# Daniel Saidenberg Faculty Recital Series

Frank Morelli, Bassoon

Juilliard



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The Juilliard School presents

# Faculty Recital: Frank Morelli, Bassoon

Jesse Brault, Conductor Jonathan Feldman, Piano Jacob Wellman, Bassoon

Wednesday, January 17, 2018, 7:30pm Paul Hall

Part of the Daniel Saidenberg Faculty Recital Series

GIOACHINO From The Barber of Seville (1816)

ROSSINI (arr. François-René Gebauer/Frank Morelli)

(1792–1868) All'idea di quell metallo

Numero quindici a mano manca

Largo al factotum

Frank Morelli and Jacob Wellman, Bassoons

JOHANNES Sonata for Cello, No. 1 in E Minor, Op. 38 (1862–65)

BRAHMS Allegro non troppo

(1833–97) Allegro quasi menuetto-Trio

Allegro

Frank Morelli, Bassoon Jonathan Feldman, Piano

Intermission

Program continues

Major funding for establishing Paul Recital Hall and for continuing access to its series of public programs has been granted by The Bay Foundation and the Josephine Bay Paul and C. Michael Paul Foundation in memory of Josephine Bay Paul.

Please make certain that all electronic devices are turned off during the performance. The taking of photographs and the use of recording equipment are not permitted in this auditorium.





EZRA Elegy for Stephen for Solo Bassoon (2002)

LADERMAN Frank Morelli, Bassoon

(1924-2015)

SOFIA Concerto for Bassoon and Low Strings (1975)

GUBAIDULINA In five movements
(b. 1931) Jesse Brault, Conductor
Frank Morelli, Bassoon

LUDWIG VAN From Fidelio (1804-05)
BEETHOVEN (arr. Frank Morelli)
(1779-1827) Mir ist so wunderbar

Joey Lavarias, Frank Morelli, Jorge Pacheco, Blair Shepperd,

Cornelia Sommer, and Jacob Wellman, Bassoons

Cornelia Sommer, Contrabasson

Ensemble

CELLOBASSBASSOONMatthew ChenAnnabel ChiuJoey LavariasIssei HerrFox MyersJorge PachecoIsabel KwonNick MyersBlair ShepperdAnne RichardsonCornelia Sommer

This evening's recital commemorates the 25 years that Frank Morelli has been a member of the faculty at Juilliard.

Performance time: approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes, including one intermission

### Notes on the Program by Cornelia Sommer

### Music From The Barber of Seville

Gioachino Rossini was one of the quintessential bel canto ("beautiful singing") opera composers in the early 19th century, along with Donizetti and Bellini. Rossini's many operas are rich with long, soaring melodies and delightful orchestration. After writing nearly 40 operas before the age of 40, he retired from composing. He spent the final decades of his life dealing with mental and physical health problems, hosting musical gatherings, and inventing gourmet recipes. Rossini's most famous opera, The Barber of Seville, gained immense popularity after its 1816 premiere, and it has continued to be performed more often than of any of his other operas. It is no surprise that in 1819 François-René Gebauer (1773-1845), a French composer and bassoonist who was a contemporary of Rossini, chose a dozen selections from The Barber of Seville to arrange for two bassoons. These duets are a perennial favorite of bassoonists, especially in the revised version by Mr. Morelli heard here tonight. While Morelli was at Juilliard, a fellow student, pianist Daniel Blumenthal, shared an original copy of the first edition of Gebauer's duets with him, and Morelli went on to perform some of the duets at Juilliard with his long-time friend bassoonist Harry Searing. By necessity, the original version of these duets was considerably reduced from the opera itself and had fairly simple second bassoon parts. Returning to Rossini's score, Mr. Morelli revised and expanded all 12 duets, and they were published by TrevCo Music Publishing. Three selections with Harry Searing are heard on his recording Romance and Caprice on the MSR label.

### Gioachino Rossini

### Born:

February 29, 1792, in Pesaro Papal State (now Marche, Italy)

### Died:

November 13, 1868, in Paris

### Sonata for Cello, No. 1 in E Minor, Op. 38

Johannes Brahms wrote his Cello Sonata in E Minor in his late 20s. At this point in his career he was still far from writing his first symphony but had contributed a substantial amount to the chamber music repertoire. Brahms dedicated the sonata to amateur cellist Josef Gänsbacher. who helped him get a job at the Vienna Singakademie. Originally, the piece had no finale but instead had an Adagio inserted between the first movement and the Allegretto quasi Menuetto (now the middle movement). Before publication, Brahms removed the slow movement and added a fugal final movement. The first movement, Allegro, is almost as long as the other two movements put together and features a wide palate of textures and interactions between the cello and piano. It is difficult to establish an appropriate balance of volume between the powerful piano and a low-register instrument like the cello. Brahms treats the two instruments as equals and finds inventive ways of ensuring the cello can always be heard. Pianist Emanuel Ax writes: "The placement of the instruments in relation to each other is guite fresh and astonishing. The cello is often the bass support of the entire harmonic structure, and

