

# The Voyager Ensemble

## About

In the spirit of armchair travelers everywhere, the Voyager Ensemble explores a new country of the world every concert by combining standard repertoire from the country along with a contemporary work/commission by a composer from that region. Then musicians hailing from the same region join the ensemble with the aim of infusing the concert with cultural and musical flavors. Founded by violist David Yang and violinist Airi Yoshioka in 2016, the ensemble has featured music from Hungary, France, Argentina and this year, Finland. Voyager has given world premieres by Nicolas Bacri (France) and Fernando Altube (Argentina).

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## David Yang and Airi Yoshioka, co-directors

Recipient of an artist fellowship from the Independence Foundation awarded to a small number of exceptional artists, violist **David Yang** has been called “*a conduit for music*” and his playing described as “*lithe and expressive*” in the Strad Magazine. A renaissance man, he has forged a career that is a blend of performing, composition, and storytelling. David has been heard in collaboration with members of the Borromeo, Brentano, Jasper, Miro, Pro Arte, Vermeer, and Tokyo String Quartets and Apple Hill Chamber Players, Trio Solisti, and Eroica Piano Trios. Concert highlights include concertos in Canada and Great Britain along with recitals in Italy, the UK, and throughout the USA. As an active advocate of new music he has commissioned dozens of works. Artistic Director of the Newburyport Chamber Music Festival (Boston) and Director of Chamber Music at the University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia), in his role as leader of the Auricoalae Storytelling and Music Troupe he developed a residency program to foster the creation of new compositions by public school students. A member of string trio Ensemble Epomeo based in the the United Kingdom, their premiere recording was designated “Critic’s Choice” in Gramophone Magazine (“*A splendid disc I cannot get enough of*”). Their second CD included the music of Schnittke, Penderecki, and Kurtag (“*...remarkable intensity and elegant assurance throughout... bristles with detail – there are finely balanced chords moving from glowing diatonicism to harsh dissonance, and carefully shaped melodies with beautifully expressive vibrato – yet they never lose sight of the work’s broader architecture, nor of its poignant, increasingly bleak mood*” – The Strad Magazine). Their third recording of Schoenberg’s Verklarte Nacht received universal acclaim (“*an impressive recording that exposes many details of the score that usually remain obscure*”- Gavin Dixon). David records for Avie, New Focus, and Somm.

Hailed by the Gramophone Magazine as “brilliant and intrepid”, violinist **Airi Yoshioka** has concertized throughout the United States, Europe, Asia, and Canada. Deeply committed to chamber music, Ms. Yoshioka is the founding member of the Duo della Luna, Damocles Trio, Voyager Ensemble and has performed and recorded with the members of the Emerson, Brentano, and Arditti Quartets. Damocles Trio’s debut disc of complete Piano Trios and Piano Quartet of Joaquín Turina has won a four-star rating from the BBC Music Magazine, Le Monde de la Musique and Diapason. Her orchestral credits include performances with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, American Sinfonietta and engagements as concertmaster and soloist with the Manhattan Virtuosi and concertmaster of one of the festival orchestras at the Aspen Music Festival. An enthusiastic performer of new music, she has premiered dozens of solo violin and chamber works as well as be a member of Continuum, ModernWorks!, RUCKUS, Son Sonora, and Ensemble Pi. Of a performance with the New Juilliard Ensemble, the *New York Times* wrote, “Airi Yoshioka played the violin solo touchingly”, and of a performance with Continuum of Dallapiccola’s music, the *New York Times* wrote “Powerfully communicative...violinist Airi Yoshioka [played] a lovely ‘Due Studi.’ The performances were as varied as the music.” She has recorded for New World, Naxos, Claves, Mode, Neuma, Albany and Pony Canyon records. While at The Juilliard School, she was a winner of the concerto competition and holds MM and DMA from the school. She has B.A. in English from Yale University. She currently teaches at University of Maryland Baltimore County as Professor of Music.