

ZOELLNER ARTS CENTER

LEHIGH UNIVERSITY

SPRING 2023 PLAYBILL

25TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON





DEAR FRIENDS,

As Zoellner Arts Center looks to celebrate its past 25 years and envisions the next 25, we want to pause and thank you, our supporters. Each of you helped move us forward during uncertain times. We received your encouragement and generous gifts, and you notably returned to our beautiful arts center.

There are now many opportunities to find joy at Zoellner: *watch* as a thousand public school children visit with awe and wonder; *listen* as choral and music ensembles' notes soar in Baker Hall; *smile* as theatre students busily hone their craft in the Fowler Black Box and

Diamond Theater; *admire* hundreds of students from across campus rehearsing for Dancefest in Butz Lobby; *appreciate* new perspectives at a LUAG exhibit; and *share* in the exuberance of Presenting Series performances by world-class artists such as Michael Feinstein, Postmodern Jukebox, and the New York Philharmonic — who graced our stage this past fall.

This spring offers several multi-disciplinary cultural programs. Third Coast Percussion and Flutronix present their contemporary new composition *Rubix*. The talented guzheng artist Wu Fei joins us for a residency and performs *Hello Gold Mountain* accompanied by students in Lehigh University's Philharmonic and Choir under the direction of Professor Paul Salerni. Easton native and Academy Award winner Roger Ross Williams' film, *Traveling While Black*, is the centerpiece of a free virtual reality experience lobby installation.

Be sure to save April 15, 2023, for the return of our spectacular Gala with The Philadelphia Orchestra and special guest conductor Keith Lockhart, featuring Broadway star Brian Stokes Mitchell, and a free outdoor performance by vertical dance innovators Bandaloop.

How grateful and excited I am to be the Executive Director of Zoellner Arts Center at this moment in time. We celebrate the impact we've had over the last 25 years and look forward to the next 25 of engaging and connecting with you in and beyond our building.

Mark Fitzgerald Wilson

Executive Director

THANK YOU

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Lehigh University:
• Creative Writing Program
• Zoellner Arts Center

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WU FEI

HELLO GOLD MOUNTAIN

Accompanied by the Lehigh University Philharmonic
Paul Salerni, Director



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**ZOELLNER
ARTS CENTER**
LEHIGH UNIVERSITY



2022.2023
SEASON

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ABOUT



Born and raised in Beijing, **Wu Fei** is a composer, vocalist and performer of the guzheng (Chinese zither), as well as the piano. She began performing guzheng at the age of six, and spent her formative years studying composition at the China Conservatory of Music. She holds an M.A. in Composition from Mills College where she studied improvisation and composition.

Wu Fei has performed and recorded with musicians such as John Zorn, Fred Frith, Billy Martin (Medeski-Martin-Wood), Carla Kihlstedt (Tin Hat Trio), and Grammy-winning musicians Abigail Washburn and Béla Fleck. Her commissions range from a composition for the Percussions Claviers de Lyon (France) that premiered in the Forbidden City Concert Hall in Beijing, to live performances in Paris and Tokyo for Hermès. She has composed for Balinese gamelan, symphony orchestra, choir, string quartet, chamber ensemble, film, and modern dance. Fei has performed at The Great Hall of The People in Beijing, EXPO 2010 in Shanghai, The Stone and MoMA in New York City, Herbst Theatre in San Francisco, Big Ears Festival in Knoxville, North Sea Jazz Festival in the Netherlands, Vossa Jazz in Norway, Europalia in Belgium, and Madame Guitar Festival in Italy. Fei has also been a guest lecturer and performer at institutions including China Conservatory of Music, University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, and The Norwegian Academy of Music in Oslo.



Shanir Ezra Blumenkranz — acoustic bass, electric bass, oud, gimbri — was born in Brooklyn, NY in 1975 to Polish and Egyptian parents. He was given his first instruments, the pots and pans from the kitchen and a three-string guitar at the age of two.