### Johannes Brahms

### Born:

May 7, 1833, in Hamburg, Germany

### Died:

April 3, 1897 in Vienna, Austria-Hungary (now Austria)

### Notes on the Program (Continued)

the piano is often in the soprano in both hands." As the instruments move around each other, they seem to be sometimes at odds with each other and sometimes intimately linked. After the substantial and complex first movement, the *Allegretto quasi Menuetto* that follows seems simple in comparison. The Minuet is a dark, mysterious version of a Viennese waltz. The inner section, the Trio, features a rippling piano texture and a plaintive, faltering melody in the cello part. Finally, the third movement opens dramatically and exuberantly. The main fugal theme is a quotation from J.S. Bach's *The Art of the Fugue*. Though contrapuntal throughout the movement, Brahms does not portray an overly academic mood, but rather the movement is marked by dramatic shifts in emotion, from pastoral to combative. This sonata is commonly played by bassoonists because of the way Brahms balanced the cello and piano parts, and because the cello part itself requires few modifications.

### Elegy for Stephen for Solo Bassoon

### Ezra Laderman

Born: June 29, 1924, in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Died: February 28, 2015, in New Haven, Conn. Ezra Laderman was an American composer known for his opera, orchestral, vocal, solo, and chamber music. He played piano and composed from a young age and he went on to study composition at Brooklyn College and Columbia University. Known for his opera Marilyn, about the end of Marilyn Monroe's life, he received commissions from many major American orchestras, including the New York Philharmonic. From 1988 until his retirement in 2013, he taught at the Yale School of music, where fellow faculty member Frank Morelli performed several of his compositions. Laderman wrote Elegy for Stephen in October 2002 after hearing news of Stephen Maxym's death. Stephen Maxym, former principal bassoon of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, was Mr. Morelli's primary teacher at the Manhattan School of Music and at Juilliard. Laderman did not write this tribute with the intention of public performance; rather, he sent the score to Maxym's widow, Lucy, as a private expression of his deeply felt emotions over the death of his friend. When devoted students of Stephen Maxym learned of the piece's existence and wished to perform it in memory of their dear teacher's passing, the composer agreed, pending Lucy Maxym's permission. Mr. Morelli has recorded the Elegy for Albany Records, the first recording of the work (soon to be released).

### Concerto for Bassoon and Low Strings

Sofia Gubaidulina is one of the foremost Russian composers of our time. Her music is influenced by a multitude of cultures: her parents were Muslim and Russian Orthodox, and she grew up in a melting pot region of Tatarskaya. A blend of East and West has profoundly influenced her music and its reception. Gubaidulina studied at the Kazan and Moscow conservatories, where many faculty members did not approve of the strong influence of Russian Orthodox beliefs in her music. Dmitri Shostakovich advised her to keep writing in her own style, even if it was deemed incorrect. After her conservatory training, Gubaidulina met more resistance when her music was boycotted in the Soviet Union. She was finally able to travel westward in 1985, and she settled in Germany in 1992. Gubaidulina's music is distinctive for its often unconventional instrumentation, unusual organizational methods such as the Fibonacci sequence, extended technique, synthesis of various harmonic languages, and episodic structure. The Concerto for Bassoon and Low Strings was written for renowned Russian bassoon soloist Valery Popov. Gubaidulina describes being "bewitched by [his] artistry," and she guickly wrote the concerto at his request. The work has since become a part of the standard bassoon repertoire, even though Soviet authorities vehemently criticized it when it was written. Gubaidulina describes the piece and her compositional process as follows: "Gradually, I began to penetrate into the essence of the instrument itself, to understand it like some character in a play. It was then that the idea came to me to surround the 'personality' of the bassoon with low-register strings: double basses and cellos. The interactions between the soloist and the surrounding instruments are complex, contradictory, as in a dramatic scene full of action. The concerto includes moments of reconciliation and hostility, tragedy, and loneliness." She goes on to say that "the bassoon represents a lyric hero; the 'low strings' personify a 'low' and aggressive crowd, which destroys the hero." The first movement, which is the longest of the movements, begins with fragments that gradually accumulate. The second movement recalls the Baroque ritornello form used in concertos by such composers as Vivaldi. Ritornello form alternates between passages for the soloist and repeated material in the orchestra. This movement also includes "multiphonics," dense chords produced by using unusual finger combinations on the bassoon. The third movement repeats thematic material from first movement and includes cadenza-like passages for the bassoon. The fourth movement is a highly emotional cadenza in which bassoon comments on all material thus far, utilizing more multiphonics as well as timbral trills and pitch bending. Finally, the fifth movement represents the final battle in which the crowd defeats the hero as the bassoon is slowly drowned out by the strings.

