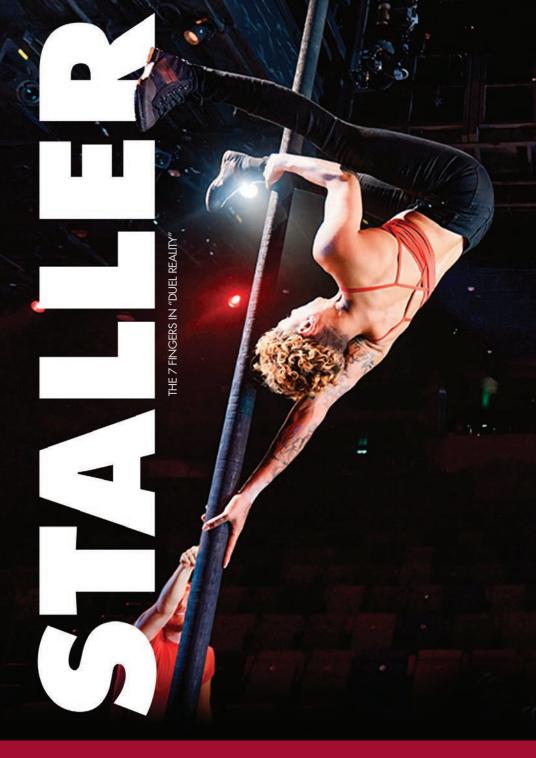


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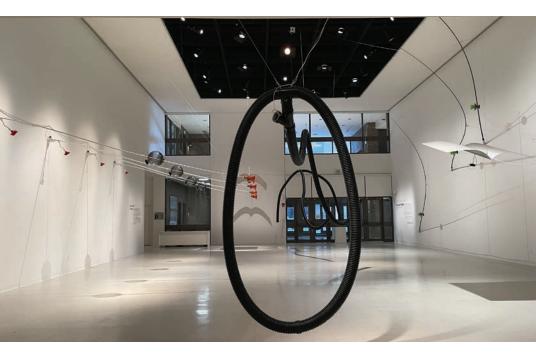
Friday, February 14, 2025

Bellini – Overture, "I Capuleti e Montecchi" Bartók – Piano Concerto No. 3 Prokofiev – Symphony No. 5 Featuring pianist Owen Dodds Conducted by Xian Zhang

Saturday, March 29, 2025

Caroline Shaw – *Entr'acte* Ibert – Flute Concerto Shostakovich – Symphony No. 5 Featuring flutist Ji Young Kim Conducted by Eduardo Leandro

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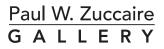


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Above: John Driscoll, Phil Edelstein and Cecilia Lopez, COMPOSERS INSIDE ELECTRONICS





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PRESENTS

STARRY NIGHTS

COLIN CARR, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2025

SCHULHOFF Concertino for Flute, Viola, and Bass

Andante con moto Allegro furioso Andante Allegro gaio

> Ji Young Kim, *flute* Matthew Lipman, *viola* Nina Bernat, *bass*

SCHÖNBERG

Verklärte Nacht op 4

Jennifer Frautschi, violin Jaeyoun Hwang, violin Matthew Lipman, viola Sohui Yun, viola Colin Carr, cello Nina Bernat, bass

-INTERMISSION-

SCHUBERT

Trout quintet D667

Allegro vivace Andante Scherzo: Presto Andantino – Allegretto Allegro giusto

> Nahyoung Kim, piano Jennifer Frautschi, violin Kevonna Shuford, viola Colin Carr, cello Nina Bernat, bass

STARRY NIGHTS

PROGRAM NOTES

Concertino for Flute, Viola, and Bass

Erwin Schulhoff's *Concertino* offers a striking example of his eclectic, modernist style and his affinity for unconventional instrumentation. Scored for the unlikely trio of flute, viola, and double bass, the work is at once playful and profound, bridging the folk traditions of Central Europe with the experimental spirit of the early twentieth century.

