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**MUSIC ACCORD ANNOUNCES TWO NEW COMMISSIONS  
FOR THE 2016-2017 SEASON**

**Samuel Carl Adams' *Impromptus* for pianist Emanuel Ax**

**Joseph Hallman's *short stories* for Anthony McGill, clarinet; Alisa Weilerstein, cello; and Inon Barnatan, piano**

Music Accord, the national consortium of performing arts presenters, is pleased to announce the addition of two new works to its distinguished body of commissions for chamber ensembles and soloists.

Commissioned for a trio of dynamic American musicians, Joseph Hallman's *short stories* for clarinet, cello and piano will be premiered on January 18, 2017 at Princeton's MacArthur Theater followed by a tour including Music Accord partners the Kennedy Center, the Center for the Performing Arts at Penn State, the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, and the University Musical Society.

Samuel Carl Adams' solo piano work *Impromptus* will be premiered during Emanuel Ax's European recital tour before a United States Premiere on December 6, 2016 at Music Accord partner Hancher Auditorium at the University of Iowa.

These two new works mark the 31<sup>st</sup> and 32<sup>nd</sup> commissions in Music Accord's nearly 20 year history.

**About Music Accord**

Comprised of top classical music presenting organizations throughout the United States, Music Accord is a consortium that commissions new works in the chamber music, instrumental recital and song genres. The Consortium's goal is to create a significant number of new works and to ensure presentation of these works in venues throughout this country and, if the occasion arises, internationally. Music Accord awards commissions principally to performers who are US citizens or reside in the US and assists these performers in selecting composers who are United States citizens or who reside in the United States. For more information, see <http://musicaccord.org>

**Composers**

**Samuel Carl Adams**

Samuel Carl Adams (b. 1985, San Francisco, CA) is a composer of acoustic and electroacoustic music. His inventively orchestrated and atmospheric works draw from traditional forms, noise, and digital culture. His work has been hailed as “mesmerizing” and “music of a composer with a personal voice and keen imagination” by The New York Times and “wondrously alluring” by The San Francisco Chronicle.

Adams has received commissions from Carnegie Hall, San Francisco Symphony, New World Symphony, Emanuel Ax, and St. Lawrence String Quartet. In 2015, Adams was named Mead Composer-in-Residence with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. During his tenure with the CSO, Adams will create new works for the orchestra and co-curate the CSO’s critically-acclaimed MusicNOW series with fellow Mead Composer-in-Residence Elizabeth Ogonek.

Recent highlights include *Shade Studies* for pianist Sarah Cahill and the world premiere of *Light Readings* by the Bienen School of Music Contemporary/Early Vocal Ensemble and Members of the Chicago Symphony. In the fall of 2014, his *Drift and Providence*, a work co-commissioned by the San Francisco Symphony and New World Symphony, was featured as part of the San Francisco Symphony’s national tour.

Current collaborators include Emanuel Ax, Spektral Quartet and members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Adams was recently awarded a Civitella Ranieri Foundation Fellowship (Umbria, Italy) and will be an artist-in-residence during the summer of 2017.

A committed educator, Adams frequently engages in projects with young musicians. In 2014, he was in residence with The National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America (NYOUSA), for which he composed a work that was premiered under the baton of David Robertson. In the summer of 2016, Adams was in residence with National Orchestral Institute and worked with the fellows to create a recording of *Drift and Providence*, which will be released on Naxos in 2018. Adams also regularly works with the students of The Crowden School (Berkeley, CA) as a composition instructor.

Adams grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area, where he studied composition and electroacoustic music at Stanford University while also active as a jazz bassist in San Francisco. Prior to working in New York City between 2010 and 2014, Adams received a master's degree in composition from The Yale School of Music.

### **Joseph Hallman**

Joseph Hallman is a young composer based in Philadelphia who has worked with some of today's most talented musicians and artists. Known for his generosity of collaboration and joy for composing, he is quickly becoming a noted name on concert programs both nationally and internationally. In addition to teaching a studio of young composers, he has been invited to conduct master classes and lectures, sit on panels, and serve as an adjudicator at home and abroad. He has been named, by NPR, as one of the Top Composers under 40. He has also been named Best Musician by several Philadelphia magazines and newspapers.

