

BARD COLLEGE CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

DEGREE RECITAL:

Femme Fatale

Alexis Seminario, *soprano*

Diana Borshcheva, *piano*

Blanche Darr, *violin*

Lily Moerschel, *cello*

Sunday, May 8, 2022, at 3 PM

László Z. Bitó '60 Conservatory Building

Bard College Conservatory of Music

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Bard Conservatory Orchestra

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Bard College Conservatory of Music expands Bard's spirit of innovation in arts and education. The Conservatory, which opened in 2005, offers a five-year, double-degree program at the undergraduate level and, at the graduate level, programs in vocal arts, conducting, and instrumental performance, as well as Chinese music and culture. Also at the graduate level, the Conservatory offers an Advanced Performance Studies Program and a two-year Post-graduate Collaborative Piano Fellowship. The US-China Music Institute of the Bard College Conservatory of Music, established in 2017, offers a unique degree program in Chinese instruments. The Conservatory Orchestra has performed twice at Lincoln Center, and has completed three international concert tours to China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan; Russia and six cities in Central and Eastern Europe; and to three cities in Cuba.

This year, the Conservatory has enrolled 175 undergraduate and graduate students from 20 different countries and 27 states. Many students hold named scholarships in recognition of their academic and musical excellence including the John Cage Trust Scholarship, Bettina Baruch Scholarship, Y. S. Liu Foundation Scholarship, Joan Tower Composition Scholarship, Alexander Borodin Scholarship, Robert Martin Scholarship, and Stephen and Belinda Kaye Scholarship, among others.

Bard College Conservatory Advisory Board

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Bard College Conservatory of Music
presents

Femme Fatale

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Revenge

“Well, I had no choice, did I, I’m a woman”

From *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*

Christopher Hampton

(b.1946)

From *Les Illuminations*

I. Fanfare

VII. Being Beauteous

Benjamin Britten

(1913–76)

Her Kind, from *Sexton Songs* (2004)

David Conte

(b. 1955)

From *Seven Romances on Poems by Alexander Blok* (1967)

I. Песня Офелии (Ophelia’s Song)

II. Гамаюн птица вещая (Gamayun Bird of Prophecy)

III. Мои были вместе (We Were Together)

Dmitri Shostakovich

(1906–75)

Invocation, from *Drawing Down the Moon* (2021)

Luke Duffy

(b. 1991)

Mother and Time

A Letter to My Daughter, from *Daughters* (1998)

Lori Laitman

(b. 1955)

Walpurgisnacht, from *Four Ballades and Romances, Op.75*
with Joanne Evans, *mezzo-soprano*

Johannes Brahms

(1833–97)

Ma première lettre

Cécile Chaminade

(1857–1944)

Intermission

Love

From *Vier Lieder, Op. 2*

I. Erwartung

II. Schenk mir deinen goldenen Kamm

III. Erhebung

Arnold Schoenberg
(1874-1951)

Heartache

Farther From the Heart, from the collection: *A Book of Days* (2016)

Eve Beglarian
(b. 1958)

Incantation, from *Drawing Down the Moon*

Duffy

Healing

From *Four Poems of Nikita Gill* (2018)

I. Sorcery

II. From The Ashes She Became

III. You Have Become A Forest

Melissa Dunphy
(b. 1980)

Goddess Incarnate, from *Drawing Down the Moon*

Duffy

Alexis Seminario

Italian-American soprano Alexis Seminario is dedicated to sharing stories that empower people and inspire vulnerability to create a more inclusive and empathetic society.

