

 **Bard College Conservatory of Music**

Degree Recital
Natalia Dziubelski

Sunday, April 28th, 2024
1:00pm in Bito CPS

Empfindungen am Meere, Op. 12

Franz Strauss
(1822-1905)

Cello Sonata No. 1, Op. 38
I. Allegro non troppo

Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)

Alla Caccia

Alan Abbott
(1926-2008)

Natalia Dziubelski, *horn*
Viktoria Sarkadi, *piano*

–*Intermission- 15 minutes*–

Midsummer Night’s Dream, Op. 61
Nocturne

Felix Mendelssohn
(1930-2020)

Natalia Dziubelski, *horn*
Sabrina Schettler, *horn*
Alberto Arias Flores, *horn*
Liri Ronen, *horn*
Hugo Valverde, *horn*
Danika Dortch, *horn*
Felix Johnson, *horn*
Mindy Holthe, *horn*
Emmanuel Rojas, *conductor*

Horn Trio, Op. 40
I. Andante
IV. Allegro con brio

Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)

Natalia Dziubelski, *horn*
Christopher Nelson, *violin*
Wan-Ling Chen, *piano*

Natalia Dziubelski is a Polish-American french horn player studying at Bard college under the tutelage of Metropolitan opera musicians, Barbara Jostlein and Hugo Valverde. Natalia has participated in multiple youth orchestras, including the New York Youth Symphony Orchestra, with whom she regularly performed with at Carnegie Hall, as well as won a Grammy for Best Orchestral Performance under conductor Michael Repper and with producer Judith Sherman. Through the dual degree program, she is pursuing a degree in music performance as well as physics, in which she has completed her thesis *Theoretical Foundations of Quantum Computing and the Implementation of the Quantum Fourier Transform* as well as has been named Bard College's Alexander Borodin scholar. She can be seen performing with the Bard Conservatory Orchestra, the Orchestra Now, and around the Hudson Valley.

Viktória Sarkadi is a Hungarian collaborative pianist and music educator who is passionate about engaging with communities through music. She believes that music plays a crucial role in treating loneliness and building relationships. Viktória has worked with Live Music Now, an organization in Scotland, which brings live performances to non-traditional spaces and diverse audiences. Viktória also serves as co-artistic director and chamber music coach at the Allegro Summer School in Hungary, an annual chamber music workshop that brings early experiences of shared music making to children aged 9 to 18. Since arriving in the United States in 2022, Viktória has appeared in numerous recitals in the Hudson Valley including at Bard College, the Stissing Center, and the Henry A. Wallace Center. She has also performed at the Liszt Institute in New York City showcasing solo and chamber works by American and Hungarian composers, and most recently, at St Peter's Church, presenting early song cycles by György Ligeti. At Bard, she works extensively with the Vocal Arts Program and instrumentalists.

Raised in Southern California, **Christopher Nelson** is a violinist that has performed music ranging in style from Monteverdi to Kurtág. He has attended several prominent music festivals including the Aspen Music Festival, National Repertory Orchestra, Round Top Festival Institute, Taconic Chamber Intensive, and the Fellowship String Quartet Program at Madeline Island Chamber Music. Influential teachers Christopher has studied with include William Fitzpatrick, Moni Simeonov, Daniel Phillips, Paul Kantor, and Gail Mellert. In 2022, Christopher began studies at the Bitó Conservatory of Music at Bard College (MM '24) where he is currently a student of Carmit Zori in the Graduate Instrumental Arts Program. He holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Chapman University's Hall-Musco Conservatory of Music '20.

Wan-Ling Chen, raised in Kaohsiung Taiwan, started learning piano at the age of 5 and began to learn percussion at the age of 9. In 2023, she earned a Masters degree in Collaborative Piano from the National Taiwan Normal University. She is currently studying collaborative piano at Bard College in New York.

Danika Dortch is currently in her third year at Bard College Conservatory, pursuing Bachelor's degrees in French Horn Performance and the Written Arts. She started playing the french horn at the age of 9 in Lindenhurst, Illinois. At 13, she started performing with the Midwest Young Artists Conservatory, and now appears with the Bard College Conservatory Orchestra and the Bard College Community Orchestra. She currently studies with Barbara Jöstlein Currie and Hugo Valverde of the Metropolitan Opera.