Hallman’s series of chamber concerti were composed for members of the Philadelphia Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Pittsburgh Symphony, and Cleveland Orchestra. Akin to Bach’s

Brandenburg Concertos and Hindemith's Kammermusik, these pieces have won acclaim for their wit and strength.

Among his most prominent collaborations, Hallman has composed multiple concerti and chamber and solo works for the internationally acclaimed cellist Alisa Weilerstein, winner of a 2011 MacArthur “Genius” Grant. The live premiere recording of The St. Petersburg Concerto is available on iTunes and all other major digital distributors. He is currently working on a Second Sonata for cello and piano for Ms. Weilerstein. Hallman’s work with poets, in particular Jessica Hornik, has inspired strong relationships and beautiful works for voices and chamber ensembles. The Inscape Chamber Music Project, on the Sono Luminos label, recorded and released Three Poems of Jessica Hornik and imagined landscapes: six Lovecraftian elsewheres, which was then nominated for a Grammy award. He is currently working on two song cycles for soprano and string quartet (Mudtime and Vermont Seasons) with the Vermont Poet Laureate, Sydney Lea. He has had the distinct pleasure of working with the English horn icon Thomas Stacy, of the New York Philharmonic, bassoonist Pascal Gallois, organist Kevin Bowyer, principal clarinetist of the Columbus Symphony, David Thomas.

Hallman has also worked in the downtown New York music scene with the experimental group ThingNY. His Suite for Boombox and Piano was composed for Kathy Supové, who premiered the Suite at the Tribeca Music Festival. His Aphorisms was written for the dramatic pianist, Anthony DeMare. He has also collaborated with the poet and screenwriter Antwone Fisher. Cultivating his special love for chamber music, Hallman has worked with the Avian Ensemble, Chamber Music Now, Network for New Music, Dolce Suono and several chamber groups. His Alice, a ballet based on Lewis Carroll’s Alice in Wonderland, was premiered in San Diego in April 2010 and has been produced on two other occasions since its premiere.

Hallman teaches at Drexel University. He is the Composer-in-Residence of the Pikes Falls Chamber Music Festival and has served in similar roles at the Rosenbach Museum in Philadelphia, The Traverse Arts Project, Strings Music Festival, and many Universities and Colleges domestically and internationally. He has worked with the American Composers Forum in multiple capacities.

## **Artists**

### **Emanuel Ax, piano**

Born in modern day Lvov, Poland, Emanuel Ax moved to Winnipeg, Canada, with his family when he was a young boy. His studies at the Juilliard School were supported by the sponsorship of the Epstein Scholarship Program of the Boys Clubs of America, and he subsequently won the Young Concert Artists Award. Additionally, he attended Columbia University where he majored in French. Mr. Ax made his New York debut in the Young Concert Artists Series, and captured public attention in 1974 when he won the first Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Competition in Tel Aviv. In 1975 he won the Michaels Award of Young Concert Artists followed four years later by the coveted Avery Fisher Prize.

Always a committed exponent of contemporary composers with works written for him by John Adams, Christopher Rouse, Krzysztof Penderecki, Bright Sheng, and Melinda Wagner already

in his repertoire, the 2016/2017 season will feature two newly commissioned works. With the New York Philharmonic conducted by Alan Gilbert, January will bring the world premiere of HK Gruber's Piano Concerto followed in March by the European premiere with the Berlin Philharmonic and Sir Simon Rattle. In recitals throughout the season his program will include works by Schubert and Chopin partnered with "Impromptus (2015-2016)" by Samuel Adams commissioned by Music Accord and inspired by Schubert. His ongoing relationship with the Boston Symphony will include visits with them to Carnegie Hall, Montreal, and Toronto; with the Cleveland Orchestra Mr. Ax will appear as the featured artist for their Gala opening concert of the season. As a regular visitor he will return to the orchestras of Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Cincinnati, Toronto, Seattle, Milwaukee, and Detroit.

