

FACULTY RECITAL

Paul Cohen, saxophone

Daniel Epstein, piano

Chloé Kiffer and

Xiao Wang, violin

Yoon Lee and

Elena Lisitsian, piano

With special guests Lorien Britt, flute

Meredith Krinke, soprano

Ben Larsen, cello

and Yat Lee, viola

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2026 | 7:30 PM
GORDON K. AND HARRIET GREENFIELD HALL

FACULTY RECITAL

Paul Cohen (MM '76, DMA '85), saxophone

Daniel Epstein, piano

Chloé Kiffer (MM '14, PS '15) and

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

Yoon Lee (BM '09, MM '11, DMA '18)

and **Elena Lisitsian (BM '96)**, piano

With special guests **Lorien Britt** (BM '26), flute; **Meredith Krinke** (BM '27), soprano;
Ben Larsen (BM '09, MM '11), cello; and **Yat Lee** (MM '25, PPD '27), viola

PROGRAM

EDVARD MORITZ
(1891–1974)

Sonata à tre for violin, saxophone, and piano

I. *Allegro appassionato*

II. *Andante*

III. *Un poco Presto*

IV. *Allegro*

Paul Cohen (MM '76, DMA '85), saxophone

Chloé Kiffer (MM '14, PS '15)

Yoon Lee (BM '09, MM '11, DMA '18)

JENNIFER HIGDON
(b.1962)

Twilight for violin, alto saxophone and piano

Paul Cohen (MM '76, DMA '85), saxophone

Chloé Kiffer (MM '14, PS '15)

Yoon Lee (BM '09, MM '11, DMA '18), piano

MARC EYCHENNE
(b. 1933)

Cantilène et Danse for violin, saxophone and piano

Paul Cohen (MM '76, DMA '85), saxophone

Chloé Kiffer (MM '14, PS '15), violin

Elena Lisitsian (BM '96), piano

Intermission

MAURICE RAVEL
(1875–1937)

Chansons madécasses, M. 78

I. *Nahandove* – *Andante quasi allegretto*

II. *Aoua* – *Andante*

III. *Il est doux* – *Lento*

Meredith Krinke (BM '27), soprano

Lorien Britt (BM '26)

Ben Larsen (BM '09, MM '11)

Daniel Epstein, piano

GABRIEL FAURÉ
(1845–1924)

Piano Quartet No. 1 in C Minor, Op. 15

I. *Allegro molto moderato*

II. *Scherzo: Allegro vivo*

III. *Adagio*

IV. *Allegro molto*

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

Yat Lee (MM '25, PPD '27), viola

Ben Larsen (BM '09, MM '11)

Daniel Epstein, piano

TRANSLATIONS

Nahandove

Évariste de Parny

Nahandove, o lovely Nahandove! The nocturnal
bird has begun its cries, the full moon shines
overhead, and the new-born dew moistens my hair.
Now is the hour; who can be delaying you,
Nahandove, o lovely Nahandove!
The bed of leaves is prepared;
I have strewn it with flowers and sweet-smelling herbs;
it is worthy of your charms, Nahandove, o lovely Nahandove!
She comes. I recognized her breathing, quickened by her rapid walk;
I hear the rustle of the loin-cloth wrapped around her;
it is she, it is Nahandove, lovely Nahandove!
Take breath, my little love; rest on my lap.
How bewitching your gaze is! How quick and
delightful is the motion of your breast beneath a caressing hand!
You smile, Nahandove, o lovely Nahandove!
Your kisses reach right into my soul;
your caresses set all my senses ablaze: stop, or I shall
die. Can one die of delight, Nahandove, o lovely Nahandove?
Pleasure passes like lightning.
Your sweet breath falters, your moist eyes close, your head falls
gently forwards, and your ecstasy dies, giving way to languor.
Never were you so lovely,
Nahandove, o lovely Nahandove!
You leave, and I shall languish in sorrow and desire.
I shall languish until evening.
You will return tonight, Nahandove, o lovely Nahandove!

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Aoua

Évariste de Parny

Aoua! Aoua! Beware of white men, dwellers of the shore.

In our fathers' time, white men landed on this island;
they were told: here are lands, let your women work them; be just,
be kind and become our brothers.

