



Celebrating 20 years:

A musical thank you to the Friends of the Conservatory of Music
November 6, 2019 at 12:00 pm
Keith C. and Elaine Johnson Wold Performing Arts Center

LYNN

Conservatory of Music

Dear Lynn University Friends,

"When talent meets inspiration, the results are extraordinary." – Dr. Jon Robertson

The remarkable history of the Conservatory of Music at Lynn has shown that with the right vision, people and plan, anything is possible. We are proud of all that the Conservatory – and its talented alumni – have accomplished over the past 20 years.

Two decades ago, my father, Lynn President Emeritus Dr. Donald E. Ross, had a vision of developing a world-renowned conservatory within a university environment when he welcomed the music division of the Harid Conservatory into our institution. From that moment, we embarked on an amazing journey to make that vision a reality. We created classroom and rehearsal spaces within our de Hoerle International Center, and our students began performing in our Amarnick-Goldstein Concert Hall. Then, 10 years ago, we opened the magnificent Keith C. and Elaine Johnson Wold Performing Arts Center, where our Philharmonia Orchestra now draws 1,500 guests per run.

The growth and evolution of our Conservatory also would not be possible without the right team in place. We are grateful to all those who worked hard in leadership positions throughout the Conservatory's integration into our university, and we were excited to welcome Dr. Robertson as dean in 2005. Dr. Robertson's expertise, leadership and passion attracted a faculty comprised of world-class performers and instructors, and together they drove the Conservatory to national prestige. The rigorous professional performance degree program continues to draw gifted young musicians, and many of the Conservatory's alumni have gone on to perform with celebrated national and international symphonies and orchestras. Finally, the Conservatory would not be where it is today without our generous friends and supporters, as every one of its students receives scholarship assistance.

The Conservatory of Music is one of the most prestigious programs of our university, and I can proudly say that my father's and Jon's visions, supported by the right people and the right plan, were more successful than we could have ever imagined.

And now, as we look toward the future, our goal is to create an endowment fund for the Conservatory so that we can continue to attract the most talented faculty and students and sustain the program's level of excellence.

Thanks to my father, Dr. Robertson, our outstanding faculty, talented students and generous friends, the results are truly extraordinary, and we look forward to another 20 years of musical artistry and acclaim.



Kevin M. Ross
President
Lynn University

LYNN UNIVERSITY

BOCA RATON, FLORIDA

*Office of the President Emeritus
Donald E. Ross*

Dear Friends,

As we celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Lynn Conservatory of Music, I've been reflecting on all that has happened over that time.

From the first moment I heard that the Harid Conservatory would focus on their dance division, I knew it was a strategic move to have the music division become the Lynn Conservatory of Music. There were many discussions between myself and the Lynn University Board of Trustees. We knew it would be an added expense, but we also knew that it would provide tremendous publicity for our university.

So we set out to create space on our small campus. Faculty offices were set up, studios for rehearsing were created and the first concert was held on Saturday Oct. 2, 1999 featuring the Harid Philharmonia in a program called "Family Night: Classical Favorites" with conductor Arthur Weisberg and violin soloist Sylvia Kim.


It took place at Olympic Heights High School. Sylvia was a pre-college age violinist then who had won the "Harid String Competition for Young Musicians". She later went on to enroll in the Conservatory at Lynn and earned her Bachelor's degree with us. She now plays with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

In 2005, we made another move to recruit and hire Dr. Jon Robertson to serve as our fourth dean for the Conservatory. Over the last 14 years, Dean Robertson has continued to recruit highly esteemed faculty and the most talented students that our conservatory is now considered among the ranks of the best known music schools in the country.

Thinking back on the time, it was a pleasure to work with then dean of the music division, Dr. Roberta Rust. She made the transition smooth and was able to find funding for student scholarships that was important to making them feel at home on our campus.

In those early days, we thought of the conservatory as a football team. You invest a lot of time, effort and money, but the payoff is what made us who we are today. It was one of the best things we did and today, more than half of our alumni hold an orchestral position and more than two-thirds have their own studios for teaching today's aspiring musicians, either privately or in colleges, universities, and schools.