Blumenkranz is featured on over 50 releases on John Zorn's Tzadik record label since 1999 - producing and arranging many of the bands he works with, including Rashanim *The Gathering*, Edom *Hope And Destruction*, Pitom *Blasphemy And Other Serious Crimes*, and the *Kef* self-titled debut. In 2011, Blumenkranz

produced and arranged the cd *Caym*, featuring Cyro Baptista's Banquet Of The Spirits - comprised of compositions by John Zorn as part of the Masada *Book Of Angels* series on Tzadik. Other cds by Cyro Baptista include the self-titled debut of *Banquet Of The Spirits* and *Infito* - with compositions and arrangements by Shanir. He has performed in concert halls and festival stages all over the world with John Zorn, ABRAXAS, Banquet of the Spirits, Yemen Blues, Zion80, Edom, Pitom, Rashanim, Satlah, Kef, Pharaoh's Daughter, and recently joining Yo-Yo Ma playing oud, bass, gimbri, and arranging music for the Silk Road Project. In 2017, Blumenkranz founded a new record label called Chant Records.



Paul Salerni's music “pulses with life, witty musical ideas and instrumental color” (*The Philadelphia Inquirer*), and has been described by *The New York Times* as “impressive” and “playful.” Henry Fogel (*Fanfare*) has said “It is...music that sings and dances.”

Salerni's one-act opera *Tony Caruso's Final Broadcast*, with a libretto by Dana Gioia, won the National Opera Association's Chamber Opera Competition. A definitive recording was released on Naxos in 2010.

His second one-act, *The Life and Love of Joe Coogan*, is adapted from a Dick Van Dyke TV Show episode. In March 2019, Salerni and Gioia saw the premiere of a one-act dance opera entitled *Haunted*.

Salerni's chamber music and songs appear on the Albany, Bridge, and New Focus labels. Recent chamber music commissions include music for East Winds, Philadelphia Brass, SATORI, and the Emory Chamber Music Society of Atlanta. This season, Salerni's chamber music is being featured as a result of his being named the Composer-in-Residence for the Concerts on the Slope series in Brooklyn. Salerni's several orchestral commissions include works for the New Haven Symphony, the Allentown Symphony, the San Diego Chamber Orchestra, and the Lehigh Valley Chamber Orchestra. He is published by Presser, Alfred, Fischer, and North Star.

Salerni's passion for involving young people in music is evident in his choice of subject, audience, and performers for many of his compositions. *The Big Sword and the Little Broom*, a suite for solo violin and orchestra, is based on an old Neapolitan fable. Its chamber ensemble reduction, with narration by Dana Gioia, has been performed frequently in the United States and Canada in educational

and family concerts; its full orchestra version has been performed at the Interlochen Summer Arts Camp, where Salerni served on the orchestral conducting faculty for six years. Salerni's ballet entitled *FABLES* was commissioned and premiered by RIOULT New York and is also family-friendly. *FABLES* has been performed in all of the five boroughs of New York City as well as in numerous venues in France and Germany.

Salerni is the NEH Distinguished Chair in the Humanities and Professor of Music at Lehigh University. Salerni received a Ph.D. in composition from Harvard University, where he studied with Earl Kim. As the leading expert on the music of his mentor Earl Kim, Salerni has a long history of collaboration as guest pianist, coach, and lecturer with the internationally acclaimed string ensemble Sejong Soloists. He has performed Kim's music with the ensemble at the Seoul Arts Center, the Great Mountains Festival (Korea), at the Kennedy Center, the 92nd St. Y, and the Aspen Music Festival.

A dedicated educator, Salerni is recipient of the Stabler Award, Lehigh University's most valued acknowledgement of excellence in teaching. His service to the larger community includes seven years' service on the Board of Directors of the Suzuki Association of the Americas. For two of those years, he served as Chair. Salerni is married to opera and stage director Laura Johnson, and often writes for, and performs with, their two sons, violinist Domenic (Attacca Quartet) and percussionist Miles (Philadelphia Ballet).

The Lehigh University Philharmonic is a group of talented musicians, most of whom are undergraduate students majoring in disciplines outside of music. They regularly perform at their home in Zoellner Arts Center and have performed at various international venues in Europe, Asia and South America and Africa. The orchestra celebrated the Mahler centennial year (2011) with a memorable rendition of his first symphony, a performance that was cited by *The Morning Call* as "one of the ten best performances of the year" in the Lehigh Valley. The orchestra's programming focus is the historically important main orchestral repertoire, ranging from Bach to Barber and everything in between.

