



Bard Music West

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bard Music West Announces Inaugural Festival “The World of György Ligeti”

Three programs and a talk on March 17 and 18 at San Francisco’s Noe Valley Ministry offer an in-depth exploration of Hungarian composer György Ligeti (1923–2006), including his music, influences, and legacy.

Bard Music West is a project of the Bard Music Festival, the critically-acclaimed Hudson Valley summer festival of Bard College which has examined the life, influences, and music of a single composer each year since 1990.

January 20, 2017 (San Francisco) — On March 17 and 18, Bard Music West presents its inaugural festival, **The World of György Ligeti**, a thrilling sonic exploration of the brilliant Hungarian composer whose works became most widely known through the films of Stanley Kubrick.

Listeners will encounter some of Ligeti’s most stunning compositions—including his dazzling Piano Études, *Lux aeterna* for a capella chorus, *Poème Symphonique* for 100 metronomes, and his late Sonata for Viola—alongside Transylvanian folk tunes, music by the composer’s son Lukas Ligeti and his student Roberto Sierra, and a world premiere commission from **Luna Pearl Woolf** set to Beckett’s absurdist play *Act Without Words I*. The festival will include three concerts and a talk, connecting the world of Ligeti to our world of today.

Bard Music West is a project of the **Bard Music Festival**, the summer classical music destination at Bard College in New York’s Hudson Valley, which has examined the life, influences, and music of a single composer each year since 1990. Bard Music West, which takes place this year at the Noe Valley Ministry in San Francisco, will explore the music and influences of 20th-century and contemporary composers—a modern twist on

the Bard Music Festival concept for the Bay Area.

San Francisco-based pianist and Bard College alumna Allegra Chapman is the artistic and executive director of Bard Music West. “My co-founder Laura Gaynon and I are thrilled to launch Bard Music West, delving into the mind of the incredible composer György Ligeti,” said Chapman. “We created this festival out of a desire to explore modern music in context as part of a continuum connecting past, present, and future. There aren’t many places that look at the music and influences of contemporary and recent composers in depth. For our first annual festival, we’re offering many different ways into Ligeti’s music and we can’t wait to join our audience in discovering his wild and vital world.”

Performers for the 2017 festival include **Lucille Chung**, whose recording of Ligeti’s complete piano music was described by *Gramophone* as an “outstanding recording of Ligeti’s artistic evolution ... to dazzle, provoke, and delight.” Other artists include rising star violinist and violist **Luosha Fang**, as well as **Volti**, San Francisco’s premiere new music chorus. **Mark Streshinsky**, general director of West Edge Opera, will stage Beckett’s *Act Without Words I*—a mime play that fascinated Ligeti—with a newly commissioned score by Woolf. The festival audience will also perform in a participatory adaptation of Ligeti’s *Poème Symphonique* for 100 mobile phone metronomes.

György Ligeti was born in 1923 to a Hungarian Jewish family in Transylvania and became one of the leading composers of the late 20th century. Upon his death in 2006, he was eulogized in the international press as a pioneering, innovative composer of indisputable importance. He was one of few late 20th-century composers who pushed the boundaries of classical music while also being of genuine interest to the general public. In the increasingly academicized compositional landscape of postwar Europe, Ligeti was a singular figure: a composer with a voice and an evolving style across a lifetime, a man alone, beholden to no school or “-ism.”

But Ligeti was also an artistic omnivore, drawing inspiration from other composers—from Karlheinz Stockhausen in Darmstadt to the California minimalism of Steve Reich and Terry Riley—as well as from folk and indigenous music from around the world. He loved the Beatles. He listened to jazz. He read Kafka, Ionesco, and Beckett, and studied fractal geometry and chaos theory.

His music, in turn, was picked up by the popular culture—most recognizably in the films of Stanley Kubrick. The eerie textures of *Lux aeterna*, *Atmosphères*, and the Requiem join the “Blue Danube” waltz and *Also sprach Zarathustra* in the soundtrack for *2001: A Space Odyssey*, and the stark piano pings of *Musica ricercata* accompany Tom Cruise through the dreamscape of his dangerous sexual adventure in *Eyes Wide Shut*.