### Sofia Gubaidulina

Born: October 24, 1931, in Chistopol, Tatarskaya, in the former Soviet Union (now Tatarstan, Russia)

### Notes on the Program (Continued)

### Ludwig van Beethoven

### Born:

December 17, 1779, Bonn, Holy Roman Empire (now Northrhine-Westphalia, Germany)

### Died:

March 26, 1827, Vienna, Austrian Empire (now Austria)

### "Mir ist so wunderbar" From Fidelo

Ludwig van Beethoven's "Mir ist so wunderbar" ("It is so wonderful") appears in Act I of Fidelio, his only opera. Originally written in 1803, the opera was extensively revised for performances in 1806 and 1814. In the selection played tonight four characters sing together and each begins with the same melody, leading to the nickname of the Canon Quartet. Even though all the characters sing the same musical material, Beethoven weaves their melodies together so that each character's emotions, from anxiety to love, come through clearly. In this new arrangement by Frank Morelli, each of the players are highlighted and the sublime beauty of Beethoven's writing is emphasized.

Cornelia Sommer is a bassoonist and C.V. Starr Doctoral Fellow at Juilliard, where she studies with Frank Morelli.

### Meet the Artists

### Frank Morelli

Frank Morelli, the first bassoonist to receive a doctorate at Juilliard, has been a soloist at Carnegie Hall on nine occasions, and he performed at the White House for the final state dinner of President Bill Clinton. Principal bassoonist of the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, American Composers Orchestra, and the Westchester Philharmonic, he was principal bassoon of the New York City Opera for 27 years. He has taught at Juilliard since 1992, and also teaches at Yale, Manhattan School of Music, and SUNY—Stony Brook. His more than 170 recordings include MSR Classics solo CDs From the Heart, Romance and Caprice, Bassoon Brasileiro, and Baroque Fireworks. The Orpheus CD Shadow Dances, which features Mr. Morelli, won a 2001 Grammy Award.



A prolific chamber musician, he has appeared at the most prestigious national and international festivals. He is a member of the woodwind quintet, Windscape, the ensemble in residence at the Manhattan School of Music, and Festival Chamber Music. He compiled the landmark excerpt book, *Stravinsky: Difficult Passages for Bassoon* for Boosey and Hawkes and has numerous transcriptions in print. His revision of the widely used *Weissenborn Bassoon Method Book and Studies* will soon be in print, commissioned by Carl Fischer Publishers.

### Jesse Brault

Conductor-composer Jesse Brault currently studies orchestral conducting at Juilliard with Alan Gilbert. He made his New York debut at Alice Tully Hall with the Juilliard Lab Orchestra in 2015 and later appeared with the New Juilliard Ensemble conducting music by Milton Babbitt. While at Juilliard, he has worked with conductors including Bernard Haitink, Gianandrea Noseda, and Fabio Luisi. Growing up in rural Wisconsin, Mr. Brault began his musical studies while in grade school. As a young composer he garnered performances of his music across the country. He later attended St. Olaf College in Minnesota where he studied music theory and composition. He has attended master classes both at home and abroad, working with conductors including Tito Muñoz, Larry Rachleff, Lütz Kohler, Markand Thakar, and Donald Schleicher.



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### Jonathan Feldman

A New York City native, Jonathan Feldman is an ensemble player, solo recitalist, and accompanist. He has performed around the world with Nathan Milstein, Itzhak Perlman, Gil Shaham, Midori, Pierre Fournier, Kyung Wha Chung, and Zara Nelsova. He has been a participant in New York Philharmonic Chamber Ensembles concerts throughout the New York area and on orchestra tours of the Far East, South America, Russia, and Europe. He has performed at the Tanglewood Festival, Bridgehampton Music Festival, Music from Angel Fire (New Mexico), Aspen Music Festival, and California's Hidden Valley Music Festival; given master classes throughout the U.S.; and has recorded on the Columbia Masterworks, DGG, RCA Red Seal, Titanic, Philo, and Nonesuch labels. Director of the collaborative piano program at the Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara, Calif., Feldman has been on the collaborative piano faculty of New England Conservatory since 2011. He has been on the faculty at Juilliard since 1989 and was chair of the collaborative piano department here from 1992 to 2015. He has a BM from Juilliard and studied piano with Irwin Freundlich, Dorothy Taubman, and Rosetta Goodkind.



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### Jacob Wellman

Bassoonist Jacob Wellman has performed in venues including Carabinieri Hall in Salzburg, Austria, the Rudolfinum's Dvorak Hall in Prague, Carnegie Hall, and the Schonbrunn Palace in Vienna. He has participated in summer programs including master classes at the Banff Centre, Hidden Valley Music Seminars, Talis Festival and Academy in Switzerland, and the Festival Internacional de Inverno Campos do Jordão in Brazil. He is a frequent performer at Juilliard appearing with the school's orchestra, chamber orchestra, wind orchestra, and New Juilliard Ensemble. Wellman received his undergraduate degree at Juilliard and is currently pursuing his master's degree here as a student of Frank Morelli. Born in Sacramento, Mr. Wellman began his musical studies on the piano and trumpet before switching to the bassoon at age 12. He has also had success as an award-winning jazz trombonist, participating in the Stanford Jazz Workshop and several annual jazz festivals near his hometown.

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