



Shostakovich & Dawson SAT 9/11/21 at 8 PM & SUN 9/12/21 at 2 PI

Performances #172 & #173 Season 7, Concerts 1 & 2 Fisher Center at Bard Sosnoff Theater Get to know TŌN bass player Tristen Jarvis at youtube.com/theorchestranow

LEON BOTSTEIN conductor

CONCERT TIMELINE

2 hours and 20 minutes

Negro Folk Symphony	Intermission	Symphony No. 7, Leningrad
32 min	20 min	70 min

Brief remarks by Sean Flynn viola



William L. Dawson

Born 9/26/1899 in Anniston, AL Died 5/2/1990 at age 90 in Montgomery, AL

Negro Folk Symphony

The Bond of Africa *12 min* Hope in the Night *12 min* O Le' Me Shine, Shine Like a Morning Star! *8 min*

Written 1934, at age 35; revised in 1952 Premiered 11/14/1934 at the Academy of Music in Philadelphia; Philadelphia Orchestra; Leopold Stokowski conductor

- The composer said he wanted everyone who heard this piece to know that it was "unmistakably not the work of a white man."
- When the piece debuted, one New York critic called it "the most distinctive and promising American symphonic proclamation which has so far been achieved."
- Despite the enormous success of the premiere, the work faded from concert halls after about 18 months, and Dawson never wrote another symphony.

Intermission

MEET & GREET some of the musicians in the lobby SHARE A PHOTO @TheOrchNow #TheOrchNow REFRESHMENTS available in the lobby WIFI BardWireless RESTROOMS located on either side of the lobby

Brief remarks by Leanna Ginsburg flute



Dmitri Shostakovich

Born 9/25/1906 in St. Petersburg Died 8/9/1975 at age 68 in Moscow

Symphony No. 7, Leningrad

Allegretto (moderately fast) 27 min Moderato (poco allegretto) (at a moderate pace, a little fast) 12 min Adagio (slow) 19 min Allegro non troppo (fast, but not too fast) 12 min no pause between third and fourth movements

Written 1941, at age 35 Premiered 3/5/1942 at the Palace of Culture in Kuibyshev, USSR; Bolshoi Theatre Orchestra; Samuil Samosud conductor

- Shostakovich wrote this piece after he had been transported out of his besieged hometown of Leningrad during World War II.
- This vast symphony is a patriotic hymn to his city and country, and a rallying cry to the foes of fascism.
- The premiere in the U.S.S.R. was world news, and several conductors vied to secure the rights to its first performance in the West.

All timings are approximate.

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ILLUSTRATIONS BY KHOA DOAN / CONCERT QUICK GUIDE DESIGN BY NELSON YAN



Shostakovich & Dawson

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SAT 9/11/21 at 8 PM & SUN 9/12/21 at 2 PM Performances #172 & #173 Season 7, Concerts 1 & 2 Fisher Center at Bard Sosnoff Theater

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The Music

WILLIAM L. DAWSON'S NEGRO FOLK SYMPHONY Notes by TÕN bassist Tristen Jarvis



A Distinctly American Work

William Dawson's Negro Folk Symphony is a luminous, sophisticated, and very distinctly "American" work that bridges the language of post-slavery Negro spirituals with the timbres and aesthetics of the European symphony orchestra. Already celebrated for his popular choral arrangements of these spirituals, Dawson's Negro Folk Symphony catapulted his reputation after its wildly successful world premiere at Carnegie Hall by the Philadelphia Orchestra with Leopold Stokowski. The *New York World-Telegram* praised the piece for its "imagination, warmth, drama – (and) sumptuous orchestration." After visiting seven countries in West Africa to study indigenous African music in 1952, Dawson revised the Negro Folk Symphony into the version that you will hear today, which is more infused with a rhythmic foundation inspired by those African influences from his sabbatical; he wanted those who heard it to know that it was "unmistakably not the work of a white man."

The Bond of Africa

The opening thirty seconds of the piece contain a soaring blues gesture by a solo French horn, quickly morphing into a brief declaration by the woodwinds and trombones that evokes moody, Cotton Club-era undertones of an Ellington bigband ballad fused with Dvorak's *New World* Symphony. Not even a minute in, the strings interrupt with a tender, cinematic excerpt out of a Hollywood film score that launches into an opera overture-like formal structure for the remainder of the movement, alluding to classic orchestral themes such as the opening to Bizet's *Carmen* and Smetana's *Bartered Bride*.

Hope in the Night

In my opinion, the most rewarding part of the Negro Folk Symphony is this second movement. Lush and brightly sophisticated, imagine the opening to Stravinsky's "Berceuse (Lullaby)" from *The Firebird* fused with the minor-blues language of Gershwin's "Summertime" from *Porgy and Bess*. Dawson described this movement as an "atmosphere of the humdrum life of a people whose bodies were baked by the sun and lashed with the whip for two hundred and fifty years; whose lives were proscribed before they were born."

