



**Bard
Music West**

Bard Music West Announces 2019 Season: A New Concert Series and “The World of Grazyna Bacewicz”

INAUGURAL CONCERT SERIES

Bard Music West Plays

“Games and Revolutions”

featuring composers Danny Clay and Gabriella Smith

March 28-31, 2019

2019 FESTIVAL

“The World of Grazyna Bacewicz”

October 18-19, 2019

December 11, 2019 - San Francisco, CA – Bard Music West announced today its 2019 season featuring a new concert series, **Bard Music West Plays**, and its third festival, “**The World of Grazyna Bacewicz**.” Bard Music West Plays will explore the music and inspirations of emerging composers with “pay what you can” concerts around the Bay Area. The inaugural series, “Games and Revolutions” features composers Danny Clay and Gabriella Smith. On October 18-19, 2019, Bard Music West’s third festival will offer an immersion into the work, influences, and legacy of the prolific Polish composer and virtuoso violinist, Grazyna Bacewicz (1909-1969). 2019 marks fifty years since Bacewicz’ death and the festival will make the case for her inclusion among the great composers of the twentieth century.

The Series - Bard Music West Plays

From March 28-31, 2019, Bard inaugurates its concert series, **Bard Music West Plays**, with four performances around the Bay Area of “**Games and Revolutions**.” The program highlights two dynamic young composers with Bay Area ties – [Danny Clay](#) and [Gabriella Smith](#). “Pay what you can” pricing will make concerts accessible to all Bay Area residents.

The joy, playfulness, and exploration in Clay and Smith’s music will have audiences laughing and questioning their understanding of what music is all about. The program pairs works by Clay and Smith with music they love, ranging from Joseph Haydn to Phyllis Chen. Audience participatory performance elements will add to the fun.

“We could not be more excited to inaugurate Bard Music West Plays with these two wonderful composers. Danny and Gabriella compose in very different idioms, yet share a similar underlying spirit of adventure and joy. The name of our new series feels particularly apt here – in this program, the musicians will “play” in many senses of the word (and the audience will be invited to join as well!).

We can't wait to explore the magical worlds of these two composers with audiences around the Bay Area." —[Laura Gaynon](#), Artistic Codirector and Associate Director, Bard Music West

Clay and Smith will be present at select performances. Violist [Jessica Chang](#) and violinists [Mélanie Clapiès](#) and [Zenas Hsu](#) will perform alongside artistic directors [Allegra Chapman](#) on toy piano and [Laura Gaynon](#) on cello.

"Games and Revolutions" is the first program of Bard Music West's new series, Bard Music West Plays, which will explore the music and inspirations of emerging composers. Bard Music West Plays will offer a window into the minds of some of the most exciting musical voices today. Each program will be co-curated by the featured composers, offering emerging composers a rare opportunity to contextualize themselves and share insights into their music and inspirations with the audience. Programs will include solo and chamber works by the composers paired with pieces that represent some of the composers' most important artistic influences. As in Bard Music West's festival, programs will often cross time-period and genre. The series will draw on artists from Bard Music West's festival.

Bard Music West Plays will foster an informal atmosphere where composers, audience, and performers can get to know each other. Concerts will be compact at ninety minutes in length and composers will be present at selected performances to discuss their work with the audience.

DATES

Unless otherwise noted, all concerts are "pay what you can" at the door.

Thursday, March 28, 2019, 8pm
Center for New Music
55 Taylor Street, San Francisco

Friday, March 29, 2019, 7:30pm
Palo Alto (venue TBA)

Saturday, March 30, 2019, 1pm
Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive (BAMPFA)
2155 Center Street, Berkeley
Free with museum admission

Sunday, March 31, 2019, 2:30pm
Residence of Composer Vivian Fung
Please contact Bard Music West to RSVP for address at 415-857-1632 or info@bardmusicwest.org.

PROGRAM

more program details to be announced in February

Danny Clay – *String Quartet + Toy Piano*, for string quartet and toy piano
Clay – *Playbook* for flexible instrumentation
Gabriella Smith – *Carrot Revolution* for string quartet
Works by Phyllis Chen, Joseph Haydn, and others

The 2019 Festival – “The World of Grazyna Bacewicz”

On October 18-19, 2019 at Noe Valley Ministry, Bard Music West will present its third festival celebrating Polish composer and virtuoso violinist/pianist Grazyna Bacewicz (1909-1969). The festival aims to illuminate Bacewicz’s incredibly rich body of work and, in the fiftieth year since her death, to make a case for her inclusion among the great composers of the twentieth-century. Three concerts and a talk will dive into her life, music, inspirations, and contemporaries.

“Grazyna Bacewicz is often called ‘the greatest female Polish composer,’ but we believe that she was one of the great composers of the twentieth century, period. While she is well-known in her native Poland, she is rarely played in the United States. 2019 marks fifty years since her death and so it seems the right time to make a case for her inclusion in the canon of great twentieth-century composers. Our festival will be a rare opportunity to be immersed in her music which ranges from pure virtuosic fun to terribly moving statements on humanity. We’re also excited to explore her contemporaries from around World War II and its aftermath, many of whom are overlooked in their own right.”

—[Allegra Chapman](#), Artistic Codirector and Executive Director, Bard Music West

A virtuoso violinist and pianist, Bacewicz wrote over two hundred pieces of chamber music, virtuosic solo showpieces, concerti, and works for chamber orchestra and large-scale orchestra. Born in Poland, she studied composition in Paris with Nadia Boulanger, and violin with André Touret and Carl Flesch. She was concertmaster of the Polish Radio Orchestra in the 1930s. During World War II, she continued to compose, giving secret underground concerts in Warsaw. Bacewicz won numerous awards for her compositions, and spent the last fifteen years of her life devoted solely to composition.

About Bard Music West

Bard Music West presents innovative concert programs that explore the worlds of contemporary and twentieth-century classical composers in depth and in context. Events range backwards and forwards in time, across musical genres and creative media.

Bard Music West’s 2017 inaugural festival, called “a rich inaugural season” by *the San Francisco Classical Voice*, focused on the life and work of Hungarian composer György Ligeti. Its 2018 festival looked at the music, life, and legacy of Bay Area composer Henry Cowell, and was received enthusiastically —“praise and thanks are due to Bard West Artistic Directors Allegra Chapman and Laura Gaynon for their amazingly comprehensive and intelligently programmed celebration of a great American’s life.” — *The Bay Area Reporter*

Bard Music West is a new generation of the **Bard Music Festival (BMF)**, 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 combines the depth and creativity of the BMF with a modern twist for the San Francisco Bay Area.

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