A Sony Classical exclusive recording artist since 1987, recent releases include Mendelssohn Trios with Yo-Yo Ma and Itzhak Perlman, Strauss' Enoch Arden narrated by Patrick Stewart, and discs of two-piano music by Brahms and Rachmaninoff with Yefim Bronfman. In 2015 Deutsche Grammophon released a duo recording with Mr. Perlman of Sonatas by Faure and Strauss which the two artists presented on tour during the 2015/2016 season. Mr. Ax has received GRAMMY® Awards for the second and third volumes of his cycle of Haydn's piano sonatas. He has also made a series of Grammy-winning recordings with cellist Yo-Yo Ma of the Beethoven and Brahms sonatas for cello and piano. His other recordings include the concertos of Liszt and Schoenberg, three solo Brahms albums, an album of tangos by Astor Piazzolla, and the premiere recording of John Adams's Century Rolls with the Cleveland Orchestra for Nonesuch. In the 2004/05 season Mr. Ax also contributed to an International EMMY® Award-Winning BBC documentary commemorating the Holocaust that aired on the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. In 2013, Mr. Ax's recording Variations received the Echo Klassik Award for Solo Recording of the Year (19th century music/Piano).

A frequent and committed partner for chamber music, he has worked regularly with such artists as Young Uck Kim, Cho-Liang Lin, Mr. Ma, Edgar Meyer, Peter Serkin, Jaime Laredo, and the late Isaac Stern.

Mr. Ax resides in New York City with his wife, pianist Yoko Nozaki. They have two children together, Joseph and Sarah. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and holds honorary doctorates of music from Yale and Columbia Universities. For more information about Mr. Ax's career, please visit [www.EmanuelAx.com](http://www.EmanuelAx.com).

### **Inon Barnatan, piano**

Celebrated for his poetic sensibility, probing intellect, and consummate artistry, Israeli pianist Inon Barnatan ("ee-NON BAR-na-tan") currently serves as the first Artist-in-Association of the New York Philharmonic. This unprecedented three-season appointment sees him appear as soloist in subscription concerts, take part in regular chamber performances, and act as ambassador for the orchestra. In 2015-16, he embarks on his second season with the Philharmonic, playing Mozart with Jaap van Zweden, Beethoven under Music Director Alan Gilbert, and Saint-Saëns's Carnival of the Animals on New Year's Eve, besides joining members of the orchestra for Messiaen's Quartet for the End of Time at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Other highlights of Barnatan's 2015-16 season include his Walt Disney Hall debut with the Los Angeles Philharmonic under Gustavo Dudamel, and a U.S. tour with the San Francisco Symphony and Michael Tilson Thomas that includes dates at the Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall. Barnatan also performs in Paris, Brussels, Bonn, Copenhagen, Istanbul, St. Louis, and Toronto, as well as at Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, London's Wigmore Hall, and Tokyo's Suntory Hall. In the fall, Barnatan teams up with frequent recital partner, cellist Alisa Weilerstein, on a new Decca Classics recording of Chopin and Rachmaninoff Sonatas.

During his 2014-15 season Barnatan returned to the Hollywood Bowl with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, made his debut with the New York Philharmonic, Royal Stockholm Philharmonic, and the Louisville, New Jersey, Ulster, Vancouver and Quebec Symphony Orchestras, and performed with the Atlanta, Eugene, Milwaukee and National Arts Centre Orchestras. He also made his solo recital debuts at the Celebrity Series of Boston and at the Harris Theater in Chicago, as well as at prestigious European festivals such as the Chopin festival in Warsaw and the Jacobins festival in Toulouse. He was awarded a 2015 Martin E. Segal Award by Lincoln Center, a distinction that recognizes "young artists of exceptional accomplishment." Barnatan's full summer festival lineup includes dates at Aspen and the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, where he performs Messiaen's *Des canyons aux étoiles ...* with Alan Gilbert and the New York Philharmonic.

