



**BALL STATE
UNIVERSITY**

College of Fine Arts
School of Music

Faculty Artist Series: Elisha Willinger and Friends

Sunday, February 8, 2026 | 3pm
Sursa Performance Hall

Elisha Willinger, clarinet
Michael Seregow, piano
Youngkyoung Lee, marimba
Mihoko Watanabe, flute
Lisa Kozenko, oboe
Joey Lavarias, bassoon
Gene Berger, horn

Café 1930 from Histoire du Tango

Astor Piazzolla
(1921-1992)

Youngkyoung Lee, marimba

Sonata for Clarinet and Piano

Carlos Guastavino
(1912-2000)

- I. Allegro deciso
- II. Andante
- III. Rondo – Allegro spiritoso

Michael Seregow, piano

---INTERMISSION---

Sextet, FP 100

Francis Poulenc
(1899-1963)

- I. Allegro Vivace
- II. Divertissement: Andantino
- III. Finale: Prestissimo

Musical Arts Quintet
Mihoko Watanabe, flute
Lisa Kozenko, oboe
Joey Lavarias, bassoon
Gene Berger, horn
Michael Seregow, piano

Techno Parade

Guillaume Connesson
(b. 1970)

Mihoko Watanabe, flute
Michael Seregow, piano

BIOGRAPHIES



Born in Taiwan and raised in Florida, clarinetist **Elisha Willinger** leads a multifaceted career as a chamber musician, soloist, educator, and orchestral performer. He has performed with major ensembles including the Detroit, Baltimore, North Carolina, Virginia, Richmond, Charleston, and New World symphonies. He has also served as guest principal with the New Haven Symphony and performed chamber music with members of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra.

A prizewinner of competitions including the 2012 Yamaha Young Performing Artists competition, 2017 Yale Chamber Music Society, and 2019 International Clarinet Association's orchestral competition, he has performed in the US, Europe, and Canada and was soloist with The Royal Conservatory Chamber Orchestra. *The Clarinet* praised his playing "for its intimacy, sincerity, and deep musicality" and "full of rhythmic verve and joyful energy... producing a tone that was rich and centered, and phrasing that reflected a thoughtful and sensitive approach." Appearances also include the Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concerts broadcasted on WFMT Chicago radio and Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall. He has spent summers performing as a fellow with the Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra, National Repertory Orchestra, Sarasota, Norfolk, American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria, among others.

An avid educator, Dr. Willinger joined as the Assistant Teaching Professor of Clarinet at Ball State University in the Fall of 2023. As part of the Willinger Duo ensemble with his brother, pianist Lior Leigh, he is committed to new music and commissioned works for clarinet and piano as they seek to expand the canon from composers of underrepresented backgrounds.

He holds graduate degrees from Yale University, University of Michigan, and The Royal Conservatory's Glenn Gould School in Toronto. He earned his Bachelor of Music from the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. His major teachers include David Shifrin, Joaquin Valdepeñas, Daniel Gilbert, Chad Burrow, and Ixi Chen.



Pianist **Michael Seregow** leads a vibrant and diverse career that brings music to life in a variety of forms. As an acclaimed soloist, chamber musician, dedicated educator, and recording artist, his journey has taken him to cities and stages across the United States, Latin America, and Europe.

Winner of the American Prize in chamber music performance, he collaborates with internationally acclaimed artists, presenting a diverse repertoire that ranges from the late Renaissance to contemporary works, including new commissions and world premieres. His activity as a performer is highlighted by participation in international festivals and conferences, spanning various countries and numerous organizations. Notably, he has served as an official festival pianist for the International Trombone Festival, and in the spring of 2023, he was honored with an invitation to the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland for a chamber music residency alongside saxophonist Nathan Bogert.

Dr. Seregow's discography reflects his commitment to promoting contemporary music, with notable recordings for Centaur Records and Navona Records. His 2020 album, "Palouse Songbook," created in collaboration with flutist Sophia Tegart, features compositions by women composers for flute and piano, including two new commissions and was lauded by the American Record Guide as "a stunning set of performances." Other recordings include "Crossroads" with tubist Chris Dickey and "Two By Three," featuring works for flutes and piano by Nathan Froebe, in collaboration with flutists Mihoko Watanabe and Jessica Raposo.

