Bach, Debussy, Schubert, and Beethoven. A new CD of sonatas by Franck and Rachmaninoff will be released in late 2010. Mr. Lecarme performs on a cello made by José Contreras in 1746, generously on loan from the Boston Symphony Orchestra.