



Energy & Excitement - The New Normal

Friends of the Conservatory of Music Concert
and Friendship Tea

Tuesday, March 28, 2023
2022-2023 Season



Welcome to the 2022-2023 season. Lynn Conservatory of Music takes great pleasure in sharing with you the extraordinary talent of our students who have been mentored by our world-renowned faculty. We believe that you will be inspired and elevated by the excellence of their performances.

We at the Lynn Conservatory of Music deeply appreciate your ongoing support as it ensures our place among the premier conservatories of the world. We hope your enjoyment of each musical experience at this Conservatory will be rewarding and memorable.

Sincerely,
Jon Robertson
Dean of the Lynn Conservatory of Music

There are a number of ways by which you can help us fulfill our mission:

Friends of the Conservatory of Music

You can join donors like the ones listed in supporting scholarships by becoming a member of the Friends of the Conservatory of Music. Giving levels range from \$50-\$2,500+ and can be made by check, credit card, securities, or approved gifts in kind. Contact Lisa Miller at 561-237-7745 for more information or make your gift online today at Give.Lynn.Edu/Support-Music.

Friends of the Conservatory donors enjoy opportunities such as purchasing tickets for the upcoming season before the general public and are invited to special events reserved for donors.

The Leadership Society of Lynn University

The Leadership Society is the premier annual giving society for donors who are committed to ensuring a standard of excellence at Lynn for all students. Leadership Society donors make an annual gift of \$2,500 or more and have the option of directing their gift to support the Conservatory of Music. Leadership Society donors receive invitations to exclusive events throughout the year that offer opportunities to engage with other Leadership Society donors and university administrators.

Planned Giving

Planned gifts provide important support for the future of Lynn University, its colleges and programs. Your legacy lives on at Lynn University in perpetuity - various options include, but are not limited to, bequests by will, charitable gift annuities and life insurance.

Your contribution to the Conservatory is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. For additional information, please contact Lisa Miller at 561-237-7745.

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Tuesday, March 28, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

Keith C. and Elaine Johnson Wold Performing Arts Center

Program

String Quartet No. 11 in F minor, op. 95 Ludwig van Beethoven
("Serioso") (1770-1827)

I. Allegro con Brio

Francesca Puro and Clarece LaMarr, violins
Elena Galentas, viola
Peter Pao, cello

L'isle Joyeuse

Claude Debussy
(1862-1918)

Caroline Dratnal, piano

The Red Violin Caprices

John Corigliano
(1938-)

David Mersereau, violin

Intermezzo from the opera, Goyescas

Enrique Granados
(1867-1916)

Spanish Dance No. 2 ("Orientale")

Peter Pao, cello
Silvia Valdivia Villasante, piano

Variations on a Theme of Paganini
for Two Pianos

Witold Lutosławski
(1913-1994)

Epoir Piano Duo (Yance Zheng and Shuqi Yang)

Pre- and Post-Concert Performances in the Lobby

by Aneliya Novikova and Elisabeth Thomashoff on the Roger
Williams Gold Steinway Piano donated to Lynn University
Conservatory of Music by Isabelle Paul



This concert is dedicated to the memory of Matthew Paustian, who served as administrative assistant to the dean of the Conservatory of Music. Matthew was always generous and supportive of the faculty, staff, and students with whom he worked. His dedication to music, the arts, and people will never be forgotten.



Artist Biographies

A South Florida native, **Francesca Puro** began her violin studies at the age of five at the Palm Beach Suzuki School of Music. Her primary teachers include Joanna Sirlin, Suzanne Walter-Geissler, Bonnie Brown, and Tina Raimondi. Francesca is a two-time Irene Muir Award nominee, is a Ruth Nelson Kraft Foundation Scholar, and is a recipient of the Morning Musicale Scholarship. Her performance experiences include Southwest Florida Symphony and Five String Quartet for Lynn Conservatory's New Music Festival in 2020 in collaboration with composer in residence Christopher Theofanidis. Francesca has played alongside and for renowned artists, including: Johannes Moser, Stella Fey Chen, Alec Holcomb, Julian Rhee, Andrea Bocelli, Caroline Campbell, Itzhak Pearlman, Jon Nakamatsu, Elmar Oliviera, Guillermo Figueroa, David Cole, Carol Cole, Lisa Leonard, and Andrés Cárdenes.