O, Le' Me Shine, Shine Like a Morning Star! A dazzling, high-paced finale punctuates this remarkable work in a style that draws upon mid-nineteenth century European romanticism while foreshadowing the writing styles of American composers such as Leonard Bernstein and George Walker.

DMITRI SHOSTAKOVICH'S SYMPHONY NO. 7, LENINGRAD

Notes by TŌN violist Celia Daggy



The Dichotomy of Fame and Rebellion

Dmitri Shostakovich was himself both a distributor and victim of Soviet propaganda. For most of his professional life, he had to toe the line between pleasing the state with his music, and remaining true to himself and his people. Some of his works won accolades from Stalin's regime and others were swiftly banned. Seeing his own image be tossed back and forth was undoubtedly a source of extreme anxiety for our dear Dmitri. Despite being the most famous Russian composer of his day, he allegedly kept a packed suitcase at his front door at all times in case he were to be taken away by the state in the middle of the night, so as to not disturb his sleeping family. This dichotomy of fame and rebellion is easily heard in Shostakovich's music.

Tyranny and Totalitarianism

The Seventh Symphony, nicknamed the Leningrad (something of a propaganda piece itself), received great praise from the Soviet government. It is a narrative work: vou will hear in the first movement the theme and drums of the Nazi soldiers marching into the city, and by the end of the symphony, the Russians eventual victory in capturing Leningrad back. The work is greatly, almost grotesquely nationalist, and reportedly had the entire audience weeping at its premiere. However, there is an underlying message about the horrors of facism - and not just the Nazis. Shostakovich privately revealed that the symphony "[is] not only about fascism but about our country . . . tyranny and totalitarianism."

Propaganda

Many of us can swiftly identify propaganda as it appears in history books—posters with cartoonish political figures and some sort of obvious state-sponsored message, many of which seem exaggerated and absurd. We, as enlightened members of the 21st century, wonder how such messages could control a society so strongly. Yet we may not be as attuned to identifying propaganda when it is under our own noses. It is not as obvious as those characterized posters from the days of old. Think about those questionable news stories we all hear on TV or the internet, where facts may be distorted and altered to fit a certain agenda, or cherry-picked to only show part of the whole story. Are these not themselves forms of propaganda?

The Artists

LEON BOTSTEIN conductor



Leon Botstein brings a renowned career as both a conductor and educator to his role as music director of The Orchestra Now. He has been music director of the American Symphony Orchestra since 1992, artistic codirector of Bard SummerScape and the Bard Music Festival since their creation, and president of Bard College since 1975. He was the music director of the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra from 2003–11, and is now conductor laureate. In 2018 he assumed artistic directorship of the Grafenegg Academy in Austria. Mr. Botstein is also a frequent guest conductor with orchestras around the globe, has made numerous recordings, and is a prolific author and music historian. He is the editor of the prestigious The Musical Quarterly, and has received many honors for his contributions to music.

More info online at **leonbotstein.com**.

THE ORCHESTRA NOW

THE ORCHESTRA NOW



The Orchestra Now (TŌN) is a group of vibrant young musicians from across the globe who are making orchestral music relevant to 21st-century audiences by sharing their unique personal insights in a welcoming environment. Hand-picked from the world's leading conservatories—including the Yale School of Music, Shanghai Conservatory of Music, Royal Academy of Music, and the Eastman School of Music—the members of TŌN are enlightening curious minds by giving on-stage introductions and demonstrations, writing concert notes from the musicians' perspective, and having one-on-one discussions with patrons during intermissions.

Conductor, educator, and music historian Leon Botstein, whom *The New York Times* said "draws rich, expressive playing from the orchestra," founded TŌN in 2015 as a graduate program at Bard College, where he is also president. TŌN offers both a three-year master's degree in Curatorial, Critical, and Performance Studies and a two-year advanced certificate in Orchestra Studies The orchestra's home base is the Frank Gehry-designed Fisher Center at Bard, where it performs multiple concerts each season and takes part in the annual Bard Music Festival. It also performs regularly at the finest venues in New York, including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and others across NYC and beyond. *HuffPost*, who has called TŌN's performances "dramatic and intense," praises these concerts as "an opportunity to see talented musicians early in their careers."