Barnatan has performed with many of the most esteemed ensembles in the U.S., including the symphony orchestras of Atlanta, Dallas, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Houston and Philadelphia, and he has worked with eminent conductors including Roberto Abbado, Lawrence Foster, James Gaffigan, Alan Gilbert, Jahja Ling, Nicholas McGegan, Matthias Pintscher, David Robertson, Robert Spano, Bramwell Tovey, Juraj Valcua, Edo De Waart, Pinchas Zukerman, and Jaap van Zweden, among others. He has toured twice with the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields as a conductor and soloist, and has performed in New York at Carnegie Hall, the 92nd Street Y and Lincoln Center, as well as at San Francisco's Herbst Theater, Philadelphia's Kimmel Center, Washington's Kennedy Center and Boston's Jordan Hall, among many other important venues. He moved to the United States in 2006, and in 2009 he was awarded the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant, an honor reflecting the strong impression he has made on the American music scene in such a short period of time.

In addition to his U.S. appearances, Barnatan has appeared as soloist with the Aachen Symphony, the Amsterdam Sinfonietta, Deutsche Symphonie Orchester Berlin, National Arts Centre Orchestra, Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse, Netherlands Chamber Orchestra, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, Shanghai Symphony Orchestra, Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra of New Europe, and the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra. He is a frequent performer at Wigmore Hall and the Concertgebouw, and has appeared in some of Europe's most illustrious venues, including the Louvre in Paris, Berlin's Philharmonie, London's Southbank Centre, and Frankfurt's Alte Oper. In 2012, he gave multiple orchestral and recital appearances on a solo tour of South Africa.

Also a sought-after chamber musician, Barnatan was a member of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center's CMS Two program from 2006 to 2009, and is still a regular performer on CMS programs at home in New York and on tour. In 2009 he curated a festival of Schubert's late solo

piano, vocal and chamber music works for the Society, the first musician other than the Society's Artistic Directors to be invited to program concerts. "The Schubert Project" program has also been performed at the Concertgebouw, the Festival de México, and the Library of Congress. With cellist Alisa Weilerstein, he has given duo recitals at venues including Chicago's Orchestra Hall, Toronto's Royal Conservatory, and London's Wigmore Hall.

His rigorous festival schedule has included a broad range of concerts at the Spoleto Festival USA, the Aspen and La Jolla Music Festivals, the Ravinia Festival, the Santa Fe and Seattle Chamber Music Festivals, and abroad at the Verbier, Delft, Bergen, Mumbai and Heidelberg festivals. He has played with some of the most notable instrumentalists worldwide. In 2008 he received the Andrew Wolf Memorial Award in Rockport, Maine, awarded every two years to an exceptional pianist for his/her contribution to chamber music.

Passionate about contemporary music, Barnatan regularly commissions and performs music by living composers, including works by Thomas Adès, George Benjamin, George Crumb, Avner Dorman, James MacMillan, Kaija Saariaho and others. In the 14/15 season he premiered new pieces written for him by Matthias Pintscher and Sebastian Currier, and commissioned jointly by Wigmore Hall, the Concertgebouw and the Aspen Music Festival.

His most recent album, celebrating Schubert's late works, was released by Avie in September 2013 and garnered rave reviews from such publications as Gramophone and BBC Music. Barnatan's 2012 album, *Darkness Visible*, debuted in the Top 25 of the Billboard Traditional Classical chart in its first week of release and received universal critical acclaim, being named BBC Music's "Instrumentalist CD of the Month" and winning a coveted place on the New York Times' "Best Classical Music Recordings of 2012" list. Released by Bridge Records in 2006, Barnatan's debut solo recording of Schubert piano works prompted Gramophone to hail him as "a born Schubertian" and London's Evening Standard to call him "a true poet of the keyboard: refined, searching, unfailingly communicative." Barnatan's recording of Beethoven and Schubert with violinist Liza Ferschtman was described by All Music Guide as "a magical listening experience."