Passionate about quality music education, Francesca is a registered Suzuki teacher, has a private studio, and has worked as a chamber and orchestra coach at Youth All Star! and at Weston Christian Academy. She has notably attended festivals at Brevard Music Center, North Carolina, Harvard, Massachusetts, Kuhmo, Finland, and Iiti, Finland, and has worked as a coach at Weston Music Festival, Florida. She began playing the viola in the fall of 2022, and quickly fell in love with the instrument.

Francesca is currently a senior at Lynn Conservatory, studying with the esteemed Carol Cole. In her free time, she enjoys baking, cooking, and painting, as well as spending time with her family, her friends, and her rescue dogs Puppy, Pluto, and Roxy.

Clarece LaMarr is 19 years old and currently in her 3rd year at Lynn University where she studies in the studio of Carol Cole. Previously, Ms. LaMarr attended San Francisco Conservatory Pre-College for 2 years under the tutelage of Monica Gruber. Clarece has appeared as a televised soloist since the age of 9 and an active orchestral member since the age of 13. She has performed as a soloist with the San Jose Youth Chamber Orchestra and Monterey Pops and worked seasonally with the Saratoga Orchestra on Whidbey Island. Leading up to the present, Clarece has also taken lessons from esteemed musicians such as Randall Weiss, Jonah Kim, Tyler Riley, and Susan Stein. Ms. LaMarr began studying violin in 2008 at 5 years old. She is an enthusiast of all art forms, and outside of music enjoys digital and traditional art and animation. Ms. LaMarr has exhibited a penchant for creation since she was small, being considered eccentric and passionate by many.

Elena Galentas is a violist currently studying with Sheila Browne at the Lynn University Conservatory of Music. She began playing viola at 8 years old and has since participated in several orchestras, masterclasses, and festivals. In 2015, Elena joined the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra and became principal shortly after. There, she performed regularly at Symphony Center's Orchestra Hall, toured the Baltic countries in Europe, and collaborated with Cedille Records to record with Anthony and Demarre McGill. In 2018, Elena was accepted into the Music Institute of Chicago where she studied viola with Roland Vamos. During her time there, she participated in solo and chamber masterclasses with the likes of Ida Kavafian, Dimitri Murrath and Matthew Lipman. There, she was also a part of the Fiero Quartet where she competed in several chamber competitions including the quarterfinals of the Fischhoff National Chamber Competition. Alongside viola, Elena has experience studying percussion and piano.

Peter Pao

Peter Pao is a cellist who was born on February 27, 1999, in Vancouver, Canada. He currently resides in Montréal, Canada. He began his musical journey at a young age, starting cello at the Vancouver Academy of Music with Joseph Elworthy in '06. After that, he studied with Ian Hampton and Yuri Zaidenberg at the Langley School of Music. In the summer of '11, he studied at the Meadowmount School of Music with Melissa Kraut. Peter's dedication to his craft led him to study with Richard Aaron at Juilliard's Pre-College program in New York. From there, he continued to pursue his passion for music and studied with Anna Burden, associate principal cellist of l'Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal. During this time, he also studied with Elizabeth Dolin at le Conservatoire de Musique de Montréal. He has also studied with Hans Jørgen Jensen for two summers at The Young Artist Program at the National Arts Center in Ottawa, Canada. From 2018-2020, Peter studied in Law and Society at Concordia University in Montréal. Currently, Peter is studying with David Cole at Lynn University in Boca Raton, Florida.

Peter's hard work and dedication have earned him several awards and recognitions throughout his career. In 2007, he won 1st place in Junior strings at the Richmond Music Festival in BC, and he was named Best Performer of all Divisions at the Richmond Music Festival Gala Concert. In 2008, he won 1st place in strings at the National Final Canadian Music Competition (CMC), and the Wilma Suen Award at the CMC Gala Concert in BC. He was also awarded the Outstanding Award at the Music Man Festival Gala Concert and was the winner of the Gifted Youth Competition of Vancouver Academy of Music.