Born in Prague in 1894, Schulhoff was a German-speaking Czech composer of Jewish descent who never felt entirely at home within the cultural or national divisions of his time. His prodigious musical talent was recognized early-Antonín Dvořák himself encouraged the young Schulhoff to pursue a career in composition. Schulhoff's studies took him across Europe, from the Prague Conservatory to Vienna, Leipzig, and Cologne, where he developed a compositional voice steeped in late Romanticism. His early works reveal the influence of Richard Strauss, Alexander Scriabin, and Claude Debussy, but his artistic trajectory shifted dramatically after World War I. Conscripted into the Austrian army, Schulhoff returned from the front deeply disillusioned, embracing radical politics and avantgarde aesthetics in equal measure. Throughout the 1920s, Schulhoff explored Expressionism, American jazz, and Dadaist irreverence, drawing inspiration from the artistic ferment of Weimar Germany. He lived in Dresden and Berlin before ultimately returning to Prague in 1923, where his music took on a new clarity and accessibility.

The Concertino, composed in a mere four days in 1925, reflects this period of synthesis. Though deeply modern in its harmonies and textures, the work is infused with folk elements, including the furiant—a lively Czech dance and a Carpathian folk song. The instrumentation itself lends the piece an unusual timbral palette, from the lyrical warmth of the viola and flute to the double bass's grounding presence.

The first movement, Andante con moto, begins with an ostinato in the viola and bass, over which the flute weaves an improvisatory line, evoking a sense of fluid motion. The second movement, Allegro furioso, is designated as a furiant, a Bohemian folk dance characterized by an interplay between duple and triple meters—an element famously developed by Dvořák. The third movement, Andante, takes its melody from a folk tune originating in the Carpathian Mountains, offering a moment of lyricism and reflection. The finale, Allegro gaio, is a sprightly rondino, featuring a piccolo interlude and a playful imitation of a Moravian flute-seller's call.

Schulhoff's later career was tragically curtailed by the political upheavals of the 1930s and 40s. As a progressive artist of Jewish heritage, he was labeled a "degenerate" composer by the Nazi regime, and his music was banned in Germany. He remained in Prague as political tensions mounted, attempting to emigrate to the Soviet Union after gaining Soviet citizenship. Before he could leave, he was arrested in 1941 and interned at the Wülzburg concentration camp, where he continued composing until his death from tuberculosis in 1942.

Though long overshadowed, Schulhoff's music has seen a resurgence in recent decades. The *Concertino*, with its fusion of folk vitality and modernist ingenuity, stands as a testament to his creative spirit—a voice that, despite its silencing, refuses to be forgotten.

Schönberg Verklärte Nacht op 4

Arnold Schönberg's Verklärte Nacht (Transfigured Night), composed in 1899, is widely regarded as his first significant work. Written when the composer was just 25 years old, the piece takes its inspiration from a poem of the same name by the German Symbolist Richard Dehmel. In the poem, a woman walks with her lover beneath the moonlight and confesses that she is carrying the child of another man. Rather than responding with anger or rejection, the lover reassures her, embracing the unborn child as his own:

> "How brilliantly the universe shines! It casts a luminosity on everything; you float with me upon a cold sea. but a peculiar warmth glimmers from you to me, and then from me to you. Thus is transfigured the child of another man: You will bear it for me, as my own; You have brought your luminosity to me, You have made me a child myself."

(trans. Scott Horton for Harper's Magazine)

Schönberg composed the sextet in a burst of inspiration over just three weeks, during the early days of his relationship with Mathilde Zemlinsky, who would later become his wife. Scored for two violins, two violas, and two cellos, *Verklärte Nacht* unfolds in a single continuous movement, structured in five sections that closely follow the stanzas of Dehmel's poem. The piece is arranged in a loose rondo form (ABACA), with the woman's confession and the man's reply forming the contrasting episodes.