The orchestra has performed with many distinguished guest conductors and soloists, including Leonard Slatkin, Neeme Järvi, Gil Shaham, Fabio Luisi, Vadim Repin, Hans Graf, Peter Serkin, Gerard Schwarz, Tan Dun, and JoAnn Falletta. Recordings featuring The Orchestra Now include two albums of piano concertos with Piers Lane on Hyperion Records, and a Sorel Classics concert recording of pianist Anna Shelest performing works by Anton Rubinstein with TŌN and conductor Neeme Järvi. *Buried Alive* with baritone Michael Nagy, released on Bridge Records in August 2020, includes the first recording in almost 60 years—and only the second recording ever—of Othmar Schoeck's song-cycle *Lebendig begraben*. Recent releases include an album of piano concertos with Orion Weiss on Bridge Records, and the soundtrack to the motion picture *Forte*. Recordings of TŌN's live concerts from the Fisher Center can be heard on Classical WMHT-FM and WWFM The Classical Network, and are featured regularly on Performance Today, broadcast nationwide.

Explore upcoming concerts, see what our musicians have to say, and find more information on the academic program at **ton.bard.edu**.

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Leon Botstein, Music Director

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Batmyagmar Erdenebat Principal Katelyn Hoag Sean Flynn Lucas Goodman Hyunjung Song Celia Daggy Leonardo Vásquez Chacón

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Tuba Jarrod Briley

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Violin II

Bruno Pena Nalin Myoung APS '23 Joohyun Lee Rachel Crozier

Viola Rosemary Nelis '17

Cello Theo Zimmerman

meo zimmerman

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Flute Jillian Reed '21

Clarinet

Viktor Tóth '16 TŌN '21 Bass Clarinet¹

Horn

Liri Ronen '21 Mindy Holthe APS '23 Daniel Salera Emily Buehler TŌN '21 Assistant²

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Zachary Silberschlag TŌN '18 Angela Gosse James Lake Rebecca Steinberg *Assistant*²

Trombone

Matt Walley TŌN '19 Hsiao-Fang Lin '13 APS '15 Erik Saras

Percussion

Miles Salerni Matthew Overbay APS '22 Cristian Zavala APS '23 David Stevens

Harp Kathryn Sloat

Piano Bethany Pietroniro

 not performing in this concert
¹Dawson
²Shostakovich

Sean Flynn viola



Matt Dine

Sean will talk briefly about Dawson's Negro Folk Symphony on stage before the performance.

Hometown: Las Vegas, NV

Alma maters: University of Texas at Austin, M.M. in Music Performance; University of Oregon, B.M. in Music Education

Appearances: Austin Symphony, substitute, 2018–19; Britt Festival Orchestra, 2018–19; National Orchestral Institute, 2018; Oregon Mozart Players, 2015–17

What is your earliest memory of classical music? Listening to a "Mozart for Babies" CD in the car on my way to middle school

What do you think orchestra concerts should look like in the 21st Century? They should be inclusive and accessible and, in general, have music played from a much more varied set of repertoire. There is still a time and place for the more traditional, formalized concert experience, but I think the ratio should be shifted towards more casual concert-going experiences. The audience should ideally feel at ease and open to anything the orchestra wants to present to them, including pieces they may have never heard before.

Favorite non-classical musician or band: Björk, Frank Zappa, The Mars Volta Which three people, dead or alive, would you like to have dinner with and why? Paul Thomas Anderson, Dave Chappelle, and Philip Seymour Hoffman. All are/were masters of their craft and it would be great to hear anything they had to say. I'm always fascinated by the parallels in philosophies between musicians and other kinds of artists.

Tell us something about yourself that might surprise us: I played bass guitar in a heavy metal band all through high school.

Piece of advice for a young classical musician: Always have a clear idea of the message of a piece before you even begin playing it.

Leanna Ginsburg flute



Matt Dine

🛛 @leannaginsburg

Leanna will talk briefly about Shostakovich's Symphony No. 7, *Leningrad* on stage before the performance.

Hometown: Richmondville, NY

Alma maters: Purchase College, Northwestern University, Lynn University

Awards/Competitions: Winner, 2018 Chicago Women Musicians Club Competition; 2017–18 Walfrid Kujala Scholarship; Outstanding Senior Award, 2016 Purchase College Classical Division; Outstanding Junior Award, 2015 Purchase College Classical Division Appearances: Chautauqua Music Festival, 2017–18; OrchestraNext 2016–17; National Music Festival, 2016; Eastern Music Festival, 2015

When did you realize you wanted to pursue music as a career? In eighth grade I was accepted into the New York State Honor Band. That experience exposed me to so many amazing musicians and opened my mind to the possibility of pursuing music as a career. From that moment on I knew I wanted to be a musician.

What has been your favorite experience as a musician? A few years ago I worked for a non-profit organization in South Florida called Mind and Melody. I helped lead music sessions in assisted living facilities for people with Alzheimer's and Dementia. There were days when we would arrive at the facility and the participants were sad, quiet, or not making eye contact. By the end of the session they would be dancing, laughing, playing, and singing along! It was the most fun and rewarding experience I've ever had as a musician. What is some advice you would give to your younger self? It's okay to have and pursue more than one passion! I was always told that I needed to focus on one path in order to be successful, but I love many different art forms, and finding a way to weave them all together has been extremely rewarding.