Sincerely,



Donald E. Ross

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Program

From the Studio of Lisa Leonard, Founder and Head of the
Instrumental Collaborative Piano Program

Sextet for flute, oboe, clarinet, horn, bassoon and piano Leo Smit
Lento (1900-1943)
Vivace

Guzal Isametdinova, piano (MM1, Uzbekistan)
Lydia Roth, flute
Gerhardt W. Arosemena Ott, oboe
Dunia Andreu, clarinet
Ting An Lee, French horn
Dennis Pearson, bassoon

Piano Quintet in F Minor, Op. 34 Cesar Franck
Molto moderato quasi lento – Allegro (1822-1890)

Feruza Dadabaeva, piano (MM 2, Uzbekistan)
Askar Salimdjano, violin
David Brill, violin
Thomas Wong, viola
Georgiy Khokhlov, cello

Le Grand Tango (arr. for violin by Yukie Smith) Astor Piazzolla
 (1921-1992)

Sharon Villegas, piano (PPC1, Costa Rica)
Mario Zelaya, violin

Special Guest Artist, [Darren Matias](#) (BM, '13; MM '16; PPC '18)

Program is subject to change.

Faculty

Lisa Leonard, Professor – Instrumental collaborative piano

Hailed as a pianist who “communicates deep artistic understanding through a powerful and virtuosic technique”, pianist **Lisa Leonard** enjoys a diverse career as chamber musician, soloist, and educator. In 1990 at the age of 17, Ms. Leonard made her debut with the National Symphony Orchestra in six concerts at the Kennedy Center. She has appeared throughout Europe, Japan, Russia, and North and South America with many orchestras including the Simon Bolivar Orchestra of Venezuela under the baton of Gustavo Dudamel. She is a founding member of *Trio Paradigm* with violinist Dina Kostic and cellist Susan Bergeron, and *Duo Raton*, with bassoonist Eric Van der Veer Varner. The past two seasons have included master classes and solo performances of Stravinsky’s Concerto for Piano and Winds in Hungary, master classes and recitals throughout Texas and Oklahoma, appearances with renowned trumpeter Eric Aubier and Grammy-nominated bassoonist Martin Kuuskmann, and more than a dozen world premieres by composers from around the globe. An active chamber musician, she has performed with members of the Concertgebouw, Berlin, Vienna, New York, Cleveland and Cincinnati Symphonies and spent several summers at New York’s Luzerne Music Center where she directed the faculty Chamber Music series. A native of Washington D.C., Ms. Leonard received her M.M. and B.M. from the Manhattan School of Music and has served on the faculties of the North Carolina School of the Arts and the Meadowmount School of Music. Currently, Ms. Leonard is Professor of Collaborative Piano at the Lynn University Conservatory of Music where she also directs the annual New Music Festival, now in its fifteenth year. Ms. Leonard is represented by Arbetter Artists.

About the performers

Dunia Andreu has captured many important prizes including First Prize, and the Clarinet Honor Award at the National Woodwind Performance Competition in her native Cuba (2013) and the Third Prize and Best Contemporary Cuban Music Performance Award at the First National Clarinet Competition (2015). Ms. Andreu has appeared as a soloist with the National Philharmonic Orchestra of Cuba and from 2012 through 2016, she was a member of the clarinet quartet *Ébanos de La Habana* who participated in the most important festivals of the island. She is an active performer

throughout South Florida and has concertized in Northern California. Ms. Andreu holds degrees from the University of Arts in Havana, the University of Trinidad and Tobago and Lynn University where she received her Professional Performance Certificate. She is currently pursuing her Master of music degree at the same institution as a student of Jon Manasse. Dunia believes in the importance of building international cultural bridges so she voluntarily helps with projects which bring foreign musicians to Cuba to offer concerts and masterclasses.

From Stuttgart, Germany, **Gerhardt W. Arosemena Ott** traces his passion for music to a performance of Don Giovanni at the Estates Theatre, Prague. Soon after, he began studying oboe, cor anglais, and countertenor voice. He made his solo debut with the Virginia Youth Symphony Orchestra on Mozart's oboe concerto when he was fifteen, performing a self-composed cadenza. The following year, Gerhardt was selected to perform Albinoni's oboe concerto with the Virginia Symphony Orchestra. Prior to pursuing a M.Mus. with Joe Robinson, New York Philharmonic Principal Oboe Emeritus, Gerhardt earned a M.Sc. in Biomedical Engineering, Graduate Certificate in Imaging Science & Engineering, and Bachelor's (Honors) in Biomedical Physics, Neurobiology, and Music at Washington University as a dual Annika Rodriguez and University Scholar. Gerhardt plans to pursue a dual career in music and medicine to improve our understanding of music, the brain, and our capacity to treat disorders of the nervous system, particularly in the performing arts.

