

Georgia native **Gabriela Diaz** began her musical training at the age of five, studying piano with her mother, and the next year, violin with her father. Shortly before her sixteenth birthday, she was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Disease, a type of lymphatic cancer. As a cancer survivor, Gabriela is committed to cancer research and treatment. In 2004 Gabriela was a recipient of a grant from the Albert Schweitzer Foundation. This grant enabled Gabriela to begin organizing a series of chamber music concerts in cancer units at various hospitals in Boston called the Boston Hope Ensemble. Gabriela holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from New England Conservatory, where she was a student of James Buswell. Devoted to contemporary music, Gabriela has been fortunate to work closely with many significant living composers on their own compositions, namely Pierre Boulez, Magnus Lindberg, Frederic Rzewski, Alvin Lucier, Steve Reich, Brian Ferneyhough, John Zorn, Roger Reynolds, Lee Hyla, and Helmut Lachenmann. Gabriela is actively involved in contemporary music in Boston, and is a member of the Callithumpian Consort, Firebird, Ludovico, Dinosaur Annex and Sound Icon Ensembles. You can hear Gabriela on Mode, Centaur, New World, BMOP Sound, and Tzadik records.

David Russell is a busy Boston area performer who has also toured extensively in France, Germany, Italy and England. Assistant Principal Cello with the Tulsa Philharmonic since 2000 and faculty member at Oklahoma City University 2001 to 2003; a member of the Grammy-nominated Eaken Trio, formerly in residence at Dickinson College in PA; Principal Cello of Opera Boston and the Hingham Symphony. Regular appearances with Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra of Boston, the New England String Ensemble, Cantata Singers and Ensemble, and Emmanuel Music. A strong advocate of new music, he has performed with Phantom Arts Ensemble for American Music, Dinosaur Annex, Collage New Music, Boston Modern Orchestra Project, Music on the Edge, AUROS Group for New Music, Firebird Ensemble, the Cleveland Chamber Symphony, Stony Brook Contemporary Chamber Players, and the Fromm Foundation Players at Harvard. A founding member of Furious Band, an ensemble devoted to the exploration and performance of works by young composers. Recent projects include the premiere of Ricardo Zohn-Muldoon's chamber opera "Comala" in Mexico City, performances at Miller Theater at Columbia University, the American Academy in Rome and the Rotterdam Conservatory, U.S. premieres of works for solo cello by Harold Meltzer and Judith Weir, masterclasses at the University of California-Davis, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and University of Alaska-Fairbanks and residencies at the University of South Carolina-Columbia and Tufts University. Appointed to the Wellesley faculty in 2005.

Pianist **Lois Shapiro** "conjures enchantment" and "produces and inspires musical magic," notes The Boston Globe. A New York Concert Artists Guild Award winner and highly sought-after soloist and collaborative pianist, she has appeared throughout the U.S. and abroad in concerts ranging from 18th-century period-instrument performances to premieres. In May 2013, Shapiro performed and gave a workshop at the Universität für Musik und darstellende Kunst in Vienna. Shapiro has recorded on Afka, Bridge, Channel Classics, Centaur, MLAR, and Pierrot. Her 1996 duo recording with cellist Rhonda Rider was cited as "Best of the Year" in The Boston Globe. Formerly an instructor of piano at Smith College, Brandeis University, New England Conservatory, and the Longy School of Music, Ms. Shapiro is currently on the faculty of Wellesley College. She gives numerous masterclasses and lectures on subjects such as the nature of musicianship, late-Beethoven piano sonatas, and Robert Schumann's music in cultural context. As an expression of her abiding interest in bringing the musical experience to underserved populations, she was recently awarded an Alumni Ventures grant from Yale University to create and offer innovative interdisciplinary music programs in the Boston public schools. Always seeking to inspire music-lovers of all ages, Ms. Shapiro has recently created an intergenerational orchestra called FIGCO and, in collaboration with the Longy School of Music Dalcroze Department, she co-produced a series of engaging and highly popular family programs in which she performed as narrator and pianist. She received her musical training at the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University, Yale University, and the New England Conservatory.