Born in Tel Aviv in 1979, Inon Barnatan started playing the piano at the age of three after his parents discovered he had perfect pitch, and he made his orchestral debut at eleven. His studies connect him to some of the 20th century's most illustrious pianists and teachers: he studied with Professor Victor Derevianko, who himself studied with the Russian master Heinrich Neuhaus, and in 1997 he moved to London to study at the Royal Academy of Music with Maria Curcio – a student of the legendary Artur Schnabel – and with Christopher Elton. Leon Fleisher has also been an influential teacher and mentor. In 2006 Barnatan moved to New York City, where he currently resides in a converted warehouse in Harlem.

### **Anthony McGill, clarinet**

Recognized as one of the classical music world's finest solo, chamber and orchestral musicians, Anthony McGill was named Principal Clarinet of the New York Philharmonic beginning in September 2014. He previously served as Principal Clarinet of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and Associate Principal Clarinet of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra.

McGill has appeared as soloist with many orchestras including the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, the American Symphony Orchestra and the New York String Orchestra, all at Carnegie Hall. In January of 2015 he performed and recorded the Nielsen Clarinet Concerto with the New York Philharmonic. Other orchestra performances have been with the Baltimore, Kansas City, Memphis, New Jersey and San Diego symphonies, as well as Orchestra 2001 and the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra.

As a chamber musician McGill has performed throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia with the Brentano, Daedalus, Guarneri, Miro, Pacifica, Shanghai and Tokyo quartets and in 2015-16 will be with the Dover, JACK and Takacs quartets. He will tour with Musicians from Marlboro, performs under the auspices of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, and appears on such series as the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society and the University of Chicago Presents. Festival appearances include Tanglewood, Marlboro, Mainly Mozart, Music@Menlo, and Santa Fe, Seattle and Skaneateles chamber music festivals, to name a few.

Anthony McGill has collaborated with Emanuel Ax, Yefim Bronfman, Gil Shaham, Midori, Mitsuko Uchida and Lang Lang, and on January 20, 2009, performed with Itzhak Perlman, Yo-Yo Ma and Gabriela Montero at the inauguration of President Barack Obama.

A participant in the 2015 Chicago Humanities Festival, McGill is the 2015-16 WQXR Artists in Residence and has appeared on Performance Today, MPR's St. Paul Sunday Morning and Mr. Roger's Neighborhood. In 2013 with his brother Demarre, he appeared on NBC Nightly News, the Steve Harvey Show and on MSNBC with Melissa Harris-Perry.

A graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music, Anthony McGill is in demand as a teacher, and serves on the faculty of the Juilliard School, the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University, Bard College Conservatory of Music and Manhattan School of Music, and has given master classes throughout the United States, Europe and South Africa.

For additional information see [www.anthonymcgill.com](http://www.anthonymcgill.com)

### **Alisa Weilerstein, cello**

“A young cellist whose emotionally resonant performances of both traditional and contemporary music have earned her international recognition, ... Weilerstein is a consummate performer, combining technical precision with impassioned musicianship.” So stated the MacArthur Foundation when awarding **Alisa Weilerstein** a 2011 MacArthur “genius grant” Fellowship, prompting the New York Times to respond: “Any fellowship that recognizes the vibrancy of an idealistic musician like Ms. Weilerstein ... deserves a salute from everyone in classical music.” In performances marked by intensity, sensitivity, and a wholehearted immersion in each of the works she interprets, the American cellist has long proven herself to be in possession of a distinctive musical voice. An exclusive recording artist for Decca Classics since 2010, she is the first cellist to be signed by the prestigious label in more than 30 years.