David Brill has won many violin competitions, both domestic and international. In 2018, David placed first in the senior division of the Grand Prize Virtuoso International Music Competition, Vienna, Austria, and was invited to perform as a soloist at the Musikverein in Vienna, Austria. Additionally, in 2018, he won first prize in the senior division at the Golden Classical Music Awards International Competition in the Strings category and gave his solo debut in Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in New York City on November 2, 2018. David currently studies violin performance with Professor Carol Cole at the Lynn University Conservatory of Music.

A solo pianist, chamber musician, teacher and church organist, **Feruzha Dadabaeva** is currently pursuing her second Master of Music degree in instrumental collaborative piano at the

Lynn University Conservatory of Music under the tutelage of Professor Lisa Leonard. Ms. Dadabaeva and violinist Askar Salimdjanov are the 2018 winners of the Lyric – Lynn Chamber Music Competition which presented them in their New York debut in May 2019 on the renowned Lyric Chamber series at the Kosciusko Foundation. In 2016 Ms. Dadabaeva proudly joined the Florida Atlantic University faculty as an adjunct professor of piano and was featured with the University orchestra last season performing Lutoslawski's Paganini Variations. While currently passing on the knowledge of piano playing to the next generation of students, Feruza frequently performs at a variety of venues in South Florida including the Miami and Boca Raton Steinway Galleries, and the Florida Atlantic University Theatre.

Georgiy Khokhlov was born on the 12th of October 1992 to a musical family in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. He began playing cello at the age of 7 at the Uspensky Music School. Mr. Khokhlov earned his Bachelor of Music degree at the Mannes Conservatory in New York City under the tutelage of Marcy Rosen while spending his summers at various musical festivals such as Bowdoin, NYSMF, and Garth Newel Emerging Artists Chamber Program. He also has taken part in contemporary music festival New Music at the Point in Vermont. Since completing his studies in New York City, he's studied in Peabody Conservatory with Alan Stepanyk and has since earned his Masters at the Lynn Conservatory in the David Cole studio. Georgiy plays on an 1879 Herman Macklett cello.

Ting An Lee is a french horn player from Taiwan. She received a bachelor's degree from Shih Chien University where she won the concerto competition and performed the Strauss Horn Concerto No. 1 with the Shih Chien University Orchestra at Taipei City Art Center. Ms. Lee is currently studying at the Lynn University Conservatory of Music where she is pursuing her master's degree as a student of Gregory Miller.

Filipino pianist **Darren Matias** is a sought-after soloist and chamber musician of international recognition. He started playing the piano at the age of 14 and has been a concert pianist ever since. He has performed extensively throughout Europe, Russian, South East Asia, and the United States. He appeared as soloist with several orchestras under the baton of Guillermo Figueroa, Jon Robertson, George Schram, Arnie Roth, Matthew Wardell, Jeffrey Meyer, and Rebecca Lautar. He earned five music degrees

including his Master of Music and Performance Certificate Degree In Chamber Music at Lynn University Conservatory Of Music under the auspices of renowned pedagogues Lisa Leonard, Elmar Oliveira, Dr. Jon Robertson, and Dr. Roberta Rust. He is the co-founder of the Contrast Duo ensemble and is an active collaborative pianist to choirs and musicians that brings music to nursing homes and shelters. He is currently an adjunct faculty at the Musical Theater Department in the College Of Arts and Sciences Drama Department at Lynn University and a full-time Music Director of the Holy Spirit Catholic Church.

Originally from Minnesota, **Dennis Pearson** holds a Bachelor of Music Education from the University of Minnesota-Duluth studying bassoon under the tutelage of Jefferson Campbell. Dennis spends a part of every summer attending the Glickman-Popkin Bassoon Camp, where he met Dr. Eric Van der Veer Varner, who encouraged him to come to the Lynn Conservatory. Dennis is currently a second year student pursuing his master's degree in bassoon performance.