A great passion for Alexis is her love for opera. In summer 2022, Alexis will appear as an apprentice artist at Des Moines Metro Opera where she will cover the role of Rose in their world premiere of *A Thousand Acres*. In 2021, Alexis was an apprentice in Bard SummerScape's production of *Le Roi Arthur*. Her other past role experience includes: The Forester's Wife in *The Cunning Little Vixen*, Monica in *The Medium*, Lusya in *Moscow Cheryomushki*, Atalanta in *Xerxes* and Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Scene credits include Frau Fluth (*Die Lustigen Weiber von Windsor*), Fiordiligi (*Così fan tutte*), and Countess Almaviva (*Le nozze di Figaro*). Alexis is a proud alumni of the Houston Grand Opera Young Artists Vocal Academy.

Creating projects that shine light on stories that aren't told as often, and telling stories in unique and different ways is a pursuit that Alexis takes seriously. In December of 2021, Alexis partnered with mezzo-soprano Sarah Rauch to create a recital program which celebrates the lives and relationships of queer women. Alexis' notable concert engagements include the soprano soloist in *Brahms' German Requiem* with The Orchestra Now at the Richard B. Fisher Center as well as soloist in two programs for Bard Music Festival's "Nadia Boulanger and Her World."

Alexis holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the Manhattan School of Music (MSM). In 2018, she performed as a soloist in Beethoven's Choral Fantasy for MSM's centennial concert celebrating the opening of Neidorff Karpati Hall. In 2020 and 2021, she had the honor of being awarded the Shirley Rabb Winston Voice Scholarship. She won second place in the 2021 ENY/NATS Virtual Art Song Festival. Alexis is currently a student of Richard Cox at the Bard College Conservatory of Music.

Diana Borshcheva

Praised for her beautiful deep sound and immense artistry, Russian-born American pianist Diana Borshcheva's passions lie in both solo and collaborative repertoire. As a solo pianist Ms. Borshcheva won several competitions in Russia and Europe, including the International Piano Competition in Italy (Grand Prix) and the International Piano Competition in Lithuania (First Award). In addition to her career as a soloist, Ms. Borshcheva has been working with singers and instrumentalists for about 15 years. In the summer of 2019, Ms. Borshcheva worked as a pianist and coach in Salzburg, Austria. In summer 2021 Ms. Borshcheva has started the series of classical music concerts in Red Hook, upstate NY. Music in Red Hook was created to support local artists after a hard period of Covid lockdown, when the majority of musicians lost any opportunity to perform. In September 2021 Ms. Borshcheva together with a group of like-minded colleagues launched Music in Red Hook Cultural Institution, the place that provides music lessons and open lectures to enrich cultural life of the community. This coming summer Ms. Borshcheva will be performing at the Tanglewood Music Festival. Before her position at Bard College Conservatory, Diana studied with esteemed pianist Warren Jones at the Manhattan School of Music.

Lily Moerschel

Lily Moerschel is in her fifth year at Bard Conservatory. She studies cello with Peter Wiley and holds the Mischa Schneider Scholarship. Lily began studying cello with her father at age 6. She developed an early passion for orchestral playing and participated in Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras and in the New England Preparatory School. Lily has performed with orchestras across the United States, in South America, Europe and Asia. In 2021, she performed *Die Zauberflöte* and *Die Fledermaus* with the Berlin Opera Academy in Switzerland. Lily enjoys playing a wide range of music, but has a particular fondness for baroque and contemporary music. She performs regularly with the Bard Baroque Ensemble, and collaborates with student composers at the Music Alive concert series. Lily is also earning a degree in psychology and completed her senior project in spring 2021. She hopes that her studies in psychology will help her become a better cello teacher and musical collaborator. In 2018, she was appointed to Psi Chi, an international honor society for psychology students. When she is not playing cello, Lily enjoys running, reading, and studying French.