Weilerstein releases her fifth album on Decca in September 2016, playing Shostakovich's two cello concertos with the Bavarian Radio Symphony under Pablo Heras-Casado, in performances

recorded live last season. Her 2016-17 season also includes, for the first time in her career, performances of Bach's complete suites for unaccompanied cello: at Caramoor, in Washington, DC, New York and in London. In January she embarks on a nine-city U.S. tour with longtime recital partner Inon Barnatan and clarinetist Anthony McGill, including a performance at New York's Lincoln Center in Alice Tully Hall. The trio's tour will include the world premiere of a piece written by Joseph Hallman specifically for this ensemble. She tours Europe with Barnatan later in the spring, with performances in Salzburg and a return to Wigmore Hall in London. Her busy international concert schedule this season features performances around the globe: she performs Britten's Cello Symphony with the New World Symphony; Shostakovich's First Cello Concerto with the Lausanne Chamber Orchestra, the Netherlands Philharmonic, and the National Symphony in both Washington, DC and Moscow; Prokofiev's Sinfonia concertante with the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic and the Dallas Symphony; Schumann with the San Francisco Symphony, and at Carnegie Hall in the company of the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, with which she then tours the same program to Italy and Spain; Elgar with the Staatskapelle Weimar; Walton with Amsterdam's Residentie Orkest; and Dvořák with the Minnesota Orchestra, Sydney Symphony, and the Tokyo Symphony on a three-stop tour of Japan, where she will also play four solo recitals. The cellist also performs Henri Dutilleux's *Tout un monde lointain...* with Lisbon's Gulbenkian Orchestra, and gives the world premiere of Matthias Pintscher's Cello Concerto with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, which co-commissioned the piece for her.

The 2015-16 season saw Weilerstein give the world premiere of another new concerto commissioned expressly for her from a major European composer, Pascal Dusapin's *Outscape*, which she performed with the co-commissioning Chicago Symphony before giving its first European performances with the Stuttgart and Paris Opera Orchestras. Other concerto performances included Prokofiev's *Sinfonia concertante* with the Czech Philharmonic; Elgar with the London Symphony; Schumann with the Orchestre de Paris; Dutilleux's *Tout un monde lointain...* with Hamburg's NDR Symphony and the Orchestra del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino; Hindemith with the Frankfurt Radio Symphony; Tchaikovsky with the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande; Haydn with the Bavarian Radio Symphony and the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen; and Barber with the National Symphony in Washington, DC. Weilerstein made her Lucerne Festival Debut this past spring, playing the Dvořák Cello Concerto with the Chamber Orchestra of Europe under Bernard Haitink. In the summer of 2016, she gave the BBC Proms premiere of Matthias Pintscher's *Reflections of Narcissus* to rave reviews, with Pintscher himself conducting. Following the October release of their duo album debut on Decca with sonatas by Chopin and Rachmaninoff, Weilerstein reunited with Inon Barnatan for tours of the U.S. and of seven European capitals, including a return to London's Wigmore Hall.

For her first album on the Decca label, Weilerstein recorded the Elgar and Elliott Carter cello concertos with Daniel Barenboim and the Staatskapelle Berlin. The disc was named "Recording of the Year 2013" by BBC Music, which featured the cellist on the cover of its May 2014 issue. Her second Decca release, on which she plays Dvořák's Cello Concerto with the Czech Philharmonic, topped the U.S. classical chart, while her third, a compilation of unaccompanied 20th-century cello music titled *Solo*, was pronounced an "uncompromising and pertinent portrait of the cello repertoire of our time" (ResMusica, France). *Solo*'s centerpiece is the Kodály sonata, a signature work that Weilerstein revisits on the soundtrack of *If I Stay*, a 2014 feature film starring Chloë Grace Moretz in which the cellist makes a cameo appearance as herself.



