

Gotham Early Music Scene (GEMS) presents



Thursday March 9, 2023 1:15 pm
St Malachy's Church – The Actors' Chapel in New York City
Live Streamed to midtownconcerts.org and [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com)

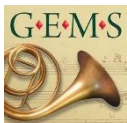
Rafa Prendergast and Shelby Yamin *Dueling Violins*

Rafa Prendergast & Shelby Yamin ~ violin
Cullen O'Neil ~ violoncello Kevin C. Devine ~ harpsichord

- Sonata Decima a 3** Dario Castello (c. 1590–c. 1630)
- Sonata in E minor** Cullen O'Neil (b. 1997)
- Sonata Quinta, *Sonatae a 1, 2, 3, e 4 Istromenti*, Op. 16** Isabella Leonarda (1620–1704)
Adagio ~ Prestissimo ~ Adagio ~ Presto ~ Adagio ~
Presto ~ Adagio ~ Presto
- Trio Sonata Op. 3, No. 12** Arcangelo Corelli (1653–1713)
Grave – Allegro – Adagio ~ Allegro – Adagio – Vivace ~
Allegro – Adagio ~ Allegro – Adagio ~ Allegro
- Sonata Seconda “La Luciminia Contenta”, *Sonate, correnti et arie*, Op. 4** Marco Uccellini (1603–1680)
- Sonata Sesta “La Vinciolina”, Op. 4** Giovanni Antonio Padolfi Mealli (c. 1630–c. 1670)
- Serenata con Violini, Sinfonia, Op. 8** Barbara Strozzi (1619–1677)
- Balletto Secondo a 3 & a 4** Biagio Marini (1594–1663)
Entrata grave ~ Balletto allegro ~ Gagliarda ~ Corrente ~ Retirata

Midtown Concerts are produced by Gotham Early Music Scene, Inc., and are made possible with support from St. Malachy's Church–The Actors' Chapel, The New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature; public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council; the Howard Gilman Foundation; and by generous donations from audience members.

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Naomi Morse, Director of Marketing Christina Britton Conroy, Announcer and Make-up Artist
Harpsichord provided by Rebecca Pechefsky John Thiessen, Executive Director



www.gemsny.org

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

An afternoon of stimulating and friendly rivalry where two violinists attempt to outdo each other with sparkling technique and expressivity. As the competition heats up, each violinist attempts to win over the audience with a virtuosic solo, but in the end comes the realization that the joy of music lies in their combined sound, not in individual prowess.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Violinist **Shelby Yamin** brings signature vivacity to performances across the globe, from the historic state rooms of George Washington's Mount Vernon to the storied chapel at Versailles. Equally adept on modern and Baroque violin, Shelby has appeared as a soloist with Philharmonia Baroque Chamber Players, the San Francisco Academy Orchestra, Tafelmusik Winter Institute, and as guest concertmaster of the 2019 Berwick Academy of the Oregon Bach Festival.

Brooklyn-based violinist **Rafa Prendergast** is an active performer of works dating from the early 17th century through the present day. A member of Nuova Pratica and La forza delle stelle Baroque Orchestra, Rafa performs frequently with Trinity Baroque Orchestra, ARTEK, Kollektive366, Opera Essentia, Opera Praktikos, and dell'Arte Opera Ensemble, among others, and has performed as part of the Death of Classical series, Gotham Early Music Scene's Midtown Concerts series, and WQXR's Midday Masterpieces series. Rafa has also appeared as a soloist with Juilliard415, Music City Baroque, and American Bach Soloist Academy orchestra.

Cullen O'Neil is a New York City-based violoncellist originally from Kalamazoo, Michigan. Performances have brought her across North America and Europe to venues including Alice Tully Hall, the Kennedy Center, Mariinsky Hall in St. Petersburg, The Great Hall of the Moscow Conservatory, Royal Albert Hall as part of the BBC Proms, the Helsinki Musiikkitalo, and the Philharmonie de Paris alongside Les Arts Florissants. In 2021 she was inducted as a Fellow of The English Concert in America and in 2022 became a member of Boston Baroque. Cullen is also a founding member of Quartet Salonnières, a New York-based historical quartet, and Nuova Pratica, an ensemble of historically inspired composer/performers, and Relic, a period chamber orchestra. Cullen graduated from The Juilliard School in 2021 with a Master's in historical performance. Previously, she earned degrees in both cello and music theory from the University of Michigan, where she studied with Richard Aaron. She spent the 2017–2018 school year at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki studying with Raimo Sariola.

Dedicated to presenting audiences with innovative programs, **Kevin C. Devine** looks to underrepresented voices of the past, expanding the early music canon and brings fresh repertoire to the harpsichord. Dr. Devine has obtained degrees from Boston University, Stony Brook University, and has completed a graduate diploma at The Juilliard School. He has been invited to play solo recitals on several concert series, including Gotham Early Music Scene and Harpsichord Heaven at the Barn at Flintwoods.

Rafa, Shelby, Cullen, and Kevin have loved playing together since their time at Juilliard's Historical Performance program.

NEXT WEEK: Pomerium
The Medieval Miracle: Melody into Harmony