Blanche Darr

Violinist Blanche Darr grew up in Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania and has been studying violin since age nine. She was first introduced to music through her school's orchestra program and soon began private lessons, joining several local youth orchestras. Blanche is passionate about using music as an outreach tool. She is currently co-leader of the Musical Mentorship Initiative, which is a project making music education more accessible by providing free private lessons with conservatory students for children learning music. Notable performances include the 2021 virtual premiere of "Four Yiddish Folksongs" by Derek David, a song cycle for soprano, clarinet, violin, and piano. In past summers, Blanche has studied at Aria International Summer Academy, Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival, and Encore Chamber Music's Summer Academy. She is currently a sophomore at Bard College and Conservatory, where she studies with Carmit Zori and double majors in anthropology.

BARD COLLEGE CONSERVATORY PROGRAM FACULTY

Violin

Adele Anthony
Shmuel Ashkenasi *
Luosha Fang
Yi-Wen Jiang
Ani Kavafian*
Erica Kiesewetter
Honggang Li
Weigang Li
Daniel Phillips
Todd Phillips
Gil Shaham
Arnold Steinhardt*
Carmit Zori

Viola

Molly Carr
Luosha Fang
Marka Gustavsson
Honggang Li
Melissa Reardon
Steven Tenenbom

Cello

Peter Wiley

Bass

Jeremy McCoy
Leigh Mesh

Bassoon

Marc Goldberg

Clarinet

David Krakauer
Pascual Martínez-Forteza
Anthony McGill

Composition

Mark Baechle (film)
Da Capo Chamber Players
James Sizemore (film)
Joan Tower
George Tsontakis

Flute

Nadine Asin*
Tara Helen O'Connor

Harp

Sara Cutler
Bridget Kibbey

Horn

Barbara Jöstlein - Currie
Julie Landsman*
Jeffrey Lang
Julia Pilant

Oboe

Elaine Douvas
Alexandra Knoll
Ryan Roberts

Percussion

Eric Cha-Beach
Jason Haaheim
Garry Kvistad (advisor)
Jason Treuting
Jan Williams (advisor)

Piano

Benjamin Hochman*
Gilles Vonsattel
Terrence Wilson
Shai Wosner

Trombone

Demian Austin
John Romero
Nicholas Schwartz
Weston Sprott

Trumpet

Carl Albach
Edward Carroll

Tuba

Derek Fenstermacher
Marcus Rojas

Voice

Stephanie Blythe
Teresa Buchholz
Richard Cox
Lucy Fitz Gibbon
Ilka LoMonaco
Rufus Müller
Erika Switzer
David Sytkowski

Alexander Technique

Alex Farkas
*master classes

Chamber Music

Frank Corliss
Raymond Erickson
Marka Gustavsson
Keisuke Ikuma
Blair McMillen
Raman Ramakrishnan
Melissa Reardon

Graduate Conducting

James Bagwell (Codirector)
Leon Botstein (Codirector)

Teresa Buchholz
Jindong Cai
Sebastian Danila
Kyle Gann
Christopher H. Gibbs
Peter Laki
Ilka LoMonaco
Rufus Müller
Isabelle O'Connell
Zachary Schwartzman
Erika Switzer
Joan Tower

Graduate Vocal Arts

Edith Bers
Stephanie Blythe (Artistic Director)
Richard Cox
Jack Ferver
Lucy Fitz Gibbon
Kayo Iwama (Associate Director)
Lorraine Nubar
Joan Patenaude-Yarnell
Elizabeth Reese
Howard Watkins

Music Theory and History

Christopher H. Gibbs
Peter Laki
Xinyan Li
Eric Wen

Orchestral Studies

Leon Botstein
Erica Kiesewetter

Baroque Ensemble

Renée Anne Louprette

Collaborative Piano Fellowship

Erika Switzer (Director)

US-China Music Institute

Jindong Cai (Director)
Chen Tao (Dizi, Chinese Ensemble)
Chen Yan (Erhu)
Xinyan Li (Chinese Music History)
Mingmei Yip (Chinese Music History)
Xu Yang (Ruan)
Yu Hongmei (Erhu)
Zhang Qiang (Pipa)
Zhao Jiazhen (Guqin)
Zhou Wang (Guzheng)

