

**Bard College**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**BARD COLLEGE CONSERVATORY ORCHESTRA ANNOUNCES  
2014 EUROPE TOUR****Bard Music Festival Programs, Conducted by Leon Botstein, Featured in June  
Performances in Major European Cities**

ANNANDALE-ON-HUDSON, N.Y.—In June, the **orchestra of The Bard College Conservatory of Music**, conducted by **Leon Botstein**, will tour major European cities including Moscow, St. Petersburg, Budapest, Berlin, Warsaw, Vienna, Bratislava, and Prague. Two programs will be offered: *Shostakovich and His World*, with **world-renowned soprano Dawn Upshaw** as soloist in Lutoslawski's *Chantefleurs et Chantefables*, as well as the Shostakovich Symphony No. 15, Rossini's *William Tell* Overture, and Siegfried's Funeral March from Wagner's *Götterdämmerung*; and a second program, *Copland and His World*, featuring a Martinů-Bartók-Copland program with **internationally acclaimed pianist Peter Serkin** as soloist in Bartók's Third Piano Concerto.

Joining a rare natural warmth with a fierce commitment to the transforming communicative power of music, five-time Grammy Award winner **Dawn Upshaw** has achieved worldwide celebrity as a singer of opera and concert repertoire ranging from the sacred works of Bach to the freshest sounds of today. Her ability to reach to the heart of music and text has earned her both the devotion of an exceptionally diverse audience and the awards and distinctions accorded to only the most distinguished of artists. In 2007, she was named a Fellow of the MacArthur Foundation—the first vocal artist to be awarded the five-year “genius” prize—and in 2008 she became a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

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Recognized as an artist of passion and integrity, the distinguished American pianist **Peter Serkin** is one of the most thoughtful and individualistic musicians appearing today. Throughout his career, he has conveyed the essence of five centuries of repertoire, and his performances with symphony orchestras—as well as his recital appearances, chamber music collaborations, and recordings—are respected worldwide. Serkin’s rich musical heritage extends back several generations: his grandfather was violinist and composer Adolf Busch and his father pianist Rudolf Serkin. Serkin’s recording, with Alexander Schneider and the English Chamber Orchestra, of the six Mozart concerti composed in 1784 was nominated for a Grammy Award and received the prestigious Deutsche Schallplatten as well as Best Recording of the Year by *Stereo Review* magazine.

A statement from Classical Movements, the official concert touring company for the European trip, said, “Having taken a number of highly regarded orchestras on tour in our 21 years of managing concert tours that include the Philadelphia Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra, and Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, we are proud to be taking the orchestra of The Bard College Conservatory of Music on this extensive tour. The rare combination of an elite private liberal arts college and a college president who is also a widely recognized orchestra conductor produces a remarkable program of exceptional music. The world is coming to recognize the extraordinary talents of young people, and the orchestra of Bard is an outstanding example of young musicians of the highest caliber. Of course all that, combined with soloists of the highest level, is a rare and fine combination. It is no surprise that many of the best halls in Russia, Hungary, Poland, Austria, Germany, and the Czech Republic have invited these wonderful musicians to perform, where the orchestra will be presenting a challenging and singular program that will enthrall audiences. It shows how people all over the world are eager to hear this orchestra.”

The 2014 Europe tour incorporates key aspects of the annual **Bard Music Festival** (BMF), now in its 25th year. BMF promotes new ways of understanding and presenting the history of music to a contemporary audience by choosing a single composer each season to explore in depth—through the composer’s biography, influences and consequences of that composer’s achievement, and all aspects of the musical culture surrounding the time and place of the composer’s life. The festival links music to the worlds of literature, painting, theater, philosophy, and politics and seeks to bridge the worlds of performance and scholarship in new and exciting ways. For information or to purchase concert tickets, please visit [www.bard.edu/conservatory](http://www.bard.edu/conservatory) or call 845-758-7866.