In 2009, Peter won 1st place in Junior at the American Protégé Music Festival in New York at Carnegie Hall, and was the winner of the Gifted Youth Competition of Vancouver Academy of Music. In 2010, he won the Most Promising Award of Junior Cellist at the Vancouver Kiwanis Music Festival and placed 3rd in Junior at the Provincial Final BC Kiwanis. In 2011, he won 1st place in Junior at the Provincial Final BC Kiwanis, the most promising award of senior cello at the Gala Concert of Chilliwack Music & Dance Festival, 1st place in Piano Trio at the Vancouver International Festival of Russian Music, and was invited to perform as a soloist with the Fraser Valley Symphony. In 2012, Peter won 1st place in the Forte International Music Festival in New York, receiving awards for Best Technique and Best Artistic at Carnegie Hall.

In 2013, he won the Grand Prize at the National Final, Canadian Music Competition, where he performed as a soloist with l'Orchestre Symphonique de Sherbrooke. In 2014, he was a finalist at the Stulberg International String Competition and won the Grande Finale Desjardins prize at the Festival de Concours de Musique Classique de Montréal. In 2015, he won 1st prize in Jeune Musique de Chambre (Duo – Cello/Piano) at the Festival de Concours de Musique Classique de Montréal.

Peter Pao's musical career is fueled by his passion, dedication, and drive. He continues to study and perform as a cellist, hoping to have his future in the world of music.

Caroline Dratnal, age 19, has been playing piano for eleven years, and is currently pursuing her Bachelor of Music in Performance with Dr. Roberta Rust at the Lynn Conservatory of Music in Boca Raton, Florida.

Prior to attending university, Caroline studied under Colleen Athparia in her native city of Calgary, Canada. There, she also attended the Advanced Performance Program at Mount Royal University. Over the years, she had the privilege to be mentored by artists such as James Parker, Nicolas Namoradze, Andrei Korobeinikov, Antonio Pompa-Baldi, and David Jalbert.

Caroline has participated in numerous Canadian festivals, most notably being chosen as a winner of the Rotary Calgary Concerto Competition in 2020. Some of her musical highlights include giving her orchestral debut with the Calgary Civic Symphony in May 2022, being twice nominated to represent Calgary in the national round of the ACNMP Canadian Contemporary Showcase, where she won the Mary Hildebrand Award for Performance Excellence in 2019; winning numerous gold and silver awards in the CPAF Festival between 2013-2019, subsequently representing Calgary at AMFA's Provincial Festival twice, placing second in

2014 and first in 2018; and being awarded third place in the ARMTA Provincial Piano Competition in 2021. Caroline has auditioned and been selected to attend Alberta Pianofest's Young Artist Academy three times, earning an opportunity to be instructed by artists such as Ursula Oppens, Jerome Lowenthal, Steve Lubin, and Frederic Chiu.

In her spare time, Caroline enjoys painting, sailing, and knitting. She is hoping to become a performing artist in the future.

Hailed by Sir Angel Stankov as one of the leading future violinists of Serbia, **David Mersereau** is currently studying at the Lynn Conservatory of Music with Professor Carol Cole. Born in Nis, Serbia, David began his studies at the age of five in the class of Professor Branislava Petrovic Markovic. At the age of nine, he was invited to join one of the most prestigious string schools in Europe, the Music School for Gifted Children in Cuprija, in the class of professors Ljiljana Rankovic and Vladimir Markovic. He is the winner of many awards, including the Grand Prix at the International Competition of Strings in Nis, Silver Medal at the International Violin Competition Petar Toskov in Belgrade, Laureate at the Nedyalka Simeonova Competition in Bulgaria, and the award of the music festival "Constantinus" for the most talented young artist in 2017. David has taken part in many concerts and masterclasses around Serbia, Bulgaria, Netherlands, Norway, Austria, Italy, and the United States. As a soloist, he was playing concerts with the Nis Symphony Orchestra and conductors Le Fi-Fi (Vietnam), Luke Cleghorn (Austria), Zoran Stanisavljevic (Serbia), and Suzana Kostic (Serbia). David is the only high school student from his town who graduated with a solo concert, playing the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto with the orchestra. He participated at the masterclass with Iliya Grubert under the organization of the International Violin Competition Jeunesses Musicales in Belgrade. In his spare time, David enjoys international travel and experiencing other cultures.

Sir Angel Stankov ex-concertmaster of Sofia Philharmonic for 20 years and head of strings at Pancho Vladigerov State Conservatory in Sofia since 1997 until 2020 is the most prestigious figure in the classical music world in Bulgaria, he says that David will have a great future as one of the leading violinists in Serbia.

