



Bard College Conservatory of Music

20 Years of Music, Vision, and Excellence

Faculty Recital

Hugo Valverde, *horn*
with Guest Artist Enriqueta Somarriba, *piano*

Saturday, January 31, 2026 at 5:00 pm
László Z. Bitó '60 Conservatory Building, Performance Space

Sur Les Cimes

Eugène Bozza
(1905-1991)

Divertimento

Introduzione
Aria di Cantabile
Canzonetta

Jean Françaix
(1912-1997)

Enchanted Forest (2013)

In the Woods
Whispers in the wind
Enchanted Forest

Karen Tanaka
(b. 1961)

Imaginings (2017)

Dorothy Gates

– Intermission –

Sonatina (2022)

Animado
Expresivo
Con gracia

Roberto Sierra
(b. 1953)

Cantilène

Jeanine Rueff
(1922-1999)

Sonata para Corno y Piano

Vivace
Molto rubato. Tempo de Habanera
Allegro

Manuel Matarrita
(b. 1972)

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

French horn player **Hugo Valverde** enjoys a prolific career in the United States and abroad as an orchestral player and soloist, currently holding the Second Horn position at the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra in New York City.

Other commitments as an orchestral musician include performances with the National Symphony Orchestra of his native Costa Rica, The Philadelphia Orchestra, The Los Angeles Philharmonic, The Houston Symphony and the New York City Ballet Orchestra, as well as festivals such as Classical Tahoe in Nevada, The Strings Music Festival Brass Ensemble in Colorado, The Orchestra of the Americas on their Eastern Canada Tour and The Pacific Music Festival in Sapporo, Japan.

In his role as a soloist he has performed with the Lynn Philharmonia, the Costa Rican National Symphony Orchestra and the Heredia Symphony Orchestra. Amongst these performances, highlights include the premier of the piece “Tributo al Ciudadano Pablo” by Marvin Camacho, commissioned and dedicated to Mr. Valverde. This reflects his commitment to Latin American repertoire, having also performed and premiered pieces by fellow Costa Rican pianist and composer Manuel Matarrita. This piece will be performed today as part of this recital.

Mr. Valverde often performs chamber music concerts with his colleagues of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall and throughout New York City. He has appeared as a performer with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, and with the Parlance Chamber Series in Ridgewood, New Jersey.

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, Bard College Conservatory of Music, National Conservatory of Music of Puerto Rico, The Blackburn Music Academy in Napa Valley, San Jose State University, Austin Peay University, New World School of the Arts, University of Panama School of Music and the University of Costa Rica, among others.

During the pandemic he created the project “Lockdown Warmups”, which offered 40+ free masterclasses and professional coaching for young Latin American students, inviting musicians from prestigious orchestras and music institutions across the Americas, Europe and Asia. Mr. Valverde is a faculty member at the Bard College Conservatory of Music and the Precollege Division at Manhattan School of Music.

A native of Costa Rica, 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.

Spanish pianist **Enriqueta Somarriba** thrives in a prolific and versatile career as a sought-after performer, music educator and arts administrator, both in the United States and Europe.

Praised by the New York Concert Review for her “aplomb” and her “natural, individual interpretation”, Somarriba performs regularly in the US East Coast, in venues such as Carnegie Hall, New Jersey State Theatre, Organization of American States in Washington D.C., Pregones Theatre, Cervantes Institute, Richardson Auditorium, Center for Jewish History of New York, Zimmerli Art Museum, and Roulette, among others. She has also performed frequently in European halls, festivals and concert series, such as the Auditorio Nacional de Música de Madrid, Centro Nacional de Difusión Musical (Cuenca, Spain), Festival de Música y Danza de Granada, Kasteel d’Ursel (Antwerp, Belgium), Festival dels Horts (Valencia, Spain) and Sala dei Notari (Perugia, Italy)