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**2014 EUROPEAN TOUR SCHEDULE**  
**Orchestra of the Bard College Conservatory of Music**  
**Leon Botstein, Conductor**  
**June 7–23**

**June 7 at 6 p.m.**

*Shostakovich and His World*  
Warsaw Philharmonic Concert Hall  
Presented by the Warsaw Philharmonic

**June 9 at 7 p.m.**

*Copland and His World*  
St. Petersburg, Mariinsky Theatre  
Presented by the Mariinsky Theatre as part of the White Nights Festival

**June 11 at 7 p.m.**

*Shostakovich and His World*  
Great Hall of Moscow Conservatory  
Presented by the Moscow Conservatory

**June 14 at 7:30 p.m.**

*Copland and His World*  
Budapest, Great Hall, Liszt Academy  
Presented by Liszt Academy of Music

**June 17 at 7 p.m.**

*Shostakovich and His World*  
Bratislava, Slovak Radio Concert Hall  
Presented by The Prague Concert Co.

**June 18 at 7:30 p.m.**

*Copland and His World*  
Vienna, Konzerthaus  
Presented by Jeunesse Musicales Austria

**June 21 at 7 p.m.**

*Shostakovich and His World*  
Prague, Rudolfinum, Dvořák Hall  
Presented by The Prague Concert Co.

**June 23 at 8 p.m.**

*Copland and His World*  
Berlin, Konzerthaus  
Presented by Bard College Berlin

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**PROGRAM ONE: SHOSTAKOVICH AND HIS WORLD**

**Gioachino Rossini** (1792–1868)

From *William Tell* (1829)

Overture

**Richard Wagner** (1813–83)

From *Götterdämmerung* (1874)

Siegfried's Funeral March

**Witold Lutoslawski** (1913–94)

*Chantefleurs et Chantefables* (Song Flowers and Song Fables) (1990) (Desnos)

La Belle-de-nuit

La Sauterelle

La Véronique

L'Églantine, l'aubépine et la glycine

La Tortue

La Rose

L'Alligator

L'Angélique

Le Papillon

*Dawn Upshaw, soprano*

INTERMISSION

**Dmitrii Shostakovich** (1906–75)

Symphony No. 15 in A Major, Op. 141 (1971)

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**PROGRAM TWO: COPLAND AND HIS WORLD**

**Bohuslav Martinů** (1890–1959)

*Memorial to Lidice*, H. 296 (1943)

**Béla Bartók** (1881–1945)

Piano Concerto No. 3 in E Major, BB 127 (1945)

*Peter Serkin, piano*

INTERMISSION

**Aaron Copland** (1900–90)

Symphony No. 3 (1944–46)

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### **About the Bard Music Festival**

Leon Botstein, Christopher H. Gibbs, and Robert Martin, Artistic Directors

Irene Zedlacher, Executive Director

Raissa St. Pierre '87, Associate Director

The Bard Music Festival was founded in 1990 to promote new ways of understanding and presenting the history of music to a contemporary audience. Each year, a single composer is chosen as the main subject. The composer's biography, the influences and consequences of that composer's achievement, and all aspects of the musical culture surrounding the time and place of the composer's life are explored. Perhaps the most important dimensions of the festival are the ways in which it links music to the worlds of literature, painting, theater, philosophy, and politics and brings two kinds of audiences together: those with a long history of interest in concert life and first-time listeners, who find the festival an ideal place to learn about and enjoy the riches of our musical past.

The festival also seeks to bridge the worlds of performance and scholarship in new and exciting ways. As a result of this collaboration, each concert is curated and the concert format varies, so that different genres and instrumental groupings appear in a single program, breaking the mold of the standard vocal recital, piano recital, or quartet concert. Concerts are complemented by informative preconcert talks, panel discussions by renowned musicians and scholars, and special events. In addition, Princeton University Press each season publishes a book of essays, translations, and correspondence relating to the festival's central figure. For the 25th anniversary season, the Bard Music Festival will present "Schubert and His World" from August 8 to 17, 2014.