Lydia Roth, from Hudsonville, MI, is a first year Master of Music student at Lynn University, where she studies with Jeffrey Khaner. Currently, she holds the position of principal flute with Symphony in C, located in Camden, NJ. She has also performed with the Philadelphia Orchestra and the Louisville Orchestra. She received her bachelor's degree from the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, PA.

Violinist **Askar Salimdjnov** is the 2018 winner of the Lyric Chamber Music Competition which presented him and pianist Feruza Dadabaeva in their New York debut this May on the Lyric Chamber Series at the Kosciusko Foundation. In 2019 Askar won Fourth John Olivera string competition. Mr. Salimdjnov has performed as soloist with the Uzbekistan National Symphony Orchestra, State Conservatory Orchestra of Uzbekistan. He has given solo and chamber recitals in Russia, Ukraine, Italy, Singapore, Israel, and the United States. Askar attended the Keshet Eilon Mastercourse (Israel) in 2016 and 2018, the Singapore Violin Festival 2016, 2017, and the Heifetz International Music Institute in 2017 (USA). Askar received his Bachelor of Music degree from the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music in Singapore. Askar is currently pursuing his Professional

Performance Certificate under the guidance of renowned violinist Elmar Oliveira at the Lynn Conservatory of Music.

Pianist **Sharon Villegas** is an active collaborate pianist. Ms Villegas began her studies at the Universidad de Costa Rica under tutelage of pianist Sara Feterman, and Leonardo Gell, earning her B.M. with honors in 2017. Ms. Villegas has won prizes in many competitions including Concurso Piano Centroamericano (Costa Rica), Concurso Internacional de Piano Iberoamericano (Dominican Republic), and Musicalia International Competition (Cuba). Sharon has performed as a soloist and chamber musician across South America on series in Mexico, Honduras, Panama, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, and Guatemala. Currently, Ms. Villegas is earning a Professional Performance Certificate at Lynn University where she studies with Professor Lisa Leonard.

Thomas Wong, from Boston, Massachusetts, has a Bachelor of Music in Viola Performance from the University of Texas at Austin. He is currently getting his Master of Music from Lynn University in Boca Raton, Florida. His teachers include Ralph Fielding, Roger Myers, and Andrew Kohji Taylor. Thomas has also participated in the National Orchestral Institute and the National Repertory Orchestra.

Violinist **Mario Zelaya** enjoys a prolific career as a soloist, chamber musician, and orchestral player. Having performed across two continents, he is the 2017 First Prize winner of the International String Competition held in Cremona, Italy, and has shared the stage with greats such as Kathleen Battle, Elmar Oliveira, Guillermo Figueroa, Miguel del Aguila, Fernando Raudales, and Nestor Torres. A native of Honduras, Zelaya picked up the violin at age 13, and made his soloist debut with the Chamber Orchestra of Honduras National School of Music after just two years of studies. After just three years of violin performance, he found success in the competitive scene, winning Second Prize in 2005 and First Prize in 2006 in the National Competition of Honduras, sponsored by the Japanese Embassy. Zelaya joined his hometown symphony, the Philharmonic Orchestra of Honduras, as concertmaster at the age of 19, where he furthered his studies as a soloist with the Honduran violinist Fernando Raudales. In 2014, Zelaya would return to America, joining the Lynn Conservatory of Music in Boca Raton, where he is now based.

About the Friends of the Conservatory of Music

Lynn University's Friends of the Conservatory of Music is a volunteer organization that supports music performance education. Raising more than \$2 million since 2003, the Friends support Lynn's effort to provide free tuition scholarships and room and board to all Conservatory of Music students. The group also raises money for the Dean's Discretionary Fund, which supports the immediate needs of the university's music performance students. This is accomplished through annual gifts and special events, such as outreach concerts and the annual Gingerbread Holiday Concert. To learn more about joining the Friends and its many benefits, such as complimentary concert admission, visit give.lynn.edu/conservatory.