As a soloist, Somarriba has performed with the Orquesta Andrés Segovia, Virtuosi Brunensis Orchestra, Orquesta Fórum Musicae and Rutgers Symphonic Orchestra. Her performances have been

broadcasted in the Spanish National Radio, 98.7 WFMT Chicago, Veracruz Television-Radio (México) and 89.1 WWFM Radio. Dr. Somarriba can be heard as solo pianist and chamber musician in several recordings, such as the soundtrack of the Netflix feature film “Dancing on Glass” by composer Iván Palomares, which was nominated for the Spanish Film Academy Awards (‘Goyas’) in 2023. She also recorded for MSR Classics label as part of the album featuring the 4-hand piano music by US composer Paul Reale, in collaboration with The Center for Musical Excellence.

Dr. Somarriba carries a mission to promote Ibero-American music in the US, often curating concerts and lectures with emphasis on new music by Spanish and Latin American composers, in institutions such as Cornell University, Manhattan School of Music, Cervantes Institute of New York, Georgetown University, University of Michigan, Peabody Conservatory and Cuarto Festival de Perfeccionamiento Pianístico (Mexico). Among her broad, new music repertoire, highlights include music by Nico Muhly, Benet Casablanca, Tania León, Vijay Iyer, Mercedes Zavala, Jesús Torres, Virginia Johnston, Roberto Sierra, Voro García, Catalina Mayorga, JP Jofre, Aina Sandoval, Patricio Molina, George Walker, Teresa Catalán, Ricardo Lorenz and Sebastián Vergara.

She has also brought forth music by composers who deserve a wider presence in concert programs, including Isidro Maiztegui, Valerie Capers, Ruth Crawford-Seeger, Joaquín Nin-Culmell, Rosa García-Ascot, Roberto Gerhard, Salvador Bacarisse, Julián Bautista, and others. In 2018, Ms. Somarriba participated in a project carried by Indiana University and Rutgers University, led by musicologist Halina Goldberg, to rescue the works by Polish-Jewish composers who had been silenced the Holocaust. In addition, in 2021, she performed at Carnegie Hall in collaboration with the Notes for Growth Foundation, presenting rare, Pan-American music of indigenous roots, in a fundraising effort to provide pianos to children in need.

As a collaborative pianist, Enriqueta Somarriba performs regularly with members of the Metropolitan Opera and Philadelphia Orchestras.

Somarriba is an award-winner of national and international competitions, including the New York Chamber Players Concerto Competition, Pianos and Artists Competition, Veguellina de Órbigo, Jacinto Guerrero, Hazen-Intercentros and Manuel Rojas Competitions, and has obtained grants from Juventudes Musicales de Madrid, Mutua Madrileña and the Association of Spanish Performers (AIE).

Dr. Somarriba combines her performance career with the arts administration: she currently holds the position of Director of Education and Community at SpeakMusic Conservatory in NJ, where she focuses on developing educational music programs for a diverse community of students of all ages, while being part of the school’s piano faculty since 2015. Dr. Somarriba is also Instrumental Faculty at The Spence School. Previous teaching engagements include instructor of Piano Proficiency at Rutgers University, Piano Faculty at Rutgers’ Community Arts, and delivery of lectures and masterclasses in more than a dozen K-12 schools and children’s programs. Dr. Somarriba is a Board Member at the Piano Teachers Congress of New York and an Official Steinway & Sons Educational Partner.

She is also the Founder and Artistic Director of *Musica en el Sil*, a concert series in Ribeira Sacra, Spain, that connects innovative concert programs with wine culture, architecture and nature. She is the International Sales Manager in the US of her family’s winery, Ronsel do Sil, in Galicia, Spain, and is passionate about the wine world.

With Solomon Mikowsky, Fernando Puchol, Min Kwon, Inesa Sinkevych and Jerome Lowenthal as her most influential mentors, Somarriba holds degrees from the Madrid Royal Conservatory (B.M.), Chicago College of Performing Arts (M.M.) Manhattan School of Music (Professional Studies Certificate) and Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey (D.M.A.), where she received the Irene Alm Memorial Prize to Excellence in Performance and Scholarly Research.