Silvia Valdivia is a Peruvian pianist. She was the winner of the Collaborative Piano Award 2022, a special jury prize for Best Orchestral Realization at Lynn University's Concerto Competition. As a soloist, she has performed with the Symphonic Orchestra of Trujillo and "Orquestando", the Youth Symphonic Orchestra from the Ministry of Education of Peru. She has also been the featured pianist in "33

Variations” and “Immortal,” two theatrical works centered on the life of Beethoven. Ms. Valdivia has received several piano and chamber music masterclasses from well-known international musicians in Peru, USA and Brazil. She has also presented piano recitals on several series in Lima and other regions of her home country.

Ms. Valdivia is a founding member of NazDúo with saxophonist Jorge Puma. The mission of NazDúo is to premiere works from contemporary composers and to share and support classical music throughout Peru.

Pedagogy is an integral part of her passion and dedication to music. Her commitment to piano pedagogy is demonstrated by the founding of “Cierto Concierto”, a cycle of educational concerts aimed at disseminating classical music. Furthermore, she has attended seminars and courses in music education and has diplomas from the Suzuki Association of Peru and the Latin American Music Education Forum that certify her as a piano teacher. Using the skills learned there, Ms. Valdivia has given masterclasses all throughout Peru.

Ms. Valdivia received her Bachelor’s degree in Piano Performance at the National Conservatory of Music of Peru and is currently pursuing a Master of Music degree in Instrumental Collaborative Piano at Lynn University Conservatory of Music, in Boca Raton, Florida.

Pianist **Yance Zheng** was born in China in 2002 and performed his first recital at age ten. He is rapidly gaining recognition as a brilliant young pianist and was awarded first prize at the Hamburg International Competition in Germany (2016) and the Second Institute Cup Piano Competition (2019). Yance also won top prizes at the Twelfth Beijing Xiwang Cup Piano Competition, the Thirteenth Xinghai Cup National Competition, the Fourth Silk Road-Sound of Music International Music Festival and the Yamaha Asian Music Scholarship Competition. In 2021 he was selected as a winner of the LYNN Concerto Competition in Boca Raton, Florida. In 2022, he got first place at the Florida chapter of the NSAL National Annual Awards Competition in Piano and first place at the FSMAT Gray Perry Young Collegiate Artist Award Competition.

In 2014 he was admitted to the Xi’an Conservatory of Music and studied with Russian pianist Vladimir Zani, Norwegian pianist Jonas Aune, and Malaysian pianist Cijing Yang. He is currently enrolled in the Bachelor of Music program at the Lynn University Conservatory of Music in the piano studio of Roberta Rust.

Pianist **Shuqi Yang** was born in China in 2003. She started to play the piano at the age of six and performed her first recital at the age of 13. She

is a brilliant young pianist and was awarded first prize at the Heilongjiang Province Teenagers Piano Competition in her hometown at the age of 16. Shuqi also won the second prize at the Pearl River · Kayserburg International Piano Competition at the age of 17. In 2022, Shuqi won the second prize in the FSMTA Gray Perry Yang Collegiate Piano Award competition and the third prize in the 4th WPTA Finland International Piano competition.

Shuqi had master classes with piano professor Jerome Lowenthal of Julliard, professor Jingxian Xie of Shanghai Conservatory of Music, and professor Sharon Mann of San Francisco Conservatory of Music. She is currently offered a full scholarship and enrolled in the Bachelor of Music program at the Lynn University Conservatory of Music in the piano studio of Dr. Roberta Rust.

Aneliya Novikova started piano lessons at age 5 and has received highly professional education in Russia and the United States. She is currently enrolled in the Bachelor of Music Piano Performance degree program at Lynn University's Conservatory of Music in the studio of Roberta Rust. Aneliya possesses a deep love for music performance as a solo pianist, in chamber music, and accompanying instrumentalists and singers at different events and concerts. For the past three years she has been playing celesta frequently for recording sessions of the Moscow Symphony Orchestra.

German-American pianist **Elisabeth Thomashoff** was born in Vienna, Austria and started piano at age four. She is currently in her sophomore year of her Piano Performance Bachelor of Music degree in the studio of Dr. Roberta Rust at the Lynn University Conservatory of Music.

