

The New England Philharmonic family tapped to compose and perform two world premieres to celebrate the Boston Athenæum's digitization of the 'Primus liber'

Boston Athenæum | May 25, 2016 at 6 p.m.

BOSTON — The [New England Philharmonic](#) Chamber Players will perform two world premieres of music celebrating the [Boston Athenæum's](#) recent digitization of "**Primus liber [septum librorum] viginti missarum,**" a collection of 20 masses published by Pierre Attaingnant in Paris in 1532.

For this collaborative celebration, **Music for the Masses: Contemporary Reimaginings of Masses from Pierre Attaingnant's "Primus liber,"** the Boston Athenæum has commissioned two new pieces of music from long-time NEP collaborator, composer **Bernard Hoffer**, and [Emily Koh, NEP's principal bassist](#), based on source material from Attaingnant's collection of masses.

Principal players of the NEP will perform **Hoffer's "Musica Sacra"** and **Koh's "-logos-,"** along with Hoffer's new transcriptions for chamber octet of selections from **Bach's "St. Matthew Passion,"** arranged especially for this performance.

The "Primus liber" represents Attaingnant's work in advancing music printing technology. He developed an efficient single-impression printing system that became the standard in Europe for more than 200 years. The "Primus liber" has been part of the Athenæum's historic collection since 1809, and now, thanks to the Athenæum's digital archiving of the work, this collection of French masses may be browsed, viewed, performed and enjoyed by all.

Tickets go on sale May 11: members \$30 and non-members \$40. <https://www.bostonathenaeum.org/>

The New England Philharmonic Chamber Ensemble, Richard Pittman, Conductor

Danielle Maddon, Violin

John Lyneis, Violin

Jamie Doyle, Viola

Jason Coleman, Cello

Emily Koh, Double Bass

Tammy Avery-Gibson, Clarinet

George Muller, Bassoon

Jeff Stewart, Horn

About the New England Philharmonic Embarking on its 40th season, the NEP, under the direction of Richard Pittman, is internationally renowned for its daring programming encompassing both contemporary and traditional works. The volunteer orchestra has earned nine ASCAP awards for Adventurous Programming and was included in the Arts Fuse's top10 list of notable classical music performances of 2014. The orchestra's illustrious past includes the installation of three landmark programs. The NEP became the first orchestra of its size to support a composer-in-residence (1985), introduce a Call for Scores Program (1985), and establish a Young Artist Competition (1994), legacies that endure today.

About the Boston Athenæum The Boston Athenæum, a membership library and museum, first opened its doors in 1807. Today, it is a vibrant and active institution that serves thousands of members and scholars with a distinguished circulating and research collection, rich and varied special collections, extensive electronic resources, in-depth educational programming, and quiet reading spaces. The Athenæum's first floor, including the Norma Jean Calderwood Gallery, and many of its programs, are open to the public. Membership is open to anyone interested in joining. For more information, visit <http://www.bostonathenaeum.org>.

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