The white men made promises, and yet they made entrenchments too.
A menacing fort was built; thunder was stored in muzzles of cannon;
their priests pressed on us a God we did not know;
they spoke finally of obedience and slavery. Sooner death!
The carnage was long and terrible; but despite the thunder they spewed
and which crushed whole armies, they were all wiped out.

Aoua! Aoua! Beware of white men.

We have seen new tyrants, stronger and more numerous,
setting their tents on the shore:
heaven has fought on our behalf; has hurled rains upon them,
storms and poisoned winds.

They are no more, and we live, and live in freedom.

Aoua! Beware of white men, dwellers of the shore.

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It is sweet

Évariste de Parny

It is sweet to lie in the heat beneath a leafy tree,
and wait for the coolness of the evening wind.

Women, draw near! While I rest here beneath a leafy tree,
fill my ear with your long-drawn tones.

Sing the song of the young girl who, when her fingers braid her plaits,
or when she sits beside the rice, chases off the greedy birds.

Song pleases my soul; dance is for me almost as sweet as a kiss.

Let your steps be slow; let them mime the gestures of pleasure
and the abandon of passion.

The evening breeze begins to stir;
the moon begins to gleam through trees on the
mountainside. Go, prepare the feast.

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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Paul Cohen (MM '76, DMA '85), saxophone

Paul Cohen is one of America's most sought-after saxophonists for orchestral and chamber concerts and solo recitals. He has appeared as soloist with the San Francisco Symphony, Richmond Symphony, New Jersey Symphony, Charleston Symphony and Philharmonia Virtuosi. His many solo orchestra performances include works by Debussy, Creston, Ibert, Glazunov, Martin, Loeffler, Husa, Dahl, Still, Villa-Lobos, Tomasi, and Cowell. In addition, he has played in numerous ensembles, including the Cleveland Orchestra, Santa Fe Opera, New Jersey Symphony, Oregon Symphony, Long Island Philharmonic, Group for Contemporary Music, Charleston Symphony, New York Solisti, and the Manhattan Chamber Orchestra.

He has recorded three albums with the Cleveland Symphonic Winds under the direction of Frederick Fennell and a compact disk of the music of Villa-Lobos with the Quintet of the Americas as well as recordings with the Saxophone Sinfonia, Philharmonia Virtuosi, New York Solisti, Paul Winter Consort, North-South Consonance, and the New Sousa Band. His most recent recordings include an environmental-jazz CD of solo improvisations, the newly discovered classical saxophone concerto of the 19th-century American composer Caryl Florio, and his solo CD, *Vintage Saxophones Revisited*, featuring the premiere recording of Cowell's *Hymn and Fuguing Tune #18*. He most recently recorded works for saxophone and orchestra by Bernhard Heiden, Alec Wilder, and Sabine Pautza and a solo work by Robert Martin. He is the founder and leader of the New Hudson Quartet, which has performed concertos of Calvin Hampton and Nicolas Flagello, and recently released two CDs of American music.

Dr. Cohen is on the faculties of Manhattan School of Music, Rutgers University, Queens College and New York University. Dr. Cohen holds M.M and DMA degrees from Manhattan School of Music. His teachers have included Galan Kral, Joe Allard, and Sigurd Rascher. He has published more than 100 articles on the history and literature of the saxophone in a variety of music journals. Combining his musicological pursuits with performing activities, Dr. Cohen has rediscovered and performed lost saxophone literature, including solo works for saxophone and orchestra by Loeffler, Florio and Dahl (for winds), as well as rare chamber works by Grainger, Ornstein, Sousa, Cowell, Siegmeyer, and Loeffler.

As arranger he has written *The Renaissance Book*, a collection of Renaissance songs and dances for saxophone quartet (Galaxy Music); *Four Piano Blues of Copland* for saxophone quartet (Boosey and Hawkes); and, as editor, has prepared the ossia

passages for the Concerto for Saxophone by Ross Lee Finney (Peters Music). His company, To the Fore Publishers, publishes his arrangements and settings for saxophone ensemble as well as original, historical, and contemporary saxophone works from selected composers. Dr. Cohen frequently presents lectures on the saxophone, illustrating his talks with rare instruments, manuscripts, and archival material from his extensive private collection.

