

Biography for Programs: Short

Leah Gale Nelson, violin, specializes in historical performance practice of the 17th and 18th centuries. Based in New York, she has served as concertmaster with Chicago Opera Theater in Chicago and New York; a guest director for Lyra Baroque Orchestra in Minneapolis; and as concertmaster for some of the finest choirs in New York City in repertoire from Monteverdi to Mozart. She produced several seasons of concerts in New York as founder of Gotham City Baroque Orchestra and a chamber group, Louis Louis. These days, she collaborates with other artists, dancers, filmmakers, stage and choral directors, joining early music and historical practice with modern performance.

This season she continues her traversal of the 16 “Mystery Sonatas” of H.I.F. Biber in concerts at the Church of St. Luke in the Fields in New York and also in Minneapolis at the Basilica of St. Mary. She is the string coach for the New York Continuo Collective, and has been a guest lecturer at Columbia University, Vassar College, the College of St. Benedict/St. John's University, and the Schubert Club in St. Paul. She has performed with leading early music ensembles throughout the United States, including the The Clarion Music Society, Concert Royal, American Classical Orchestra, Boston Camerata, Dallas Bach Society, and the Smithsonian Chamber Orchestra. Born in Texas and raised in Minnesota, Leah holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Chicago Musical College and a Master of Music degree from the Mannes College of Music in New York.