

## **LEON BOTSTEIN** conductor

## **CONCERT TIMELINE**

2 hours and 30 minutes



## Brief remarks by Enikő Samu violin



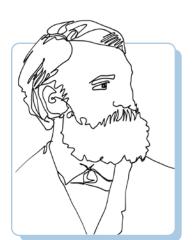
## Grażyna Bacewicz

Born 2/5/1909 in Łódź, Poland Died 1/17/1969 at age 59 in Warsaw

## **Partita for Orchestra**

Preludium: Grave (very slow) 4 min
Toccata: Vivace (lively) 3 min
Intermezzo: Andantino melancolico
(moderate, with melancholy) 3 min
Rondo: Presto (quickly) 4 min
No pause between first two movements

Written 1955, at age 46
Premiered 5/17/1957 in Warsaw;
National Philharmonic Orchestra;
Arnold Rezler conductor



### **Joseph Joachim**

Born 6/28/1831 in Köpcsény, Hungary Died 8/15/1907 at age 76 in Berlin

## **Variations for Violin and Orchestra**

NIKITA BORISO-GLEBSKY violin

Written 1876–79, in Joachim's mid 40s Premiered 2/28/1880 at the Crystal Palace in London



## Eugène Ysaÿe

Born 7/16/1858 in Liège, Belgium Died 5/12/1931 at age 72 in Brussels

## **Violin Concerto in D Minor**

WORLD PREMIERE

NIKITA BORISO-GLEBSKY violin

Written 1884, at age 26

## Intermission

 ${\tt MEET\&GREET}\ some\ of\ the\ musicians\ in\ the\ lobby$ 

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REFRESHMENTS available in the lobby

WIFI BardWireless

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## Briefremarks by **Zeyi Sun** violin



### **George Enescu**

**Born** 8/19/1881 in Liveni, Romania **Died** 5/4/1955 at age 73 in Paris

## Symphony No. 2

Vivace, ma non troppo (lively, but not too lively) 19 min

Andante giusto (moderately slow and steady) 15 min

Un poco lento, marziale (a little slow, marching) 4 min

Allegro vivace, marziale (lively and fast, marching) *16 min* 

No pause between final two movements

Written 1912–14, in Enescu's early 30s Premiered 3/28/1915 in Bucharest



Our new album, *The Lost Generation*, is now available for pre-order!

Heard in concert in Fall 2022, the works comprise Hugo Kauder's Symphony No. 1, Hans Erich Apostel's Variations on a Theme by Haydn, and Adolf Busch's Variations on an Original Theme.

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All timings are approximate.



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## The Music

## GRAŻYNA BACEWICZ'S PARTITA FOR ORCHESTRA

Notes by TŌN violinist Emerie Mon

Grażyna Bacewicz wore many hats over the course of her very accomplished life, which included the roles of concert violinist, conservatory professor, prominent juror for competitions, and composer of over 200 works. Throughout her lifetime, she showed an unrelenting desire to expand her horizons and maintain a vast range of interests, such as philosophy and literature.

Her open-mindedness for innovation played a large role in her compositions and position as a composer. She helped pave the way for the next wave of Polish composers with a mixture of neo-classicism and modernism, despite the cultural stagnation that occurred as Poland sought to embrace nationalism as a response to the devastating loss of stability and identity post-war. As stated eloquently by her friend and fellow Polish composer Witold Lutosławski, "It does not appear proper to me to judge her works only in the light of the compositional styles and rapidly changing artistic currents of her lifetime.

Like so many other composers of larger compositional forms, she was to a great degree independent of the atmosphere surrounding her. Rather, it was her music that helped to create that atmosphere...."

The Partita was written in 1955 after a long stint in the hospital due to a car accident, which also coincided with the timeframe in which Bacewicz decided to retire as a concert violinist in favor of composing. It consists of four short movements lasting three to four minutes each, which blend together seamlessly despite having vastly differing characters. In the first movement, Preludium, the work opens with a half-step, low-register, repeating motif that immediately sets a serious, almost menacing tone. Bacewicz continues to employ small motifs that are then expanded upon throughout the work. The second movement, Toccata, uses rhythm and just enough skewed meter to create a dance, one where it increasingly feels like you'll spin out of control. Intermezzo, the third movement, immediately transports you into a dream-like soundscape with the flute, clarinet, and oboe passing a plaintive melody between themselves over

a ghostly string section, accompanied by the glockenspiel and harp acting as eerie church bells. The piece finishes on an unapologetically triumphant note with the last movement, Rondo, which calls to mind heavy inspiration from folk elements with its rhythmic confidence and whirlwind ending.