Chloé Kiffer, violin (MM '14, PS '15)

Franco-American violinist Chloé Kiffer has received enthusiastic praise from *The New York Times* for her “pure and beautiful tone” and *The Greenwich Sentinel* for being “...a star in every sense: performance, exquisite technique, and beauty.” Performing solo and orchestral engagements throughout Europe, North and South America, the Middle East, and Asia, Kiffer has appeared at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées in Paris, Beethoven Hall in Bonn, Frankfurt Radio Symphony Hall, Tel Aviv Opera, and Beijing National Center. In October 2015, Kiffer made her Carnegie Hall debut performing Tchaikovsky’s Violin Concerto in Stern Auditorium. Kiffer has collaborated with artists including Philippe Muller, Shmuel Ashkenasi, Timothy Eddy, the Emerson String Quartet, and pianist Alexandre Moutouzkine.

Kiffer is on the violin faculty of Manhattan School of Music and was previously a violin professor at the University of North Texas. Her students have won prizes at national and international competitions. She is a sought-after guest teacher and faculty member for conservatories and festivals around the world—the Heifetz International Music Institute, Miami Music Festival, Beijing International Music Festival and Academy, Chamber Music International in Texas, MusicFest Perugia in Italy, Paris International Music Academy and MusicAlps in France.

Kiffer is a laureate of the Bleustein-Blanchet Foundation. She graduated from the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris and earned postgraduate degrees from Manhattan School of Music under Patinka Kopec and Pinchas Zukerman. Kiffer received her Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Stony Brook University.

In 2019 Kiffer released an album of the Ravel violin sonatas on the Steinway & Sons label with pianist Alexandre Moutouzkine. Chloé Kiffer performs on a violin that was made for her by luthier Samuel Zygmuntowicz (Brooklyn, NY, 2023).

Yoon Lee (BM '09, MM '11, DMA '18), piano

The Special Prize winner of the Anton G. Rubinstein International Piano Competition, Dr. Yoon Lee is a concert pianist, educator, and arts leader active in the New York metropolitan area.

Yoon’s performances of Beethoven have been praised by *New York Concert Review*

as being “equal to Beethoven’s virtuosic demands.” She has appeared at major venues including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, The Greene Space, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, the Château de Fontainebleau, the Schumann-Haus Museum in Leipzig, Hamarikyu Asahi Hall, and the Seoul Arts Center, among many others throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia. Her live performances have been broadcast on WQXR, New York’s leading classical radio station, and KBS, South Korea’s national television network. As a soloist, she has performed with the Carl Maria von Weber Orchestra of Dresden, the Camerata Forum Internacional (Spain), the Prime Philharmonic Orchestra of South Korea, and the Brooklyn Chamber Orchestra.

A passionate advocate for the repertoire for strings and piano, Yoon is a sought-after collaborative pianist and has worked closely with artists including Shmuel Ashkenasi, Timothy Eddy, Colin Carr, Astrid Schween, Catherine Cho, Laurie Smukler, Tommy Mesa, Zlatomir Fung, Stella Chen, and Timothy Choi, as well as members of the Juilliard, Borromeo, and Orion String Quartets. She has also served as pianist for master classes led by Hilary Hahn, Leonidas Kavakos, Steven Isserlis, and Frans Helmerson.

Yoon has taught chamber music at The Juilliard School Pre-College, Manhattan School of Music Pre-College, the Heifetz International Music Institute, Kneisel Hall’s ACMI, and at SUNY Purchase College. She holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Manhattan School of Music and a Graduate Diploma from The Juilliard School. She is currently on faculty at the Heifetz International Music Institute and serves as a staff pianist at The Juilliard School.

Elena Lisitsian (BM ’96), piano

Russian-Armenian pianist Elena Lisitsian has made her debut performance at the Great Hall of Moscow State Conservatory at the age of ten. Being influenced by her grandfather, the great baritone of the Bolshoi Theater, Pavel Lisitsian, she developed a deep interest in music early on.

Ms. Lisitsian received her musical training in Moscow under Ms. Plyashkevich of the Gnessin School of Music. After moving to New York City, she continued her studies with professor Nina Svetlanova at Manhattan School of Music.