Weilerstein has appeared with all the foremost orchestras of the United States and Europe, collaborating with conductors including Marin Alsop, Sir Andrew Davis, Gustavo Dudamel, Sir Mark Elder, Christoph Eschenbach, Alan Gilbert, Giancarlo Guerrero, Manfred Honeck, Marek Janowski, Neeme Järvi, Paavo Järvi, Jeffrey Kahane, Lorin Maazel, Cristian Măcelaru, Zubin Mehta, Ludovic Morlot, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Peter Oundjian, Matthias Pintscher, Donald Runnicles, Yuri Temirkanov, Michael Tilson Thomas, Jaap van Zweden, Osmo Vänskä, Simone Young and David Zinman. Her major career milestones include an emotionally tumultuous account of Elgar's concerto with the Berlin Philharmonic and Daniel Barenboim in Oxford, England, for the orchestra's 2010 European Concert, which was televised live to an audience of millions worldwide and subsequently released on DVD by EuroArts. She and Barenboim reunited in 2012-13 to play Elliott Carter's concerto on a German tour with the Berlin Staatskapelle. In 2009, she was one of four artists invited by Michelle Obama to participate in a widely celebrated and high profile classical music event at the White House, featuring student workshops hosted by the First Lady, and performances in front of an audience that included President Obama and the First Family. A month later, Weilerstein toured Venezuela as soloist with the Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra under Gustavo Dudamel. She has since made numerous return visits to teach and perform with the orchestra as part of its famed El Sistema music education program. Other highlights of recent seasons include her debut at the BBC Proms in 2010, and with England's Academy of St. Martin in the Fields, which she joined in 2013 for a 16-city U.S. tour.

Committed to expanding the cello repertoire, Weilerstein is an ardent champion of new music. She gave the New York premiere of Matthias Pintscher's *Reflections on Narcissus* under the composer's own direction during the New York Philharmonic's inaugural 2014 Biennial, and has worked extensively with Osvaldo Golijov, who rewrote *Azul* for cello and orchestra (originally premiered by Yo-Yo Ma) for her New York premiere performance at the opening of the 2007 Mostly Mozart Festival. Weilerstein has since played the work with orchestras around the world, besides frequently programming the Argentinean composer's *Omaramor* for solo cello. At the 2008 Caramoor festival, she gave the world premiere of Lera Auerbach's 24 Preludes for Violoncello and Piano with the composer at the keyboard, and the two have subsequently reprised the work at the Schleswig-Holstein Festival, the Kennedy Center, and for San Francisco Performances. Joseph Hallman, a 2014 Grammy Award nominee, has also written multiple works for Weilerstein, including a cello concerto that she premiered with the St. Petersburg Philharmonic in 2008, and a trio that she premieres on tour with Barnatan and clarinetist Anthony McGill in the spring of 2017.

Weilerstein has appeared at major music festivals throughout the world, including Aspen, Bad Kissingen, Delft, Edinburgh, Jerusalem Chamber Music, La Jolla SummerFest, Mostly Mozart, Salzburg, Schleswig-Holstein, Tanglewood, and Verbier. In addition to her appearances as a soloist and recitalist, Weilerstein performs regularly as a chamber musician. She has been part of a core group of musicians at the Spoleto Festival USA for the past eight years and also performs with her parents, Donald and Vivian Hornik Weilerstein, as the Weilerstein Trio, the trio-in-residence at Boston's New England Conservatory.

The cellist is the winner of both Lincoln Center's 2008 Martin E. Segal prize for exceptional achievement and the 2006 Leonard Bernstein Award. She received an Avery Fisher Career Grant in 2000 and was selected for two prestigious young artists programs in the 2000-01 season: the ECHO (European Concert Hall Organization) "Rising Stars" recital series and the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center's Chamber Music Society Two.

Born in 1982, Weilerstein discovered her love for the cello at just two and a half, when her grandmother assembled a makeshift set of instruments from cereal boxes to entertain her while she was ill with chicken pox. Although immediately drawn to the Rice Krispies box cello, Weilerstein soon grew frustrated that it didn't produce any sound. After persuading her parents to buy her a real cello at the age of four, she developed a natural affinity for the instrument and gave her first public performance six months later. At 13, in October 1995, she played Tchaikovsky's "Rococo" Variations for her Cleveland Orchestra debut, and in March 1997 she made her first Carnegie Hall appearance with the New York Youth Symphony. A graduate of the Young Artist Program at the Cleveland Institute of Music, where she studied with Richard Weiss, the cellist also holds a degree in history from Columbia University, from which she graduated in May 2004. In November 2008, Weilerstein, who was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes when she was nine, became a Celebrity Advocate for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. For more information, see <http://alisaweilerstein.com/>