

## AYANO NINOMIYA, VIOLINIST

Beginning with the 2010-2011 season, violinist Ayano Ninomiya joins the Ying Quartet as first violinist and Associate Professor of Violin and of Chamber Music at the Eastman School of Music at the University of Rochester. She is a top prizewinner in the 2003 Naumburg Competition, the 2006 Tibor Varga Competition, and winner of the S&R Washington and Lili Boulanger Memorial awards, and has built a significant career of recital, concerto, music festival, and chamber music appearances. In addition, she brings her own passionate vision for imaginative programming, collaborative work, and audience engagement initiatives.

This season's Ying Quartet performances bring Ms. Ninomiya on tours across the U.S. from Tennessee to Virginia to California, and also to Beijing, China, as well as recording an Arensky album for Sono Luminus and performing at the Bowdoin Festival in Maine. Solo engagements include a performance of Bartok's Concerto no. 2 with the Civic Symphony of Boston, recitals in Tokyo, Japan, at the National Gallery of Art, and at Lincoln Center, NYC. She also makes return appearances at the Kingston, Lenape, and Moab festivals.

Ms. Ninomiya's second New York recital which took place at Merkin Concert Hall in October 2008 garnered this praise: "Her technique is equal to all challenges, secure, effortless and unobtrusive; her tone is lovely, pure, and variable in color and intensity" (New York Concert Review). Two pieces from this recital were chosen for broadcast on New York's WQXR Young Artist Showcase. As one of five soloists for the 2009 Young Performers Career Advancement program by the Association of Performing Arts Presenters, she performed at their Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall showcase.

Ms. Ninomiya's 2004 debut recital at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall was described as "deeply communicative and engrossing" (The New York Times). Under the auspices of Astral Artists, whose National Auditions she won in 2003, she had the unique opportunity to lead the Haddonfield Symphony Chamber Orchestra in a performance of Vivaldi's The Four Seasons, and gave her Philadelphia debut recital as well as a recital at the Washington Conservatory. She also performed on Astral's Rising Stars series at Philadelphia's Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, with other Astral colleagues at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall, and gave a piano trio recital with pianist Claude Frank and cellist Clancy Newman in 2007.

As the recipient of the 2005 Beebe Fellowship, Ms. Ninomiya lived in Budapest, Hungary until 2007, where she studied at the Liszt Academy of Music and researched scores at the Bartok Archives. Ms. Ninomiya's recording of the complete works for violin by Larry Bell, "The Book of Moonlight," was listed as one of the Top 10 Classical Recordings of 2003 (Philadelphia's City Paper). In 2007, with other artists from the Bridgehampton Chamber Music Festival, she recorded Paul Moravec's "Cool Fire" and "Chamber Symphony" for the Naxos label.

In 2007 Ms. Ninomiya created several unique lecture-recital programs for Elderhostel and in 2008 taught eight "Day of Discovery" classes in New York City, upstate New York, and outside of Boston. For these she received overwhelmingly stellar written and point evaluations across the board. Future Elderhostel lecture-recitals are programmed for the New York City-Philadelphia area and the West Coast. Stemming from her own experience beginning violin studies in a public school program at the age of

seven, she also has a keen interest in giving community and kids programs wherever her professional concerts take her. Over the years, these opportunities have brought her from Bethlehem, New Hampshire to Columbia, Missouri, to Denton, Maryland, including many occasions in the greater Philadelphia area.

Ms. Ninomiya made her debut as soloist on Opening Night of the Boston Pops 1999 season under Keith Lockhart and was praised for her “great sweetness of tone, dazzling bow work, and intensity of expression” (Boston Herald). Subsequent performances have included those with orchestras in Europe (Budapest, Sofia, Martigny), the Boston, Harrisburg, Mobile, Dubuque, Northbrook, Longwood, Civic Symphony of Boston, Jackson (MI), and Southwest Florida symphonies, and the Highland Park Strings.

As the 2002 Japan Airlines (JAL) Classic Special New Artist, Ms. Ninomiya gave a five-city recital tour of Japan, including a debut recital at Tokyo’s Suntory Hall. Her recital debut at Boston’s Jordan Hall on the BankBoston Emerging Artist Series in 1997 was described as “technically dazzling, intensely musical, questing in spirit and passionate in expression” (Boston Herald). She has been featured since then on the Rising Stars series at the Ravinia Festival, at the Gardner Museum in Boston, on the Sanibel BigArts Series in Florida, and on the Myra Hess Memorial Concert Series in Chicago.

Ms. Ninomiya joined Musicians from Marlboro for their 2005 tour of France and 2004 U.S. tour. She has been invited to perform with the Young Artists from the Steans Institute of the Ravinia Festival, for the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, on New York City’s WQXR, at the Metropolitan Art Museum, Bargemusic, and spent several seasons at the Marlboro, Ravinia, Caramoor, Bridgehampton, and Olympic festivals. Ms. Ninomiya was a founding member of the

Amaryllis String Quartet (1991-2000), which won the Fischhoff Competition (Junior Division), performed with Yo-Yo Ma and Pamela Frank, and performed professionally at the Boulder, Strings in the Mountains, and Rockport festivals, among others. She is also an active member of the conductorless string ensemble, ECCO.

Ms. Ninomiya graduated magna cum laude from Harvard College with a joint degree in Music and French in 2001, where she was also awarded the David McCord Prize and won the Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra Concerto Competition. She holds a Master's degree from The Juilliard School where she studied with Robert Mann. Her teachers and coaches include Miriam Fried, Michele Auclair, Hyo Kang, Robert Levin, Eszter Perenyi, and Andras Keller. Currently residing in New York City, she has been a volunteer tutor for at-risk high school students at the East Harlem Justice Center and a volunteer teacher assistant at the Lighthouse Music School in NYC.

Ms. Ninomiya is the grateful recipient of a generous loan of a Stradivarius violin.