## JOSEPH JOACHIM'S VARIATIONS FOR VIOLIN AND ORCHESTRA

Notes by TŌN violist Tania Ladino Ramírez

At the height of Romanticism, Joseph Joachim stood out as a virtuoso and versatile musician. His talent and impeccable training took him on a journey that linked his life with some of the most eminent composers of his era, including the Schumanns and Brahms, not to mention his renowned teachers, Mendelssohn and Liszt.

His connection with Brahms was quite remarkable. Their mutual admiration often led them to turn to each other for advice and to exchange compositional exercises to refine their skills. Joachim had already dedicated his second Violin Concerto to Brahms, and in 1878 Brahms started his iconic Violin Concerto, written for and dedicated to Joachim, while Joachim began working on his Variations for Violin and Orchestra. Despite that closeness, each of these pieces displays its own characteristics. While the Variations highlight the technical possibilities and leading capacity of the violin, Brahms' concerto features the soloist interacting with and supporting other prominent voices. Although we do not have concrete correspondence about the Variations between them, Joachim's suggestions to make Brahms' concerto more "violinistic" reveals they may not have seen eye-to-eye about certain stylistic and compositional choices. Furthermore, Spanish virtuoso Pablo de Sarasate, to whom Joachim's variations are dedicated, expressed some opinions about Brahms' concerto which suggests a desire for a more prominent and virtuosic role for the violin soloist as well.

Structured around a melancholic theme, the variations slide between lyricism and drama, evoking the contrasts of the human experience. Joachim, however, publicly opposed the growing tendency of literary-orientated music, arguing that music needs to speak freely as a language beyond words. And so with Joachim's meticulous artistry, his powerful violin solo and rich orchestral accompaniment will fill the hall with music that asks each listener to find their own meaning.

This piece reminds us of other technically demanding violin concertos like Tchaikovsky's or Mendelssohn's, with their lyrical melodies, dramatic contrasts, and brilliant virtuosity. They have become iconic pieces that showcase the violin's versatility and expressiveness, just as Joachim's does. Joachim's masterful Variations deserves the same spotlight.

## EUGÈNE YSAŸE'S VIOLIN CONCERTO IN D MINOR

Notes by TŌN violinist Chance McDermott

While there were many well-known virtuoso violin soloists throughout the late 19th and early 20th centuries—Jascha Heifetz, Nathan Milstein, Fritz Kreisler—the one deemed to be the "king" of them all was Eugène Ysaÿe. He had a prolific solo career, playing and premiering works by colleagues such as Debussy, Saint-Saëns, and Franck, the last of which wrote a violin sonata dedicated to Ysaÿe and gave it to him as

a wedding present. As Ysaÿe grew older and his playing abilities began to decline, he turned to teaching and composition as outlets for his musical spirit. His most famous contribution to the violin repertoire are his six solo violin sonatas, written in 1923, which are quite well known for their difficulty and virtuosity. However, many people might be surprised to know, as I was, that he actually wrote multiple violin concerti. Ysaÿe's Violin Concerto in D Minor was in fact recently discovered, and this performance by TŌN will mark the work's world premiere.

Written in 1884, the concerto isn't broken down into movements, but is rather one long virtuosic showcase with clear character changes spanning roughly seventeen minutes. Stylistically, it is not quite as harmonically adventurous as Ysaÿe's solo violin sonatas, and the listener can hear the influences from more wellknown concerti. Ysaÿe's concerto is very reminiscent of Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto, in the sense that its hybrid classical/Romantic style of orchestration and harmonic structure convey an elegance, simplicity, and regalness that balance out the more showy and flashy passage work. These virtuosic techniques remind me of the concerti of 19th-century violinists and composers Henryk Wieniawski and Henri Vieuxtemps, as they are basically showcases for all that the violin and its soloist are capable of. Ysaÿe's concerto even starts out with parallel tenths, a difficult technique dreaded by most violinists, and almost a direct quotation from the start of Wieniawski's First Violin Concerto. As a violinist, it has been so gratifying to discover this lesserknown but still fantastic work from such a prolific composer of music for the violin.