Ms. Lisitsian has also worked under the tutelage of Elena Tatulyan. Among her accomplishments are first prizes in Chamber Music Competition in Houston, Texas; “Ensemble Competition” and “Forshey” Piano Competition of Steinway & Sons. She has performed as a soloist and a chamber musician in Russia, Europe and the United States.

Her performances include an appearance with the New York Philharmonic

Ensembles in Merkin Concert Hall, New York City, in Warsaw, Poland at the “Chopin and his Europe Festival” and in Moscow, Russia at the “Homecoming” Festival. Ms. Lisitsian has been participating in the “Progetto Martha Argerich” Festival in Lugano, Switzerland since 2011 until its closure in 2016. In June 2021 she was invited to play in Martha Argerich Festival in Hamburg.

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 San Francisco Symphony, Dallas and Houston Symphonies, Detroit Symphony, and Rochester Philharmonic. He has performed recitals in Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and in major venues throughout the world. As pianist and founding member of the famed Raphael Trio, for the past 40 years he has performed virtually the entire piano trio repertoire. The Trio appears regularly in New York, London, Vienna, Paris, Frankfurt, 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, in Paris, 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 US. He has appeared as guest soloist with such eminent American orchestras as Philadelphia, San Francisco, Houston, Detroit, and Rochester. He has given recitals at Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, and the 92nd Street Y as well as in major cities throughout the US, complemented by master classes and intensive seminars for pianists at colleges and universities. He has also toured in China, Japan and Europe and participated in numerous international festivals.

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 Szigeti 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 Bela Bartok 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, the Gewandhaus Akademisches Orchester.

Mr. Wang is a violin faculty at Manhattan School of Music. He was invited as a guest artist and faculty member and given recitals and masterclasses at the Budapest Spring Festival, Texas Music Festival, Festival International de Musique de Wissembourg, Bravo Music Festival, Qingdao Music Festival, and 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, Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, and faculty members of 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 B.M., M.M., and Artist Diploma from Manhattan School of Music under the guidance of Lucie Robert.

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

Cellist Benjamin Larsen made his solo debut in 1999 at the Merryall Center for the Arts, where critic for the *Danbury News Times*, Frank Merklings, called him “remarkably gifted”, with “a charming, warm tone”. He has performed in various venues in the Tri-State area, including concerto performances with the Hartford Symphony, Farmington Valley Symphony and Camerata Oaxaca, and solo and chamber performances in Asia and Europe. He is an avid chamber musician, founding and organizing the chamber music series, Concerts on the Slope, since 2012 in Park Slope, Brooklyn. As an orchestral musician he has performed with the City Chamber Orchestra of Hong Kong, the Pacific Music Festival Orchestra, the New York Scandia Orchestra, as well as the Manhattan School of Music orchestras.

Mr. Larsen has performed at several summer music festivals including the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, Castleman’s Quartet Program, Music@Menlo and Pacific Music Festival. His chamber music mentors have included members of the

Emerson, Tokyo, American and Keller String Quartets, as well as Robert Mann, Nicholas Mann, Peter Frankl, Andre Michel Schub, Daniel Epstein, and Sylvia Rosenberg. He has participated in master classes with Keith Robinson and Colin Carr, and past teachers include Eric Dahlin, David Finckel, Julia Lichten, and Clive Greensmith, as well as lessons with Marta Casals Istomin and Bonnie Hampton.

In addition to performing, he is on the faculty of the Music School of Westchester, Brooklyn Music School, has a private studio, and is an experienced chamber music coach. Mr. Larsen holds Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from Manhattan School of Music, where he was the recipient of the Hans and Klara Bauer Scholarship and the 2011 Pablo Casals Award. He plays on a 19th century anonymous cello.