The work opens in D minor with the marking *immer leise* (always lightly),

establishing a hushed, walking pace. The atmosphere is tense and apprehensive, reflecting the woman's distress as her confession unfolds in the voice of the first viola. The music then shifts into a more turbulent passage before arriving at a luminous D major—a transfiguration indeed where the cello takes on the role of the man, his lines unfolding in warm, expansive gestures. The final section evokes the couple's hushed breathing in the cool night air, with shimmering harmonics dissolving the tension of the earlier sections.

Drawing on late Romantic tropes, Verklärte Nacht synthesizes elements of both Brahms and Wagner, two towering figures whose ideological opposition defined Viennese musical culture at the time. Schönberg's motivic development and contrapuntal textures recall Brahms, while his rich chromaticism and expressive harmonic shifts owe much to Wagner.

Indeed, it was the work's bold harmonic language—particularly Schönberg's unprecedented use of a theoretically improper ninth chord—that led the Vienna Music Society to reject it as unperformable. Schönberg sarcastically summarized their censure: "...and thus (the work) cannot be performed since one cannot perform that which does not exist." Beyond its musical innovations, Verklärte Nacht also challenges conservative social norms. Dehmel's poem presents a radical vision of love that defies bourgeois morality, celebrating a child conceived out of wedlock as a luminous gift rather than a mark of shame. Unsurprisingly, the work scandalized audiences at its 1902 premiere, though it has since become one of Schönberg's most frequently performed compositions.

Schönberg later arranged Verklärte Nacht for string orchestra in 1916, a version that ultimately eclipsed the sextet in popularity. Though he would go on to develop the twelve-tone technique that revolutionized Western art music, this early work remains firmly rooted in tonality. At the same time, it foreshadows Schönberg's lifelong preoccupation with reconciling contradictions—order and disorder, tradition and innovation, conflict and resolution—both in his musical language and in his broader artistic philosophy.

Schubert Trout quintet D667

Among Franz Schubert's most enduringly popular works, the Piano Quintet in A Maior—also known as the "Trout Quintet"—exemplifies the composer's gift for melody and his deep engagement with the social world of early 19th-century music. Written in 1819, when Schubert was just 22. the quintet came together at the behest of Sylvester Paumgartner, a wealthy amateur cellist and patron who hosted intimate salon recitalsinformal gatherings that were central to nineteenth-century musical life. It was in this setting that Schubert's chamber music thrived, among friends and fellow musicians, rather than in the concert hall.

Paumgartner not only commissioned the work but also dictated its unusual instrumentation. Unlike the standard piano quintet (which pairs piano with a string quartet of two violins, viola, and cello), the Trout replaces one violin with a double bass. This addition does more than just deepen the ensemble's range—it allows the cello to sing in a more lyrical register and gives the piano greater freedom to explore its shimmering upper range, a coloristic choice that aligns with Schubert's penchant for high-register writing in his piano four-hands music. Schubert especially excelled in this genre-a medium that required an unusual degree of physical closeness between performers and was particularly favored in his own circle of intimate companions—was especially attuned to the expressive possibilities of the instrument in an ensemble setting.

The guintet takes its nickname from the fourth movement, a set of variations on Schubert's earlier song "Die Forelle (The Trout)." The song's distinctive rising sextuplet motif, heard in its piano accompaniment, serves as a unifying figure across all five movements of the quintet, subtly binding the work together. The piece follows the Classical fourmovement chamber music format but interpolates the variation movement, making the fourth movement the outlier in the otherwise standard design. The first movement, in sonata form, is marked by its effervescence and clarity, while the second movement, an Andante in F major, employs a symmetrical structure in which the second section is a transposed recapitulation of the first, creating a carefully balanced harmonic design. The Scherzo, full of energy and chromatic mediant relationships characteristic of Schubert's harmonic language, leads into the famous theme and variations, where the memorable tune of "Die Forelle" cycles through delightfully novel iterations. The finale, more diatonic in character than the preceding movements, provides a sense of resolution with a symmetrical structure and a bright, open sound.