## GEORGE ENESCU'S SYMPHONY NO. 2

Notes by TŌN violinist Haley Schricker

George Enescu's Second Symphony (completed in 1914) was not truly the composer's second effort in the genre, but rather his sixth. During his teenage years, Enescu wrote four "study symphonies" which undoubtedly helped shape his understanding of large-scale form. A prodigiously gifted child, the young violinist and composer graduated from the Vienna Conservatoire at the age of 12—he even played in the first stand of the conservatory orchestra with his hero, Johannes Brahms, on the podium!

In adulthood Enescu gained notoriety abroad as a great violinist and conductor. He taught the likes of Yehudi Menuhin and Ida Haendel, and conducted many American orchestras, including the Philadelphia Orchestra and New York Philharmonic. Revered cellist Pablo Casals even described Enescu as "the greatest musical phenomenon since Mozart". Considering all these endorsements of his exceptional abilities, one might reasonably wonder why Enescu's works aren't better known, at least outside his home country of Romania. I can deduce three possible factors contributing to his relative lack of popularity, none of which need to be a hindrance to the programming of his compositions today: political divisions in Europe in the aftermath of World War I: the composer's own modesty and reluctance to self-promote; and the sheer difficulty of his mature works for the performers.

Enescu's Second Symphony marks a turning point in his trajectory as an artist: his many varied influences are synthesized into a unique compositional voice. Enescu

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himself was none too pleased with the premiere, however, and abandoned the symphony for the rest of his life. During the First World War, the only copy of the work accompanied the Romanian government's gold reserves on a train to Moscow, where it vanished for years—and though the manuscript was eventually returned to the composer, it remained unpublished until 1965, a decade after Enescu's death.

The symphony consists of four movements, the last two of which are played without pause in between. The first movement is the longest, and is bursting with energy in contrast to the melancholic second movement. The third movement is a march that plows straight into the kaleidoscopic finale, which is at one moment troubled and at another triumphant.

## The Artists

### **LEON BOTSTEIN** conductor



Leon Botstein is founder and music director of The Orchestra Now (TŌN), music director and principal conductor of the American Symphony Orchestra (ASO), artistic codirector of Bard SummerScape and the Bard Music Festival, and conductor laureate and principal guest conductor of the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra (JSO), where he served as music director from 2003 to 2011. He has been guest conductor with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Aspen Music Festival, Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, Mariinsky Theatre, Russian National Orchestra in Moscow, Hessisches Staatstheater Wiesbaden, Taipei Symphony, Simón Bolivar Symphony Orchestra, and Sinfónica Juvenil de Caracas in Venezuela, among others. In 2018, he assumed artistic directorship of Campus Grafenegg and Grafenegg Academy in Austria.

Recordings include acclaimed recordings of Othmar Schoeck's Lebendig begraben with TŌN, Hindemith's The Long Christmas Dinner with the ASO, a Grammy-nominated recording of Popov's First Symphony with the London Symphony Orchestra, and other various recordings with TON, ASO, the London Philharmonic, NDR Orchestra Hamburg, and JSO, among others. He is editor of The Musical Quarterly and author of numerous articles and books, including The Compleat Brahms (Norton), Jefferson's Children (Doubleday), Judentum und Modernität (Bölau), and Von Beethoven zu Berg (Zsolnay). Honors include Harvard University's prestigious Centennial Award; the American Academy of Arts and Letters award; and Cross of Honor, First Class, from the government of Austria, for his contributions to music. Other distinctions include the Bruckner Society's Julio Kilenyi Medal of Honor for his interpretations of that composer's music, the Leonard Bernstein Award for the Elevation of Music in Society,

and Carnegie Foundation's Academic Leadership Award. In 2011, he was inducted into the American Philosophical Society.

#### **NIKITA BORISO-GLEBSKY** violin



Nikita Boriso-Glebsky was invited to record Eugène Ysaÿe's recently discovered concerto in D Minor with Orchestre Philharmonique Royal de Liège for the 2019 album *A Tribute to Ysaÿe*. The recording has been awarded the prestigious Diapason d'Or award. He is giving the premiere of this work at the Fisher Center at Bard and Carnegie Hall with The Orchestra Now under the baton of Leon Botstein. This concert will be the young violinist's Carnegie Hall debut.