Dr. Seregow earned graduate degrees from University of Oregon (MM and DMA in piano performance), where he was additionally recognized with three awards for excellence. In the summer of 2011, he was invited as a collaborative piano fellow to the prestigious Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara, CA, receiving a full scholarship. His principal teachers include Mark Westcott and Dean Kramer, and he has performed in masterclasses with eminent artists such as Emanuel Ax, John Perry, and Angela Hewitt. An active member of Music Teachers National Association, Dr. Seregow is regularly invited to lecture, adjudicate, and teach in the United States and abroad. He has presented on various piano-related topics for conferences and organizations such as the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy (NCKP), Asociación latinoamericana de profesores de piano among others. Currently a member of the piano faculty at Ball State University, Dr. Seregow has also served on the keyboard faculties at Washington State University, the University of Puget Sound, and the University of Oregon, and his students have been prizewinners in local and national competitions.



YoungKyoung Lee is a percussionist who specializes in solo and chamber music performance. She has performed in various countries such as Japan, Korea, United States of America, Canada, and Spain as a soloist and chamber musician.

YoungKyoung is the founding member of 3D Percussion, and has also been performing as a member of Korean Traditional Percussion Ensemble, Peabody Percussion Group, Yale Percussion Group, and Eastman Percussion Ensemble. YoungKyoung completed the Bachelor of Music studying with Tom Freer, assistant principal timpanist and percussionist of Cleveland Orchestra, and the world-renowned contemporary musician Robert van Sice at the Peabody Conservatory. While at Peabody, YoungKyoung was the recipient of the Zildjian Scholarship. She continued her studies with Robert van Sice at the Yale School of Music and pursued Masters of Music and Masters of Musical Arts in Percussion Performance as a recipient of the Stephen and Denise Adams, and the Henry and Lucy Moses Scholarships. YoungKyoung is pursuing Doctor of Musical Arts at Eastman School of music with internationally renowned soloist, pedagogue, and composer Michael Burritt.

YoungKyoung currently teaches at Ball State University, and is an endorser of Vic Firth, Inc., Avedis Zildjian company, Pearl/Adams drums and percussion, and Black Swamp Percussion.



The **Musical Arts Woodwind Quintet (MAQ)** is one of the country's oldest and most distinguished chamber ensembles of its kind. Established in 1957 as faculty ensemble in residence at Ball State University, the quintet has gained national attention for its varied programming, including the traditional quintet repertoire with new works written by contemporary American composers. At Brandeis University, the ensemble gave the first performance of Irving Fine's Romanza (then unpublished) for Fine's memorial concert and presented the premiere of Morris Knight's Concerto for quintet and piano with Michael Bourgeot under the auspices of the Georgia State Arts Commission's Project Radius. The group also gave the premiere performance

of Karen Thomas' Sopravento for quintet and percussion at the National Association of College Wind and Percussion Instructors' 1994 conference.

In 2010 MAQ was awarded an American Masterpieces grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. The grant supported performances, educational activities, touring, and the recording of the CD American Breeze which was released on the Albany Records label. The CD includes works by Bruce Adolphe, Amy Beach, Jenni Brandon, Jennifer Higdon, David Maslanka, and Steven Stucky as well as the world premiere recording of David Maslanka's Quintet No. 4.

In addition to its regular series of concerts on the campus of Ball State University, MAQ has performed at conferences of the American Society of Composers, Music Educators National Conference, Music Teachers National Association, Indiana Music Educators Association, National Association of College Wind and Percussion Instructors National Symposium, Society of Composers Inc., and International Double Reed Society, and regularly performs recitals and presents master classes at universities and colleges across the nation.



A native of Japan, **Mihoko Watanabe** is a Professor of Flute, the Chair of the Entrepreneurial Music Certificate Program, and the Woodwind Area Coordinator at Ball State University. Before joining Ball State, Dr. Watanabe taught at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, the Memorial University of Newfoundland, and the University of Windsor, Canada. As an active pedagogue, she travels widely as a clinician, presenting masterclasses throughout the USA, Canada, and Japan. She has adjudicated at international and national music festivals and competitions. In 2005, she taught at the Brevard Music Center summer festival. She has won competitions sponsored by the Japan Flute Association and the National Flute Association (NFA). She has appeared in Japan, Israel, England, Germany, and Canada as a recitalist, chamber musician, and concerto soloist. She is the principal flute of the Orchestra Indiana and performs with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra and Fort Wayne Philharmonic Orchestra. She has appeared at NFA, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Flöte e.V. (DGfF e.V.), British Flute Association, International Double Reed Society, International Clarinet Association, American Viola Society, and College Music Society conferences. As a researcher, she published an article, Essence of Mei, from NFA's Flutist Quarterly in 2008. It has been translated and published in German for DGfG e.V.'s Flöte aktuell, and in Dutch for the Nederlands Fluit Genootschap's Fluit. She holds degrees from the University of Michigan, Eastman School of Music, and Musashino Academia Musicae in Japan. As a mindful medication coach, she gives workshops for musicians nationally.