**Jon Robertson, dean
Lynn Conservatory of Music**

Jamaican-born maestro Jon Robertson enjoys a distinguished career as a pianist, conductor and academician. He began his piano studies with Ethel Leginska at 7 years old and made his Town Hall debut in New York City at age 10. A graduate of The Juilliard School of Music, he studied piano performance under Beveridge Webster, choral conducting with Abraham Kaplan at Juilliard, orchestral conducting with Richard Pittman of the New England Conservatory of Music and Herbert Blomstedt, former director of the Gewandhaus Orchestra (Germany). His conducting career spans the globe from symphony orchestras in Norway, China, Egypt, South Africa and Austria to the Redlands Symphony Orchestra in California. Maestro Robertson was conductor and music director of the Redlands Symphony Orchestra in California from 1982 until his retirement from that post in May, 2016. He is also former chair of the Herb Alpert School of Music at UCLA. He continues to guest conduct and to perform in concert as a member of the Cole-Robertson Trio.

Unauthorized recording or photography is strictly prohibited.

Message from the dean

Lynn Conservatory of Music provides a high quality professional performance education for gifted young musicians. Our commitment to our students is passionate and unwavering. Lynn's eminent faculty forms a community of caring individuals, nurturing and educating our students with thorough attention to musicianship, artistry and the supplemental skills necessary to be successful. The conservatory's intimate size ensures ample performance opportunities for all students. Your ongoing support through generous donations and attendance at concerts, ensures our place among premier conservatories of the world and as a staple of our community.

About Lynn University

Lynn University is an independent college based in Boca Raton, Florida, with approximately 3,000 students from 100 countries. *U.S. News & World Report* ranks Lynn among the top five most international schools and the top 25 most innovative. Lynn's NCAA Division II Fighting Knights have won 24 national titles, its Conservatory of Music features a world-renowned faculty of performers, and its nationally recognized Institute for Achievement and Learning empowers students with learning differences. The school's Dialogues curriculum and award-winning iPad program help Lynn graduates gain the intellectual flexibility and global experience to fulfill their potential in an ever-changing world. For more information, visit lynn.edu.

About the Conservatory of Music

Lynn Conservatory of Music has established a high standard of musical training with a world-class artist faculty, highly talented and motivated students, and critically acclaimed performances. In 2014, the conservatory relocated to its new home on Lynn's campus: the Harold and Patricia Toppel Studios in the Count and Countess de Hoernle International Center. This three-story facility provides spacious quarters for instruction and practice and proximity to both the Amarnick-Goldstein Concert Hall and the Keith C. and Elaine Johnson Wold Performing Arts Center.

Upcoming Events

Philharmonia No. 3

Saturday, November 9, 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, November 10, 4 p.m.

Elmar Oliveira Violin Master Class

Wednesday, November 13, 4:30 p.m.

Dean's Showcase No.2

Thursday, November 14, 7:30 p.m.

An Evening of Chamber Music and Poems

Thursday, November 21, 7:30 p.m.

6th Annual Lynn Chamber Music Competition Final Round

Thursday, December 5, 7:30 p.m.

Rebecca Penneys Recital

Saturday, December 7, 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, December 8, 10 a.m.

17th Annual Gingerbread Holiday Concert

Sunday, December 8, 3:00 p.m. Boca Raton Resort & Club

Roger Voisin Memorial Trumpet Competition Semifinal Rounds

Thursday, January 9, 10:00 a.m. – 12 noon and 1-3 p.m.

Roger Voisin Memorial Trumpet Competition Judges Recital

Thursday, January 9, 7:30 p.m.

Master Class with Marc Reese

Friday, January 10, 2:00 p.m.

Roger Voisin Memorial Trumpet Competition Final Round and Awards Ceremony

Friday, January 10, 7:30 p.m.

Spotlight I: Young Composers

Monday, January 13, 7:30 p.m.

Spotlight No. II: Bassoon Chamber Music Composition Competition

Tuesday, January 14, 7:30 p.m.

Spotlight III: The Art of Christopher Theofanidis

Wednesday, January 15, 7:30 p.m.

Elmar Oliveira International Violin Competition Quarterfinals

Thursday, January 16, 9:00 a.m.

Elmar Oliveira International Violin Competition Semifinals

Tuesday, January 21, 9:00 a.m.

Elmar Oliveira International Violin Competition Finals with the Lynn Philharmonia

Saturday, January 25, 7:30 p.m.