The current season includes concerts with Barcelona Symphony Orchestra, Wiener Kammerorchester, Istanbul State Symphony Orchestra, Orquestra Sinfonica de Tenerife, and other ensembles. In past seasons, Mr. Boriso-Glebsky has collaborated with conductors including Klaus Mäkelä, David Afkam, Sakari Oramo, Hannu Lintu, Vasily Sinaisky, Dima Slobodenyuk, Vladimir Fedoseev, Carlos Miguel Prieto, Marta Gardolinska, Christopher Warren-Green, and Jaime Martin. His chamber music partners include Denis Kozhukhin, Dmitry Masleev. Zlatomir Fung, and Georgy Tchaidze, with whom he recently embarked on a 9-concert tour of China, culminating with a recital at the Shanghai Oriental Arts Center. Memorable festival appearances include Salzburg, Rheingau, and Stars of the White Nights, as well as the Beethovenfest Bonn and "La Folle Journee" in Nantes, Tokyo and Yekaterinburg.

Mr. Boriso-Glebsky is the first performer of several compositions by Rodion Shchedrin, Alexander Tchaikovsky, and Kuzma Bodrov. In addition to A Tribute to Ysaÿe, he has recorded an anthology of Nikolai Medtner's works for violin and piano with Ekaterina Derzhavina (Profil, 2018) as well as Symphonie Espagnole with Sinfonia Varsovia and Beethoven's Violin Sonata in G Major, Op. 96, No. 10 with Dana Protopopescu (Queen Elisabeth Competition label, 2021 and 2009). He took First Prizes at the Kreisler Competitions in Vienna and the Sibelius Competition in Helsinki in 2010. and the Grand Prix at the Monte Carlo Violin Masters competition in Monaco in 2013. He won the Violinist of the Year award from the International Maya Plisetskaya and Rodion Shchedrin Foundation (USA), the Virtuoso Prize of the Italian Academy of String Instruments and the Antonio Stradivari Society (Cremona), and the Jan Sibelius Medal from the Sibelius Foundation in Finland. In 2010, the Russian newspaper Musical Review declared him Person of the Year.

#### THE ORCHESTRA NOW

In 2015 conductor, educator, and music historian Leon Botstein founded The Orchestra Now (TŌN), a group of vibrant young musicians from a cross the globe, as a graduate program at Bard College. 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 Fisher Center at Bard, where it performs multiple concerts each season and takes

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part in the annual Bard Music Festival. It also performs regularly at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and other venues across NYC and beyond.

The orchestra has performed with many distinguished guest conductors and soloists, including Leonard Slatkin, Gil Shaham, Fabio Luisi, Joan Tower, Vadim Repin, Tan Dun, and JoAnn Falletta. Among TŌN's many recordings are albums featuring pianists Piers

Lane, Anna Shelest, and Orion Weiss; Buried Alive with baritone Michael Nagy; Classics of American Romanticism; 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.

More info at ton.bard.edu.



Leon Botstein, Music Director

#### Violin I

Enikő Samu
Concertmaster
Haley Schricker
Chance McDermott
Shengjia (Sherry) Zhang
Yaewon Choi
Haley Maurer Gillia
Judith Kim
Lana Auerbach
Adam Jeffreys TŌN '23
Yi-Ting Kuo
Leonardo Pineda '15
TŌN '19

#### **Violin II**

Bruno Peña

Jonathan Fenwick Principal Seunghye Park Heather Lambert Zeyi Sun Angeles Hoyos Emerie Mon Julián Andrés Rey Peñaranda Samuel Frois Joohyun Lee Michael Hahn Nayoung Kim\*

•••••

#### Viola

Michael Halbrook *Principal*Sydney Link
Andrea Natalia
Torres-Álvarez
Tania Ladino Ramirez
Batmyagmar Erdenebat
TŌN '23
Nelsy Badia
Keegan Donlon
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English Horn ⁴
Jasper Igusa TŌN '23
Quinton Bodnár-Smith\*

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<sup>1</sup>Bacewicz

<sup>2</sup> Joachim

<sup>3</sup> Ysaÿe

<sup>4</sup> Enescu

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## SUN, MAY 19 at 3 PM

Rose Theater Jazz at Lincoln Center's Frederick P. Rose Hall

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**Debussy**Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun

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Trombone Concerto U.S. PREMIERE

Rachmaninoff Symphonic Dances

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