All this is part of Ligeti’s world, and the three programs of Bard Music West’s inaugural festival investigate his influences, output, and legacy. The breadth of programming weaves Ligeti’s world—from pre-war central Europe, to the Holocaust, to the Hungarian Revolution, to West Germany, to ‘70s California—directly into the world of our own.

Ticket Information

Full Festival (3 concerts, 1 events): \$70

Marathon Saturday (2 performances, 1 event): \$50

Individual Concerts: \$25 general/\$15 student (advance purchase) | \$30 general/\$20 student (at door)

Talk: \$5

Buy tickets at bardmusicwest.org/tickets or by phone at 415-857-1632.

All events at Noe Valley Ministry

1021 Sanchez St

San Francisco, CA 94114

Program One: Hungarian Roots

Friday, March 17 at 7:30pm

Ligeti: *Musica ricercata* (selections)

Allegra Chapman, piano

Folk music of Transylvania

New Moon Trio

Bartók: String Quartet No. 2, Sz. 67

Bard Music West Quartet

Ligeti: Cello Sonata

Emanuel Evans, cello

Roberto Sierra: *Songs from the Diaspora*

Boya Wei, soprano

Allegra Chapman, piano

Bard Music West Quartet

Preconcert Talk

Saturday, March 18 at 3pm

Francesco Spagnolo, speaker and moderator

Luna Pearl Woolf, Bard Music West 2017 Composer in Residence.

Program Two: Modern Times: Dreams of the Absurd

Saturday, March 18 at 4pm

Schumann: *Märchenerzählungen* (Fairy Tales), Op. 132

Renata Rakova, clarinet

Luosha Fang, viola

Allegra Chapman, piano

Krúdy: Reading from *The Adventures of Sinbad* (transl. George Szirtes)

Ligeti: *Mysteries of the Macabre*: Three arias from the opera *Le grande macabre*

Sara LeMesh, soprano

Allegra Chapman, piano

Beckett: *Act Without Words I* with commissioned music by Luna Pearl Woolf (World Premiere)

Renata Rakova, clarinet
Mark Streshinsky, stage director
Chaplin: *Modern Times* (selections)
Nancarrow: Study for Player Piano No. 3a (from "Boogie-woogie Suite")
Ligeti: *Continuum*
Derek Tam, harpsichord
Ligeti: Études No. 10 - *Der Zauberlerling*; No. 5 - *Arc-en-ciel*; No. 13 - *L'escalie du diable*
Lucille Chung, piano

Program Three: Musical Eternity

Saturday, March 18 at 8pm
Ockeghem: Marian Motets
Volti
Robert Geary, conductor and artistic director
Ligeti: Sonata for Viola
Luosha Fang, viola
Ligeti: *Poème Symphonique* for 100 Metronomes
Adapted for mobile phone metronomes
Lukas Ligeti: *Excerpts from Time*
Luosha Fang, violin
Allegra Chapman, piano
Terry Riley: Keyboard Study No. 2
Lucille Chung, piano
Ligeti: *Lux aeterna*
Volti
Robert Geary, conductor and artistic director



About Allegra Chapman

Artistic Director and Executive Director Bard Music West

Described as “brilliant” by the *San Francisco Classical Voice*, pianist Allegra Chapman is dedicated to engaging with new audiences as performer and presenter. She plays regularly as both a soloist and chamber musician throughout the Bay Area, and has given concerts at Alice Tully Hall, the Dame Myra Hess Memorial

Concert Series, the New York City Center’s Fall for Dance Festival, and the Bard Music Festival. Her performances have been broadcast on WQXR New York, WFMT Chicago, and KALW San Francisco. An avid chamber musician, Chapman performs regularly with San Francisco Contemporary Chamber Players, Firesong, and Tenth Avenue Players, and has collaborated with Blair McMillan, and Ian Swensen. In addition to her performing career, she enjoys a thriving teaching studio and coaches ensembles at many institutions, including San Francisco State University. She is a faculty member at California Music Prep Academy and the Xi’an International Music Festival.

