

# Bard College Conservatory of Music

*Presents*

## **Resilience**

Desirée Ruhstrat, *violin*

Melissa Reardon, *viola*

Wendy Sutter, *cello*

Friday, October 2, 2026 at 7:00 pm

László Z. Bitó '60 Conservatory Building, Performance Space

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Trio in F-sharp Minor, op. 104 (1971)

Tranquillo con moto

Presto

Tema con variazioni

Hans Gál

(1890-1987)

Duo for Violin and Cello, WV 74 (1925)

Moderato

Zingaresca: Allegro giocoso

Andantino

Moderato

Erwin Schulhoff

(1894-1942)

String Trio (1944)

Allegro

Lento

Molto vivace

Gideon Klein

(1919-1945)

Tanz (1944)

Hans Krása

(1888-1944)

## ABOUT THE PROGRAM

**Resilience** is an intimate and deeply moving concert project in which three acclaimed artists of international stature come together to restore music silenced by the Holocaust to the living repertoire. Violinist Desirée Ruhstrat, violist Melissa Reardon, and cellist Wendy Sutter—each a leader in the classical music world—unite in a program devoted to extraordinary chamber works by composers whose lives and careers were shaped, interrupted, or extinguished by Nazi persecution. Through solo, duo, and string trio repertoire, Resilience offers both remembrance and renewal, allowing voices nearly erased by history to speak again with urgency and clarity.

The program features music by composers such as **Erwin Schulhoff, Gideon Klein, Schul, Hermann, and Hans Gál**, including Gál's String Trio in F-sharp minor, Op. 104 and Serenade, Op. 41. Alongside these recognized works, Resilience incorporates chamber pieces that have only recently resurfaced—some drawn directly from archival sources and private holdings, and in certain cases not performed publicly for decades, if not since the period immediately following the Second World War.

These works are presented not as historical artifacts, but as living music—expressive, daring, and profoundly human. The program's flexible structure alternates between solo, duo, and trio performances, creating contrast, intimacy, and narrative flow while highlighting the individuality of each composer's voice. Designed for chamber-scale halls and series, the concert can be adapted in length and format to suit a wide range of venues.

Violinist **Desirée Ruhstrat** brings to this project a long-standing commitment to rediscovering suppressed repertoire. As founder of the Black Oak Ensemble, her work on the acclaimed album *Silenced Voices*—recognized by the Chicago Tribune, Fanfare, and WQXR—has been instrumental in returning forgotten composers to the concert stage. Her scholarship and musical insight form a central pillar of Resilience.

She is joined by Grammy-nominated violist **Melissa Reardon**, a member of the Borromeo String Quartet, Artistic Director of the Portland Chamber Music Festival, and a faculty member at Bard Conservatory. Praised for her “elegant” and “virtuosic” performances, Reardon brings a wide-ranging artistic voice shaped by international touring, leadership in major chamber organizations, and collaborations across classical and contemporary traditions.

Cellist **Wendy Sutter**—hailed by the Wall Street Journal as “one of the great leading cellists of the classical stage”—completes the trio. Renowned for her intensity and expressive range, Sutter has performed as a soloist on five continents with major orchestras and leading conductors, while also shaping contemporary music through decades-long collaborations with composers including Philip Glass, Tan Dun, and Steve Reich. Her career bridges the classical canon and the modern avant-garde, bringing urgency and depth to music that demands remembrance. Together, Ruhstrat, Reardon, and Sutter form an ensemble of rare authority and sensitivity.

**Resilience** is more than a concert: it is an act of artistic restoration, a testament to creative endurance, and a powerful affirmation that music silenced by violence can—and must—be heard again.