### **About the Bard College Conservatory Orchestra**

The Bard College Conservatory Orchestra—which in the past four years has performed twice at Lincoln Center in New York, at Harvard University's Sanders Theatre, and in Taipei, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Beijing, Tianjing, Guangzhou, and Wuhan during a three-week concert tour of Asia—consists of 90 gifted students. The Bard College Conservatory of Music, founded in 2005 as a special five-year, double-degree program within Bard College, has a world-class faculty that includes soprano Dawn Upshaw, pianist Peter Serkin, and violinists Weigang Li and Ida Kavafian, to name just a few. Students are recruited from all over the world, including China, Canada, Israel, South Korea, Ukraine, Hungary, Czech Republic, Taiwan, Slovakia, Germany, Venezuela, Mexico, and the United States.

Following the Bard College Conservatory Orchestra's performance at Sanders Theatre in May 2011, critic David Griesinger wrote: "From the first notes it was obvious that these young players understood what was to come... This was easily the most moving performance of this amazing piece [Shostakovich Symphony No. 5] that I have heard. Special credit goes, of course, to Botstein, but he had the help of some magnificent playing..."

For additional information about the Conservatory and its graduate programs, please visit [www.bard.edu/conservatory](http://www.bard.edu/conservatory).

### **About Leon Botstein**

Leon Botstein, music director of the Bard College Conservatory Orchestra, has been music director and principal conductor of the American Symphony Orchestra since 1992. In 2011 he became conductor laureate of the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, where he served as music director since 2003. He is founder and artistic codirector of the Bard Music Festival, now in its 25th year, and of the

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renowned Bard SummerScape festival. He has been president of Bard College in New York since 1975.

Botstein has guest conducted major orchestras throughout the world, including the St. Petersburg Philharmonic and the Russian National Philharmonic in Moscow; the ORF in Vienna; the Budapest Festival Orchestra, Concerto Budapest, and Budapest Philharmonic in Budapest; and the Slovak Philharmonic in Bratislava. Among his recordings are operas by Strauss, Dukas, and Chausson, as well as works of Shostakovich, Dohnányi, Liszt, Bruckner, Bartók, Hartmann, Reger, Glière, Szymanowski, Brahms, Copland, Sessions, Perle, and Rands. Many live recordings with the American Symphony Orchestra are now available online to download.

Botstein is editor of *The Musical Quarterly* and the author of numerous articles and books. For his contributions to music he has received the award of the American Academy of Arts and Letters and Harvard University's prestigious Centennial Award, as well as the Cross of Honor, First Class, from the government of Austria. He is a 2009 recipient of the Carnegie Foundation's Academic Leadership Award, and in 2010 he was inducted into the American Philosophical Society. He received the 2012 Leonard Bernstein Award for the Elevation of Music in Society. In 2013 he earned the Bruckner Society's Julio Kilenyi Medal of Honor.

### **About Bard College**

Founded in 1860, Bard is a four-year residential college of the liberal arts and sciences. The campus, a fusion of two historic riverfront estates, is located in the Hudson Valley. The College offers the bachelor of arts degree with concentrations in more than 40 academic programs in four divisions: Arts; Languages and Literature; Science, Mathematics, and Computing; and Social Studies; and a five-year B.A./B.S. degree in economics and finance. Through a five-year program with The Bard College Conservatory of Music, students earn a B.Music degree and a B.A. in a field other than music.

Bard offers the following graduate degrees: master of fine arts; master of arts in curatorial studies; master of arts, master of philosophy, and doctor of philosophy in decorative arts, design history, material culture; master of science in economic theory and policy; master of science in environmental policy and in climate science and policy; master of business administration in sustainability; master of arts in teaching; and master of music in vocal arts and in conducting. Several graduate dual degrees also are offered.

Bard's campus is a center from which students can explore the rich natural and cultural life of the Hudson Valley. Within a half-hour's drive of the campus are many of the great Hudson Valley mansions and historic sites.

With its deep commitment to civic engagement, Bard is a private institution that acts in the public interest. Bard undertakes and fosters initiatives that reflect its principles — innovation, ambition, risk taking, and a fundamental belief in the link between liberal education and democracy. What distinguishes Bard is its willingness and ability to promote and sustain long-term projects that engage its students, faculty, and administrators with some of the most important issues facing society. Whether in social service organizations in the Hudson Valley; in prisons; in high schools in New York, Newark, and New Orleans; or in universities in Russia, the West Bank, and Kyrgyzstan, Bard is always innovating and engaging.

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