

Degree Recital:
Miles Wazni, *clarinet*
with Neilson Chen, *piano*

Friday, May 16, 2025, 8:00PM, Laszlo Z. Bito Conservatory Building

J.S. Bach **Chromatic Fantasia, BWV 903**
(1685-1750)

Charles-Marie Widor **Introduction et Rondo**
(1844-1937)

Arthur Bliss **Clarinet Quintet, F. 20**
(1891-1975)

- I. Moderato
- II. Allegro molto
- III. Adagietto espressione
- IV. Allegro energico

Isabel Chin-Garita, Hadi Masood, *violins*
Guy Levy, *viola*
Raman Ramakrishnan, *cello*

Intermission

Nino Rota **Sonata for Clarinet in D Major**
(1911-1979)

- I. Allegro scorrevole
- II. Andante (quasi adagio)
- III. Allegro scorrevole

Carl Maria von Weber **Grand Duo Concertante, op. 48**
(1786-1826)

- I. Allegro con fuoco
- II. Andante con moto
- III. Rondo: allegro

Miles Wazni is a clarinetist from New Haven, Connecticut, and is currently in his last year of dual degree undergraduate study receiving a B.M. in clarinet performance from Bard Conservatory of Music and a B.A. in Philosophy from Bard College. His philosophy senior thesis explored the philosophy and aesthetics of Arthur Schopenhauer and its influence among Richard Wagner and his compositional language, as well as Wagner's own thought in his magnum opus opera, *Tristan und Isolde*. While in his hometown of New Haven, Miles participated in the Morse Academy at the Yale School of Music for multiple years, a music program designed to bring classical music education and experience to students of underfunded public schools, taught by Yale School of Music students and faculty. In 2024 and 2025, Miles returned to Morse Academy as a teaching artist, teaching young students in the same program his love for music was born from. More recently, Miles participated in the Young Artist Program at the Curtis Institute of Music, studying with Curtis Institute faculty and clarinetists of the Philadelphia Orchestra. Miles was a member of the New Haven Youth Orchestra and the CMEA All-State orchestra for several years consecutively, and won the New Haven Concerto Competition, performing as a featured soloist with the New Haven Chamber Orchestra. Miles also won the 2023 Bard Conservatory Concerto Competition, and performed as a soloist with The Orchestra Now and Maestro Leon Botstein in their 24-25' season. Miles was one of few finalists of the 2023 Ruggiero International Clarinet Competition, and also received an honorable mention award for the 2024 Yamaha Young Artist Competition. While in New Haven, Miles studied with clarinetist Sam Boutris for 5 years, and now studies with Pascual Martínez-Forteza and David Krakauer. Later this year, Miles will be starting his Master's Degree at The Juilliard School, studying with Grammy nominated and Avery Fisher Prize recipient, principal clarinetist of the New York Philharmonic, Anthony McGill.

Dr. Neilson Chen, a native of Taiwan, is a highly sought-after recitalist and collaborative pianist, whose thoughtful interpretations and dazzling technique have been described by the L.A. Times as "stunning." The recipient of Master's degrees from Taiwan and the University of Texas at Austin and a Doctor of Musical Arts from Arizona State University, Neilson has studied under such esteemed teachers as Constance Lee, Anne Epperson and Dr. Andrew Campbell. Currently, he is a Collaborative Pianist at The Orchestra Now (TÖN) and Bard College-Conservatory of Music as well as a Collaborative Pianist in Residence at Meadowmount School of Music. Over the course of his career, Neilson has been the recipient of many prestigious honors and awards, including winning the inaugural Duo Competition at Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara, in 2019. Performing extensively throughout the United States and internationally, he has concertized in Germany, Luxemburg, France, Ireland, Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan. Honored to have performed in renowned venues, he appeared at the National Concert Hall in Taiwan in conjunction with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, and in 2023 was the pianist for Bard College's performances at Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. As a staff pianist for summer music festivals, worldwide appearances have included the Kathaumixw Choir Festival in Canada, Saarburg International Music Festival in Germany, the Vianden Music Festival and School in Luxemburg, and Rocky Ridge Music Center in Colorado. Recent collaborations with prestigious artists include Joshua Bell, Milena Pajaro-van de Stadt, Luosha Fang, Janet Sung, Raman Ramakrishnan and members of the Juilliard String Quartet. Committed to fostering the talent of younger musicians, Neilson is esteemed by many musicians as a colleague and a mentor.

Isabel Chin Garita is in her fourth year at Bard College and Conservatory pursuing a dual degree in psychology and violin performance. She is currently under the instruction of Adele Anthony and Gil Shaham and has previously studied at Project STEP (String Training Education Program), Project BEAM (Bridge to Equity and Achievement in Music), and the New England Conservatory Preparatory School. During the summer, she has attended the Bowdoin International Music Festival and the Aspen Music Festival and School. She is also passionate about sharing music with her community and is a mentor for young music students through the Musical Mentorship Initiative.

Hadi Masood is an undergraduate violinist in his third year in the Bard Conservatory. He is pursuing majors in violin performance, in the studio of Erica Kiesewetter, and historical studies. Hadi hails from Billings, Montana, where he performed with the Billings Symphony Orchestra, and later with the Fargo-Moorhead Symphony Orchestra in Fargo, North Dakota, with which he appeared as soloist performing Prokofiev's Violin Concerto No. 1. He is passionate about chamber and orchestral performance, music history and pedagogy.

Guy Levy, 24 years old, born and raised in Israel, started his undergraduate degree in classical music-performance program in Tel-Aviv university and transferred to Bard College after two years. Now he is in his senior year, graduating also in psychology as part of the double degree program of the conservatory in Bard. Guy is currently part of Professor Brian J. Hong viola studio and in the past was a student of Professor Molly Carr, Lilach Levanon and Ema Elishov. Guy participated in top programs in Israel for excellence musicians such as: Jerusalem center-"Mishkenot Sha'ananim", David Goldman program, Huberman program, Muthetica program, and served as Principal Player in Tel-Aviv academy orchestra, and the youth Israeli philharmonic orchestra under the button of Lahav Shani, Krzysztof Chorzelski, Benjamin Zander and many more. Additionally, Guy has received awards from the Ronen Foundation and the America-Israel Cultural Foundation.

Cellist **Raman Ramakrishnan** enjoys performing chamber music, old and new, around the world. For two decades, as a founding member of the Horszowski Trio and the Daedalus Quartet, he toured extensively through North and South America, Europe, and Asia, and recorded for Bridge Records and Avie Records. Mr. Ramakrishnan is currently a member of the Boston Chamber Music Society, and is on the faculty of the Bard College Conservatory of Music. In the summers, he has performed at the Marlboro, Vail, Portland, and Kingston Chamber Music festivals, and served on the faculties of the Kneisel Hall and Norfolk Chamber Music Festivals.