Ann Schaffner Concert Series
Supported in part by a
Babson-Olin-Wellesley (BOW) Presidential Innovation Grant
presents

Babson-Olin-Wellesley Faculty in concert with **Two World Premières**



Gabriela Diaz



David Russell



Lois Shapiro

April 17, 2017

Olin College of Engineering
Milas Hall Mezzanine
4:00-5:00 PM

Ann Schaffner



Ann Schaffner was Director of Institutional Research and Improvement at Olin (2001 – 2011) and helped found the College. She received a BA in English and Music from Smith College and an MA in Medieval Studies from the University of Toronto. Later she earned an MS in Library Science and an MBA from Simmons College. She was an Associate University Librarian at Brandeis University before joining Olin.

A member of the Vermont Land Trust, the Catamount Trail Association, Habitat for Humanity, and the Hyde Park Community Circle, Ann contributed her skills and energy to causes large and small. Music was always very important to her. As a vocalist, she sang with notable ensembles, including Village Harmony and the Montpelier Gospel Choir. As a listener, she graced virtually every student performance during her ten years at Olin.

This is the first of two concerts supported in part by a Babson-Olin-Wellesley (BOW) Presidential Innovation Grant, and also by the Ann Schaffner Concert Series, a series offered in memory of former Olin staff member Ann Schaffner, made possible through a generous gift by Stu Schaffner.

Babson-Wellesley-Olin Faculty
in concert with Two World Premieres

Gabriela Diaz (violin), David Russell (cello), Lois Shapiro (piano)

April 17, 2017

Trio pour Piano, Violon, et Violoncelle (1914)

Maurice Ravel

- I. Modéré
- II. Pantoum: Assez vif

Asleep All Day (2017)

Jennie Olivia Johnson

(for amplified piano trio and digital audio in 4.1 surround sound
inspired by the poetry of Mary Pinard, Professor of English, Babson College)

Part 1. Fantasia, on the water

Part 2. Grief, for a long time sound

(Intermission: 10 minutes)

Who was Wissam Eid? (2017)

D.S. Dabby

(motivated by Ronen Bergman's "The Hezbollah Connection")

1. Ahmad Abu Adass
2. Rafik Hariri
3. Wissam Eid

Trio pour Piano, Violon, et Violoncelle (1914)

Maurice Ravel

III. Passacaille: Très large

IV. Final: Animé

The initial inspiration for *Asleep All Day* was a line from Mary Pinard's beautiful poem "Grief, for a long time sound": "she has found listening to music embodies the living: it's his body again in the thickness of sound, he's on the blue leather couch, dozing, he will be stirring." I grew up in an apartment with a blue leather couch, and have watched many loved ones dozing upon it. I therefore composed this music about falling asleep in front of the television on hot summer days, and dreaming—specifically, about sailing on blue water (or, on blue leather couches) to beautiful, far-away places. When I finished composing this piece—about a week ago—I learned more about Mary Pinard: that she tragically lost her brother in a freak boating accident. The fact that I did not know this about her, and yet wrote music that her poetry inspired about boating and water, strikes me now as less the coincidence it initially seemed, and more an instance of intense personal resonance, between her harrowing experiences of grief, and my own quiet ones.

Jenny Olivia Johnson, Wellesley, Massachusetts, March 20, 2017

Who was Wissam Eid? grew out of a New York Times article "The Hezbollah Connection" by Ronen Bergman. Bergman investigated the 2005 assassination of Rafik Hariri, the former prime minister of Lebanon who sought to unyoke Lebanon from Assad's Syria. Wissam Eid, a young Lebanese police detective and former engineering student, unraveled the plot—initially blamed on a 22-year old religious Sunni Muslim (Ahmad Abu Adass). Family and friends described Adass as kind and generous; sadly, the plotters took advantage of his kindness to set him up as the fall guy for the murder of Hariri. Eid doubted the setup, instead approaching the case with a novel idea: on his own time, he tracked records of cell phone traffic, eventually identifying five members of Hezbollah, a militant group loyal to Bashar al-Assad, as responsible for the entire plot. In reading the story, I fell in love with Wissam Eid, hoping he would somehow escape the same fate as Hariri and Adass. His car was blown up in 2008. He was 31.

D.S. Dabby