Meredith Krinke (BM '27), soprano

Meredith Krinke is a soprano, currently working towards her Bachelors of Music with Cynthia Hoffmann at the Manhattan School of Music. This season, she returned to the Bach Vespers series as a soloist in Bach's *Magnificat*, and looks forward to presenting a recital of Schoenberg, Ravel, and Stravinsky in the spring. She regularly appears around NYC as a Baroque soloist, recently performing in Allegri's *Miserere*, Mozart's *Exsultate Jubilate*, as well as singing the role of La Musica in Monteverdi's *L'Orfeo*. In 2022, Meredith had her introduction to opera performance with New York City Opera, in the world premiere of Ricky Ian Gordon's *The Garden of the Finzi-Continis*. She has also performed as First Spirit in *Die Zauberflöte*, and looks forward to singing the role of Berginella in Offenbach's *La Perichole* with MSM in the spring. A native New Yorker, she is passionate about bringing both Baroque and contemporary music to life, as she continues to explore collaborations across the city.

Lorien Britt (BM '26), flute

Dallas and NYC-based flutist Lorien Britt is an undergraduate at Manhattan School of Music, pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Classical Flute Performance as a student of Linda Chesis. She is a long-time member of the Texas Flute Society and the National Flute Association as well as several other flute organizations across the country.

Lorien has performed as a concerto soloist with the Manhattan School of Music Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Leonard Slatkin and the Riverside Orchestra under the direction of Reuben Blundell. Her other recent accomplishments include first prizes in solo flute competitions held by Austin Flute Society, Oklahoma Flute Society, Central Ohio Flute Association, Colorado Flute Association, and Flute Society of Greater Philadelphia. She is also a prize winner of the Cynthia Woods Mitchell-Ima Hogg Concerto Competition, held by the Houston Symphony and Texas Music Festival.

Lorien has performed for several world-renowned flutists, such as Denis Bouriakov, Jasmine Choi, Paul Edmund-Davies, James Galway, Lorna McGhee, Marina Piccinini, and Jim Walker. She has also been a member of several chamber ensembles coached by musicians of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, Houston Symphony, Imani Winds, and faculty of Manhattan School of Music and the Juilliard School.

Lorien has a passion for learning and a talent for organization, inspiring her to create a personal “Flute Encyclopedia,” a compilation of hundreds of pages of teachings from leading professionals in the flute world and the music world at large. This passion project has spanned over three years and has expanded to three volumes covering a wide range of topics. Lorien enjoys using her knowledge to benefit her fellow students and to spark creativity and experimentation in her playing.

Yat Lee (MM '25, PPD '27), viola

Hong Kong violist Yat Lee has been performing extensively across Europe, the United States, Asia, and the Middle East, where he performed in prestigious concert halls and venues such as the Victoria Hall, Musikverein Wien, Wiener Konzerthaus, Berlin Konzerthaus, Royal Albert Hall, Opera de Monte Carlo, Carnegie Hall, and KKL Luzern, Shanghai Concert Hall, Suzhou Museum.

As an avid chamber musician, he has performed with eminent musicians such as Maxim Vengerov, Nobuko Imai, Liviu Prunaru, Renaud Capucon, Gerard Causse, Clemens Hagen, Antonio Lysy, Gilbert Kailish, among others. He has been invited to festivals such as Wien Modern, Prussia Cove, Stauffer, Pablo Casals, Gstaad Menuhin, Megeve, Bellerive, Kuhmo, Music@Menlo, and Beare's Premiere Music Festival. He has appeared on worldwide television networks, such as Leman Bleu, ORF, and RTHK.

He was the winner at the Kreisler Institute Competition, Vienna, and the Ruth Widder competition, New York. He is also a scholar of Dr. Martha Sobotka-Charlotte Janeczek Stiftung and the Bei Shan Tang Foundation.

As an orchestral musician, he has been invited as principal violist at Menuhin Soloists, Klangforum Bern, Webern Symphony Orchestra, Hong Kong String Orchestra, and has performed under the baton of renowned conductors such as Christoph von Dohnányi, Kirill Petrenko, and Daniel Harding.

Lee studied at the University of Music and Performing Arts, Vienna and the International Menuhin Music Academy with full scholarship, under the tutelage of Ivan Vukcevic, Maxim Vengerov, Gabor Takacs Nagy, Wolfgang Klos, and Ulrich Schönauer.

Lee is currently a student at Manhattan School of Music studying under Pinchas Zukerman and Patinka Kopec with full scholarship. Lee plays a fine c.1800 John Betts viola kindly loaned to him by the PostScript Collection through the Beare's International Violin Society