

FACULTY RECITAL

Daniel Epstein, piano
Xiao Wang (BM '13,
MM '15, AD '16), violin

Featuring guest artist **Ben Larsen** (BM '09, MM '11), cello

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2023 | 7:30 PM
GORDON K. AND HARRIET GREENFIELD HALL

FACULTY RECITAL

Daniel Epstein, piano
Xiao Wang (BM '13, MM '15,
AD '16), violin

Featuring guest artist **Ben Larsen** (BM '09, MM '11), cello

PROGRAM

MEL BONIS
(1858–1937)

Soir-Matin, Op. 76

ADOLPHUS
HAILSTORK III
(BM '65, MM '66, HONDMA '19)
(b. 1941)

Piano Trio (1985)

Intermission

ANTONÍN DVOŘÁK
(1841–1904)

Piano Trio No. 3 in F Minor, Op. 65
Allegro ma non troppo
Allegretto grazioso
Poco Adagio
Finale: Allegro con brio

PROGRAM NOTES

Soir, Matin, Op. 76

Mel Bonis

In 1901, upon hearing Mel Bonis' piano quintet, Saint-Saens exclaimed, "I never imagined a woman could write such music"—simultaneously a presumptive compliment and a sad reflection of the marginalization of women in the field of composition. Mélanie Bonis (who wrote professionally under the name Mel) received her musical education at the Paris Conservatoire along with such luminaries as Claude Debussy and Gabriel Pierné. Among her teachers was Cesar Franck. She composed prolifically throughout her lifetime, producing more than 300 compositions. Her companion pieces for piano trio *Soir, Matin* show a sophisticated compositional technique and sensitivity to the sonorities and blending of the two strings with piano. The style is unmistakably French—imbued with the lush harmonic language of Debussy and Fauré.

Piano Trio

Adolphus Hailstork

Adolphus Hailstork's Piano Trio was commissioned by the Nova Trio of Norfolk, Virginia in 1985 and was underwritten, in part, by the Norfolk Commission on the Arts and Humanities. The ethnic diversity of the group influenced the writing of the composition. The first movement is a lament commemorating the Jewish Holocaust. The theme presented in the violin occurs in every movement. The second movement scherzo leads directly into the finale, a lively dance in an irregular (11/8) meter.

Hailstork's musical language is unique; while predominantly tonal it is also supercharged with unexpected searing dissonances and an almost theatrical sense of drama. The writing for all three instruments is brilliant and virtuosic. Adolphus Hailstork is an alumnus of Manhattan School of Music and we are delighted to be performing this outstanding composition here in Greenfield Hall.

Piano Trio No. 3 in F Minor, Op. 65

Antonín Dvořák

By the time Antonín Dvořák wrote the third of his piano trios—Op. 65 in F minor—in 1883, he had already achieved international recognition. In 1874 he was awarded the Austrian State Prize for Composition in 1874 ; Johannes Brahms, the

leading member of the jury, was enchanted with Dvořák’s music and introduced him to his publisher, Simrock. With the subsequent publication of Dvořák’s *Slavonic Dances*, his career was launched.

Dvořák’s rich and extensive chamber music oeuvre show his lifelong engagement both with the Brahmsian symphonic tradition and folk music—not only his native Czech, but also Native American and African American folk musics. Dvořák’s early chamber works display an unmistakable kinship with Wagner—the 4th String Quartet in E minor (1869–1871) for example, which is filled with Wagnerian harmonies and wild unresolved dissonances. The Op. 65 trio is the most symphonic large-scale of the four piano trios Dvořák produced. Cast in a traditional four-movement structure (sonata allegro/scherzo/slow movement/ rondo) it has few of the signature Dvořák folk elements found so abundantly in, for example, the better-known “Dumky” Trio (the last movement of which is a “furiant”—a Czech dance alternating between duple and triple rhythms.) The trio opens on a somber note in the key of minor, developing quickly to dramatic peaks. The writing is full, rich, and virtuosic for all players and abounds with inspiring memorable melodies.