LEHIGH UNIVERSITY PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

Paul Salerni, Director

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Michael Jorgensen, +
concertmaster
 Caroline Geiger
 Chloe Wilcox
 Allison Connuck*
 Michael McBride
 Daniel Lee
 Todd Watkins+
 Sonya Savini
 Karen Ambrose
 Patrickjason Kupcha
 Christine Hofmeister
 Kathy Stehly
 Tyler Katz+

VIOLIN II

Diane Monroe, # *principal*
 Jessica Vogel*
 Erin Klus*
 Takeshi Horochi
 Joshua Lentz
 Alexandra Sackett
 Drina Bianchini
 Chang Wang
 Joshua Swavely
 Gabriella Ledis
 Karen Li
 Susan Vitez
 Owen Roth

VIOLA

Christopher Souza#
 Anna Peris*
 David Huang
 Sarah Thomas
 Justin Tan
 Lya Ali
 Nancy Terlaak-Poot

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Noelle Casella Grand#
 Ellen Hospador
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 Ella Rosetti
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 Andrew McKenna
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 Manyi Guo*
 Will Lotto
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ORCHESTRA MANAGER

Linda Ganus Albulescu+

Narration read by Deborah Walters

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Lost & Found: Contact Ticket Services. Not responsible for lost or stolen items.

Families with Children:

We welcome children of all ages to our Family Series shows. For performances not listed as Family Series in our brochure, we recommend that attendees be ages four and over. Everyone entering the theatre must have a ticket, and sit quietly in a seat throughout the performance. There are closed-circuit monitors in the lobby which supervised children may use to watch performances if they need a break.

Accessible seating can be requested when purchasing tickets. Accessible parking is on levels 1 and 3 in the parking garage.

Free assistive-listening devices are available through Ticket Services for amplified performances.

Questions about your tickets?

Contact Ticket Services:

Phone: 610-758-2787 ext. 0
Email: inzactix@lehigh.edu

Box Office Hours:

TUE 12-6; WED-FRI 12-5
For ticketed events: SAT 2 hours prior to curtain, 90 mins. all other days.

All programs and artists are subject to change. In the event of a cancellation or material change, we will make every effort to contact all ticket holders. We must reserve the right to make any changes whatsoever in the event owing to any unforeseen or unavoidable cause or to cancel the event for any reason beyond our control without being liable to pay any ticket holder compensation for damages other than a ticket of comparable value to an event (based on availability).

Video recording or photography may occur for this performance that might include images of audience members. Your attendance at today's performance grants permission for further usage of such images.

ZOELLNER ARTS CENTER

SPRING 2023 SEASON AT A GLANCE



TRAVELING WHILE BLACK Virtual Reality Experience		JAN 27-APR 2
LIGHTWIRE THEATER <i>The Adventures of Tortoise & Hare</i>	FAMILY SERIES	JAN 29
JAZZ FACULTY CONCERT		FEB 4
WU FEI <i>Hello Gold Mountain</i>		FEB 11
PADDINGTON GETS IN A JAM	FAMILY SERIES	FEB 18
THIRD COAST PERCUSSION & FLUTRONIX <i>RUBIX</i>		FEB 24
SILENT SKY		FEB 24-26, MAR 1-4
THE PRINCETON SINGERS <i>De Profundis</i>		FEB 26
CIRQUE MECHANICS <i>Zephyr</i>	FAMILY SERIES	MAR 3
NEW YORK JAZZ REPERTORY ORCHESTRA		MAR 4
CANADIAN BRASS		MAR 11
THE LIGHTNING THIEF <i>The Percy Jackson Musical</i>		MAR 23-26
LEHIGH UNIVERSITY CHOIR, GLEE CLUB AND DOLCE <i>On the Road</i>		MAR 24-25
LEHIGH UNIVERSITY FACULTY RECITAL <i>The War Within Revisited</i>		MAR 26
PASSION FRUIT DANCE COMPANY		MAR 31
LEHIGH UNIVERSITY JAZZ REPERTORY ORCHESTRA		APR 2
<i>Gala</i> ₂₀₂₃ THE PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA		APR 15
BROWN FACE		APR 14-16, 19-22
LEHIGH UNIVERSITY STUDENT JAZZ ENSEMBLES		APR 22
LEHIGH UNIVERSITY PHILHARMONIC <i>Spring Concerto Marathon</i>		APR 28-29
PINKALICIOUS THE MUSICAL	FAMILY SERIES	APR 30
LEHIGH UNIVERSITY CHORAL ARTS <i>A Sacred Garden</i>		MAY 5-6
LEHIGH UNIVERSITY WIND ENSEMBLE <i>Classics for Winds</i>		MAY 7
NEIL BERG'S 100 YEARS OF BROADWAY		MAY 13

KEY: **PRESENTING SERIES** | **MUSIC DEPARTMENT** | **DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE**