If you weren't a musician, what would you be doing? I would probably be working as a photographer full time. Right now I work as a photographer part-time, so if I had to make a change, then that would most likely be my choice.

Tell us something about yourself that might surprise us: When I was in elementary school I had two pet rats! Their names were Rugrat and Missy.

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The Fisher Center develops, produces, and presents performing arts across disciplines through new productions and context-rich programs that challenge and inspire. As a premier professional performing arts center and a hub for research and education, the Fisher Center supports artists, students, and audiences in the development and examination of artistic ideas, offering perspectives from the past and present as well as visions of the future. The Fisher Center demonstrates Bard's commitment to the performing arts as a cultural and educational necessity. Home is the Fisher Center for the Performing Arts, designed by Frank Gehry and located on the campus of Bard College in New York's Hudson Valley. The Fisher Center offers outstanding programs to many communities, including the students and faculty of Bard College, and audiences in the Hudson Valley, New York City, across the country, and around the world. Building on a 161-year history as a competitive and innovative undergraduate institution, Bard is committed to enriching culture, public life, and democratic discourse by training tomorrow's thought leaders.

ABOUT BARD COLLEGE

Founded in 1860, Bard College in Annandale-on-Hudson, New York, is an independent, residential, coeducational college offering a four-year BA program in the liberal arts and sciences and a five-year BA/BS degree in economics and finance. The Bard College Conservatory of Music offers a five-year program in which students pursue a dual degree-a BMus and a BA in a field other than music. Bard offers MMus degrees in conjunction with the Conservatory and The Orchestra Now, and at Longy School of Music of Bard College in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Bard and its affiliated institutions also grant the following degrees: AA at Bard Early Colleges, public schools with campuses in New York City, Baltimore, Cleveland, New Orleans, Washington, D.C., and Newark, New Jersey, and at three Bard Microcolleges; AA and BA at Bard College at Simon's Rock: The Early College, in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, and through the Bard Prison Initiative at six correctional institutions in New York State; MA in curatorial studies, MS and MA in economic theory and policy, MEd in environmental education, and MS in environmental policy and in climate science and policy at the Annandale campus; MFA at multiple campuses; MBA in sustainability in New York City; and MA, MPhil, and PhD in the decorative arts, design history, and material culture at the Bard Graduate Center in Manhattan. Internationally, Bard confers BA and MAT degrees at Al-Quds University in East Jerusalem and American University of Central Asia in Kyrgyzstan; and BA degrees at Bard College Berlin: A Liberal Arts University. Bard offers nearly 50 academic programs in four divisions. Total enrollment for Bard College and its affiliates is approximately 6,000 students. The undergraduate College has an enrollment of about 1,800 and a student-to-faculty ratio of 10:1. Bard's acquisition of the Montgomery Place estate brings the size of the campus to nearly 1,000 acres.

For more information about Bard College, visit bard.edu.

Upcoming TŌN Events

Slatkin Conducts Brahmsiana

SEPTEMBER 18 & 19 SATURDAY at 8 PM | SUNDAY AT 2 PM

Leonard Slatkin conductor

Cindy McTee Circuits Brahms (arr. Slatkin) Brahmsiana WORLD PREMIERE Mussorgsky (orch. Ravel, arr. Slatkin) Pictures at an Exhibition

Saturday Serenade: Baroque to Classical at Clermont

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 at 4 PM

at Clermont State Historic Site in Germantown, NY

Taking inspiration from the architecture and landscape of the Clermont estate, members of The Orchestra Now perform a free community concert of baroque and classical works by **Bach**, **Mozart**, and others, that celebrates life along the Hudson. Introduced by **Pieter Estersohn**, president of Friends of Clermont.

Strass' *Merry Pranks* & Bruckner's Fifth

OCTOBER 1 & 2 FRIDAY at 8 PM | SATURDAY at 5 PM All seats \$10!

Leon Botstein conductor

R. Strauss Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks Bruckner Symphony No. 5

Gil Shaham & Julia Perry

NOVEMBER 13 & 14 SATURDAY at 8 PM | SUNDAY AT 2 PM

Leon Botstein conductor Gil Shaham violin

Scott Wheeler Birds of America WORLD PREMIERE Julia Perry Stabat Mater George Frederick Bristow Symphony No. 4, Arcadian

Handel's *Messiah*

DECEMBER 11 & 12 SATURDAY at 8 PM | SUNDAY AT 2 PM

Leon Botstein conductor Vocal soloists from the Bard Conservatory Graduate Vocal Arts Program Bard Festival Chorale Bard College Chamber Singers James Bagwell choral director

Handel Messiah



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