—Program notes ©Daniel Epstein



**Council on
the Arts**

Manhattan School of Music’s public programs are made possible in part by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.



Funded in part by a grant from the New York City Tourism Foundation.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Daniel Epstein, piano

Pianist Daniel Epstein made his debut with the Philadelphia Orchestra under the baton of Eugene Ormandy. He has performed with many of America's major orchestras, including the San Francisco, Dallas, Detroit, and Houston Symphonies, and the Rochester Philharmonic. He has performed recitals in Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the 92nd Street Y, and in major venues throughout the world, complemented by master classes and intensive seminars for pianists at colleges and universities. As pianist and founding member of the famed Raphael Trio, he has performed virtually the entire piano trio repertoire for the past 40 years. The Trio appears regularly in New York, London, Vienna, Paris, Frankfurt, and Amsterdam, as well as numerous other musical centers throughout the U.S. and Europe. He has collaborated with many renowned string quartets, including the Ying, American, and Talich, and has played with members of the Juilliard and Guarneri Quartets as well as many other distinguished chamber musicians and soloists.

Winner of the prestigious Kosciuszko Chopin Award, the National Arts Club Prize, the Prix Alex de Vries at the Marguerite Long Competition, and the Concert Artists Guild Award—which afforded him his Carnegie Hall debut recital—Epstein was also selected for an NEA Recitalist Grant to perform recitals throughout the United States.

Epstein has been a member of the piano faculty of Manhattan School of Music since 2001 and was Head of Keyboard at Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University until 2022. His recordings may be heard on RCA, Sony, Nonesuch, ASV, Newport Classic, and Unicorn-Kanchana.

Xiao Wang (BM '13, MM '15, AD '16), violin

Xiao Wang has been praised by the *New York Times* as an “excellent violinist,” who “made the most of its expressive opportunities.” First-prize winner of the 2012 Sziget International Violin Competition and 2016 New York Concert Artist, he has received numerous prizes and awards from international competitions, including the 2015 Queen Elizabeth Competition and the 2015 Seoul International Competition.

Mr. Wang has toured throughout North America, Europe, and Asia. As a soloist, he performed at Béla Bartók National Concert Hall, Carnegie Hall, Gewandhaus, Kammermusiksaal of the Berlin Philharmonic, National Center

for Performing Art in Beijing, and Seoul Art Center. He worked under the baton of Marin Alsop, David Gilbert, János Kovács, George Manahan, and András Ligeti, and performed with orchestras including the National Orchestra of Belgium, the Kodály Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Gewandhaus Akademisches Orchester Leipzig.

Mr. Wang is a violin faculty at the Manhattan School of Music. He was invited as a guest artist and faculty member and given recitals and master classes at the Budapest Spring Festival, Texas Music Festival, Festival International de Musique de Wissembourg, Bravo Music Festival, Qingdao Music Festival, Beijing International Music Festival and Academy, and Manhattan in the Mountains. As a passionate chamber musician, he has collaborated with members of the American String Quartet, the Mendelssohn String Quartet, New York Philharmonic Orchestra, and Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, and faculty members of the Eastman School of Music, Manhattan School of Music, Mannes School of Music and the Juilliard School.

Xiao Wang began his violin studies at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing with Weidong Tong and later studied with Joseph Silverstein at the Curtis Institute of Music. He received his BM, MM, and Artist Diploma from the Manhattan School of Music under the guidance of Lucie Robert

Benjamin Larsen (BM '09, MM '11), cello

Known for the energy he brings to the stage, cellist Benjamin Larsen has forged a reputation as an avid chamber musician in the New York City area. His knack for adventurous programming comes through in his work as Artistic Director of the series Concerts on the Slope and in the projects that he spearheads, working with some of today's most notable composers including Robert Sirota, Reena Esmail, Tania Leon, Ke-Chia Chen, and many others. In 2016, Larsen launched a project with flutist Martha Cargo, "Pieces of Eight," which is comprised of eight commissioned works by eight different composers for Flute-Cello duo. The project promotes the genre and provides the opportunity to work closely with composers of various generational and cultural backgrounds. He has also performed alongside members of the Emerson, American, Chiara, and Tokyo quartets, as well as Daniel Epstein, Vicky Chow, Ian Rosenbaum, Eriko Sato and Linda Chesis.