Passionate about performing and promoting the music of today, Chapman has worked with composers Joan Tower and Charles Wuorinen and premiered the works of many young composers. She studied with Jeremy Denk and Peter Serkin at the Bard College Conservatory of Music, graduating in the inaugural class with degrees in piano performance and history. She received her master’s degree as a scholarship student at the Juilliard School where she studied with Seymour Lipkin and Julian Martin. She previously studied with John McCarthy and has also worked with Sharon Mann at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.



About Laura Gaynon

Associate Director Bard Music West

Laura Gaynon is active both as a cellist and as a presenter of chamber music in the Bay Area. Described as “stunning” by *The San Francisco Examiner*, she has performed with the American Bach Soloists, TAP, and One Found Sound, and is a founding member of the Baroque chamber ensemble MUSA. She has collaborated with luminaries including Kim Kashkashian, Krista Bennion-Feeney, Geoff Nuttall, Bonnie Hampton, Paul Hersh, and Ian Swensen. She is also Artistic

Director of Bay Area Concerts at Home, a chamber music series that takes place

entirely in the living rooms around the Bay Area. Recent festival appearances include the Oregon Bach Festival, Toronto Summer Music Festival, Taos School of Music, and the International Piatigorsky Cello Masterclasses at USC.

Gaynon is dedicated to promoting the music of today, and launched MUSA's "Art Inspiring Art" commissioning project, now in its third year. She has an active teaching studio in San Francisco and is a teaching artist with Chamber Music by the Bay, as well as on faculty at California Music Preparatory Academy and the the Pacific Crest Music Festival. She earned degrees from Yale University and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, where she graduated with a master of music in cello performance and an artist certificate in chamber music as a student of Jennifer Culp.

About Bard Music West

Bard Music West is a new festival that explores the mind and work of a 20th-century or contemporary composer each year, delving into the ideas, obsessions, movements, and people that captured his or her imagination. Events range backwards and forwards in time, across musical genres and creative media.

The inaugural season focuses on the eclectic music and influences of **György Ligeti** (1923-2006), the brilliant Hungarian composer whose revolutionary works became most widely known through the films of Stanley Kubrick. During a single weekend, listeners will encounter Transylvanian folk music, absurdist theater, mesmerizing choral works, a world premiere, and some of Ligeti's most stunning compositions, including his dazzling piano etudes. Three concerts and a panel discussion will immerse us in Ligeti's world.

Bard Music West is a new generation of the Bard Music Festival (BMF), a critically-acclaimed classical music festival founded by Bard College in 1990. Bard Music West combines the depth and creativity of the BMF with a modern twist for the San Francisco Bay Area.

About Bard Music Festival

Leon Botstein, Christopher H. Gibbs, and Robert Martin, *Artistic Directors*
Jonathan D. Bellman and Halina Goldberg, *Scholars in Residence 2017*
Irene Zedlacher, *Executive Director*
Raissa St. Pierre, *Associate Director*

Founded in 1990, the Bard Music Festival has established its unique identity in the classical concert field by presenting programs that, through performance and discussion, place selected works in the cultural and social context of the composer's world. Programs of the Bard Music Festival offer a point of view. The intimate communication of recital and chamber music and the excitement of full orchestral and choral works are complemented by informative preconcert talks, panel discussions by renowned musicians and scholars, and special events. In addition, each season Princeton University Press publishes a book of essays, translations, and correspondence relating to the festival's central figure.

By providing an illuminating context, the festival encourages listeners and musicians alike to rediscover the powerful, expressive nature of familiar compositions and to become acquainted with less well-known works. Since its inaugural season, the Bard Music Festival has entered the worlds of Brahms, Mendelssohn, Richard Strauss, Dvořák, Schumann, Bartók, Ives, Haydn, Tchaikovsky, Schoenberg, Beethoven, Debussy, Mahler, Janáček, Shostakovich, Copland, Liszt, Elgar, Prokofiev, Wagner, Berg, Sibelius, Saint-Saëns, Stravinsky, Schubert, Carlos Chávez, and Puccini. The 2017 festival will be devoted to the life and work of Fryderyk Chopin, and 2018 will see the exploration of the life and legacy of Nikolay Rimsky-Korsakov.

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