While often described as a more leisurely work than some of Schubert's later chamber music, the Trout Quintet is nonetheless innovative, particularly in its harmonic language. The frequent use of chromatic mediants—unexpected but fluid key shifts-creates an expressive harmonic palette that lends the work a distinctive radiance. Though the quintet was not published until a year after Schubert's death, it has since become one of the most frequently performed works in the chamber music repertoire, a testament to its charm, lyricism, and finely crafted musical architecture.

Program notes by Hannah Waterman

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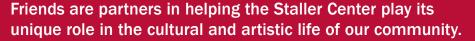
Nearly 50,000 students have benefited from the various programming efforts over 15 years.

The Staller Center Ensemble is a group of Stony Brook University Music Students who are part of the student staff team of the Staller Center. They provide community music programs and workshops and partner with Stony Brook Children's Hospital and Stony Brook Cancer Center.

The Staller Center works with 15 school districts, 73 local libraries, and 58 non-profit organizations on Long Island.

Since its inception, the Staller Center's Educational Outreach program has provided over 30,000 live performance tickets to SBU students, local schools, and community groups.

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STALLER Center

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Please contact daria.carioscia@stonybrook.edu Visit stallercenter.com for more information



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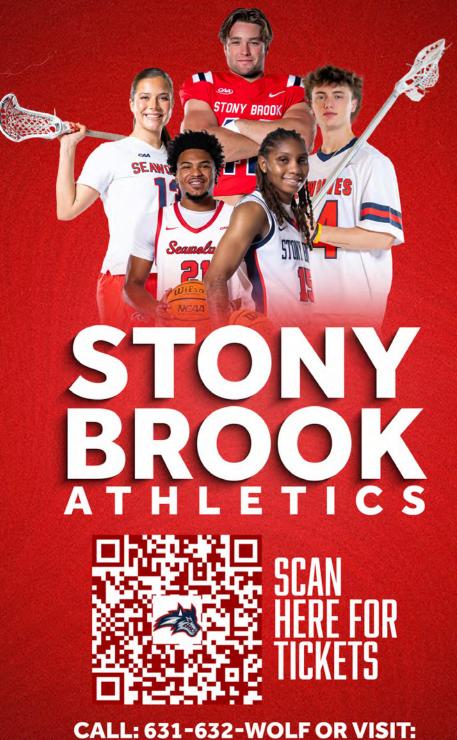
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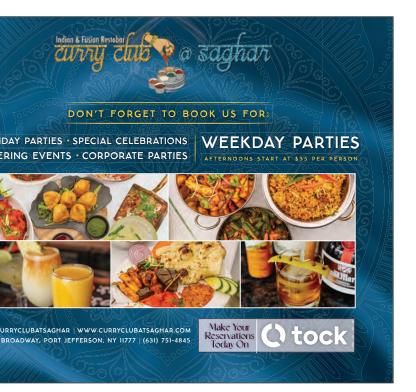


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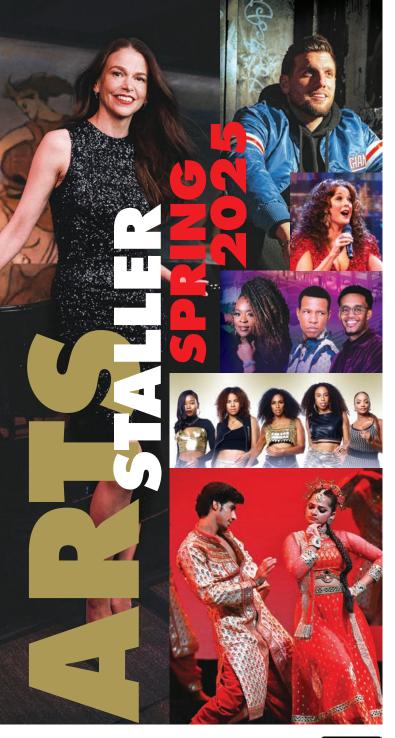
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Stony Brook University

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