Felix Johnson is a horn player in the APS Program at the Bard Conservatory studying under Barbara Jöstlein Currie and Hugo Valverde of the Metropolitan Opera. At Bard College as an undergrad, he was a philosophy major with a particular interest in 20th-century political theory. His senior project, titled *Decentralized Perfectionism: a Critique of Contractarianism and Bureaucracy through the Inspiration of Nietzsche*, received the William E. Lensing Prize and was nominated for the Irma Brandeis Award. He also works for the Bard Prison Initiative at the Fishkill and Eastern Correctional Facilities and as a research assistant with members of Bard's faculty. As a horn player, Felix was a member of the Empire State Youth Orchestra, graduated from the Interlochen Arts Academy in 2018, where he received the Brass Department Award, and has participated in various summer festivals including Domaine Forget in Saint-Irénée, Quebec, and the Curtis Summerfest in Philadelphia, PA.

Alberto Arias Flores is a French horn player from Venezuela studying under the tutelage of Barbara Jöstlein Currie and Hugo Valverde at Bard Conservatory of Music in the APS program (Advanced Performance Student). He began his musical studies in 2010 at the Conservatory Vicente Emilio Sojo and El Sistema in Barquisimeto, Lara. He was a member of the National Children's Symphony Orchestra of Venezuela in 2013 and participated in the Salzburg Festival under Sir

Simon Rattle. In addition, he performed with the Lara Youth Symphony Orchestra in 2014 and Lara Symphony Orchestra in 2017 with great conductors like Gustavo Dudamel and Christian Vásquez. He graduated in 2023 from Bard Conservatory of Music with a double degree in music performance and French studies. He has a particular interest in history, philosophy and languages aside from music, something he portrayed in his senior thesis titled *French Composers as Intellectuals: Music and Politics in Early 20th Century France*, receiving the William Weaver Prize. Alberto also has performed in the Miami Music Festival, the Bard Music Festival and other institutions like the Classical Music Institute of San Antonio Symphony Orchestra, The Opera of San Antonio Orchestra and The Orchestra Now.

Sabrina Schettler is a fourth year in the conservatory studying horn performance and biology. She is taught by Barbara Jostlein-Cürrie and Hugo Valverde. She graduated from Interlochen Arts Academy in 2020 and attended the Vienna Summer Music Festival in 2022.

Hugo Valverde carries a professional orchestral and solo career in the United States and his native Costa Rica as a Horn Section member The Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. A dedicated educator, Mr. Valverde has been involved in pedagogical programs in the United States and Latin America, giving masterclasses for the Orchestra of the Americas, Yale University School of Music, Manhattan School of Music, New York University, among others. During the pandemic he created the project “Lockdown Warmups”, which offered 40+ free masterclasses and professional online coaching from renown musicians from orchestras all over the world for young Latin American horn players. He is currently on faculty at the Bard College Conservatory of Music and the Precollege Division at Manhattan School of Music. Mr. Valverde studied at the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University in Houston, Texas, Lynn University Conservatory of Music in Boca Raton, Florida and the National Music Institute in San José, Costa Rica. His main teachers are Daniel León, Luis Murillo, Gregory Miller and William VerMeulen.

Mindy Holthe is a versatile horn player from Kansas City, Missouri and is in her final semester as a Master's student at the Bard College Conservatory. She is a Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Scholar and obtained her BM in Horn Performance from the Manhattan School of Music. In addition to performing with the Bard Conservatory Orchestra, she can be seen in ensembles such as The Orchestra Now, the Woodstock Orchestra, and Northern Dutchess Symphony Orchestra.

Liri Ronen is an Israeli-American French Horn player and composer currently residing in the Hudson Valley in upstate NY. As a Bard College Conservatory alumni, He performs regularly with Bard ensembles, as well as in local concerts such as Kinderhook’s “Concerts in the Village”, and “Jazz & Classics for Change” - a chamber concert series curated by pianist Gili Lev.

Los Angeles-born conductor **Emmanuel Rojas** has served as assistant conductor of the USC Thornton Symphony for Carl St. Clair, Sharon Lavery, and Brent McMunn for both orchestral and opera productions. In Spring 2024, he will assist James Bagwell for the Bard VAP’s opera production of Jacques Offenbach’s *Orphée aux enfers* and will lead the Orchestra Now (TÖN) in presenting excerpts from Richard Strauss’ *Der Rosenkavalier*. Emmanuel started his graduate studies at the Thornton School of Music at the University of Southern California, earning a MM in bass trombone performance in 2017 and concurrently finishing his DMA at USC as he’s earning a MM in Orchestral Conducting here at Bard. At USC he studied bass trombone with Terry Cravens of the Los Angeles Opera Orchestra, opera conducting with Brent McMunn, stage direction with Ken Cazan, and voice with Rodney Gilfry. Emmanuel currently studies with maestros James Bagwell and Leon Botstein.