Mr. Larsen is a graduate of Manhattan School of Music, where he was the recipient of the Hans and Klara Bauer Scholarship as well as the 2011 Pablo Casals Award. His past mentors have included Julia Lichten, David Finckel, and Eric Dahlin, as well as lessons with Marta Istomin and Bonnie Hampton.

He spent a year playing with the band The Left Banke and attended the Pacific Music Festival, Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, Music@Menlo, and Castleman's Quartet Program. Along with his wife, pianist Hyungjin Choi, he actively performs in the Larsen-Choi Duo, which champions new music, original compositions, and sonata literature. In addition to his busy performance schedule, he holds a private teaching studio in addition to faculty positions at Music School of Westchester and Brooklyn Music School. He plays on a nineteenth-century anonymous cello.

Adolphus Hailstork (BM '65, MM '66, HonDMA '19)

Adolphus Hailstork received his doctorate in composition from Michigan State University, where he was a student of H. Owen Reed. He had previously studied at the Manhattan School of Music under Vittorio Giannini and David Diamond, at the American Institute at Fontainebleau with Nadia Boulanger, and at Howard University with Mark Fax.

Dr. Hailstork has written numerous works for chorus, solo voice, piano, organ, various chamber ensembles, band, orchestra, and opera. Hailstork's second and third symphonies were recorded by the Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestra (David Lockington) and were released by Naxos. Another Naxos recording, *An American Port of Call* (Virginia Symphony Orchestra) was released in spring 2012. His most recent recording is Piano Concerto No. 1 on Naxos Records conducted by JoAnn Falletta. (2023). Hailstork's new pieces include *The World Called* (based on Rita Dove's poem *Testimonial*), a work for soprano, chorus, and orchestra commissioned by the Oratorio Society of Virginia and premiered in May 2018), and *Still Holding On* (February 2019), an orchestra work commissioned and premiered by the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

This last piece became the first movement of Symphony No. 4, premiered by the Mannes School of Music on March 8, 2023. Other works receiving notable first performances in 2023 are *A Knee on the Neck* (a Requiem for George Floyd); *Blest Be the Day* (a Juneteenth Overture), premiered by the Baltimore Symphony; and Piano Concerto No. 2 commissioned by Lara Downes. In 2023 Dr. Hailstork was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

ABOUT MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Founded as a community music school by Janet Daniels Schenck in 1918, today MSM is recognized for its more than 1,000 superbly talented undergraduate and graduate students who come from more than 50 countries and nearly all 50 states; its innovative curricula and world-renowned artist-teacher faculty that includes musicians from the New York Philharmonic, the Met Orchestra, and the top ranks of the jazz and Broadway communities; and a distinguished community of accomplished, award-winning alumni working at the highest levels of the musical, educational, cultural, and professional worlds.

The School is dedicated to the personal, artistic, and intellectual development of aspiring musicians, from its Precollege students through those pursuing doctoral studies. Offering classical, jazz, and musical theatre training, MSM grants a range of undergraduate and graduate degrees. True to MSM's origins as a music school for children, the Precollege Division is a highly competitive and professionally oriented Saturday music program, dedicated to the musical and personal growth of talented young musicians ages 5 to 18. The School also serves some 2,000 New York City schoolchildren through its Arts-in-Education Program, and another 2,000 students through its critically acclaimed Distance Learning Program.

Your gift helps a young artist reach for the stars!

To enable Manhattan School of Music to continue educating and inspiring generations of talented students and audiences alike, please consider making a charitable contribution today.

Contact the Advancement Office at 917-493-4434 or visit giving.msmnyc.edu

Land Acknowledgment

We want to acknowledge that we gather as Manhattan School of Music on the traditional land of the Lenape and Wappinger past and present, and honor with gratitude the land itself and the people who have stewarded it throughout the generations. This calls us to commit to continuing to learn how to be better stewards of the land we inhabit as well.



MSMNYC.EDU