Thomashoff has been awarded numerous prizes from national and international competitions. Among them were First Prize at the Jack Heller Young Artist Concerto Competition (2022), First Prize at the Ocala Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition (2022), Audience Choice Award at the Rosen-Schaffel Concerto Competition (2022), Second Prize at the FSMTA Gray Perry Competition (2022), Third Prize at the Medici International Piano Competition (2021), Honorable Mention at the FSMTA Concerto Competition (2021), First Prize at the Palm Beach Atlantic Concerto Competition (2019), Finalist at the Alhambra Concerto Competition (2019), First Prize at the Grand Prize Virtuoso Music Competition (2016), First Prize with Special Mention at the Prima la Musica (2016), Third Prize at the International Music Competition Euterpe in Bari, Italy (2015), Second Prize at the International Competition "Cittadi Barletta" in Barletta, Italy (2014), First Prize at the International Music Competition Cortemilia, Italy (2012), and First Prize with Special Mention at the Prima la Musica Vienna, Austria (2011).

Thomashoff recently performed the Shostakovich Piano Concerto No. 2 with the Ocala Symphony Orchestra and the Grieg Piano Concerto with the Palm Beach Atlantic Symphony Orchestra. She has performed in several major halls, including Wiener Saal in Mozartheum, Austria, Steinwayhaus in Munich, Germany, Freskensaal, Austria, Amarnick-Goldstein Concert Hall, Snyder Sanctuary, Reilly Arts Center, Steinway Music Gallery of Clearwater, Yamaha Piano Distributors, Rosen-Schaffel Concert Hall, Vera-Rinker Concert Hall, Dillard Performing Arts Center, Helen K. Persson Recital Hall, and others in the USA, Netherlands, Germany and Austria. She performed the Beethoven and Mozart Piano and Wind Quintets with the New Direction Winds on a Concert Tour, as well as numerous Violin piano sonatas and other works with Kathryn Krueger. Thomashoff has also donated her musical talents at churches, temples elderly care facilities and house concerts in Austria, Germany and Florida. This spring, she is going to perform the Shostakovich Piano Concerto No. 2 with the Tampa Bay Symphony Orchestra.

Thomashoff's primary professors have been Professor Vladimir Genin, Kristina Miller, Professor Stanislaw Tichonow, Dr. Joseph Kingma, Professor Tamara Atchba and currently, Dr. Roberta Rust. Thomashoff has studied at several music festivals, the most notable being the Adamant Music School in Vermont and Austrian Masterclasses. She has been able to take masterclasses with several world- renowned pianists, including Victor Rosenbaum, Rodolfo Leone, Dr. Deirdre O'Donohue, Jose Ramos Santana, Franklin Larey, Elaine Greenfield, Dr. Roberta Rust, Dr. Ross Salvosa, Elena Klionsky, Professor Paul Posnak, Professor Vladimir Kharin, Professor Evgeny Sinaisky, Professor Johannes Kropfitsch, Professor Tamara Atchba, Nico de Rooij, Professor Vladimir Genin, Professor Georg Steinschaden and most recently by the Chopin For All artist Cezary Karwowski.

Outside of her piano career, Thomashoff has acted in several international films in Germany, Austria, and Trinidad and Tobago, several of which have won awards at international film festivals. Thomashoff performed in many operas as a part of the Children's Choir of the Vienna States Opera and in theater productions in the Burgtheater and English Theater in Vienna. Thomashoff also learned violin alongside piano. During her high school years, Thomashoff won a literature prize on the topic of "Auferstehung" at the time of the young riots in Muslim countries. Currently, Thomashoff is the President of the Golden Key International Honor's Society at Lynn University and she has begun teaching several piano students.

Upcoming Events

Live at Lynn features concerts and performances by Lynn University's Conservatory of Music, drama students and special guests who stage dozens of productions annually, including classical and pop music, Broadway favorites, variety shows and more. See the schedule at lynn.edu/liveatlynn.

[Amarnick-Goldstein Concert Hall](#) is located inside the de Hoernle International Center.

March 2023

Master of Music Recital - Luke Benedict (Composition)

Friday, March 31, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.

Amarnick-Goldstein Concert Hall

Free

April 2023

Master of Music Recital – Frederic Renaud (Cello)

Monday, April 3, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.

Amarnick-Goldstein Concert Hall

Free

Woodwind Department Recital

Thursday, April 6, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.

Amarnick-Goldstein Concert Hall

Open to public (No ticket required)

LYNN
Conservatory of Music

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