Critically acclaimed American oboist **Lisa Kozenko** has performed throughout the world as a concerto soloist, chamber artist and orchestral musician. She has 18 solo oboe and chamber music commissions to her credit. Her solo recording of Doubles by Judith Zaimont was named to Chamber Music America's Century List of recordings.

Ms. Kozenko was principal oboist of the New York City Opera National Company and has performed with the New York Philharmonic and the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra. She has served on the faculty of the Bowdoin International Music Festival and as an adjudicator for the 2017 Carnegie Hall New York China Orchestra and the 70th Hong Kong Music Festival.

As a member of the Manhattan Wind Quintet, she was a finalist in the Walter W. Naumburg Foundation Chamber Music Competition and prizewinner of the Coleman, Fischhoff, Monterey, Yellow Springs, and Chamber Music Chicago competitions. She was a solo prizewinner of the 15th Louise D. McMahon International Music Competition and presented her New York solo recital debut at Carnegie Hall under the auspices of Artist International.

Dr. Kozenko is Professor of Performance Practice (Oboe) at Ball State University and was Assistant Professor of Oboe and Chamber Music at Mannes School of Music at the New School College of the Performing Arts.



Joey Lavarias is a bassoonist and educator currently based in Greensboro, North Carolina. Starting Fall 2025, he will be the Assistant Teaching Professor of Bassoon at Ball State University. Joey was previously Applied Instructor of Bassoon at North Carolina State University and Adjunct Music Faculty at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts and UNC-Greensboro, specializing in music theory and aural skills.

As an active freelancer in North Carolina, Joey most recently held the 2nd bassoon position with the Durham Symphony Orchestra in Durham, NC from 2022 to 2025, and is a founding member of the Cardinal Sound Collective, a woodwind quartet based in Greensboro. He also previously held the 2nd bassoon position in the Billings Symphony Orchestra and Chorus in Montana. Other orchestral performances include concerts with the Greensboro Symphony, North Carolina Opera, Charlotte Symphony, Asheville Symphony, and Western Piedmont Symphony. He has made concert appearances across the world, in venues such as Carnegie Hall and Royal Albert Hall. Joey has

performed at the New York String Orchestra Seminar, National Orchestral Institute (where he recorded a Grammy-nominated album w/ the NOI Philharmonic), Miami Summer Music Festival, Alba Music Festival in Italy, and has participated in seminars led by the Cleveland Orchestra and the Detroit Symphony. He has been featured on radio and television programs such as CBS Sunday Morning and the 2019 BBC Proms.

Joey is a candidate for the Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, studying with Dr. Michael Burns. He is the recipient of a UNCG Graduate Fellowship and was designated as a Minerva Scholar, two of the university's highest academic honors. He received both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from The Juilliard School in New York City, studying under Dr. Frank Morelli. At Juilliard, Joey was a recipient of the Jerome L. Greene Graduate Fellowship, and was also a Teaching Fellow for the Ear Training Department. Other teachers include Dr. Ashley Heintzen, former bassoon professor at Stetson University in Florida. He has participated in masterclasses led by Billy Short, Kristin Wolfe Jensen, and Barrick Stees.

Outside of music, Joey is on the competitive trivia circuit. He is a mainstay in some of the top trivia leagues in the country, and appeared on the game show Jeopardy! in March of 2022, on the 58th Anniversary episode. Joey is loves watching minor league baseball. But in all honesty, he's more a fan of the mascots that cheer the teams on and pester the crowds. So much so, he's become a professional mascot performer himself, bringing characters to life for some baseball teams in the Central North Carolina area.



Gene P. Berger is professor of horn at Ball State University and member of the Musical Arts Woodwind Quintet and DaCamera Brass Quintet. In addition to his teaching position, Mr. Berger is the principal horn with Muncie Symphony Orchestra, Southwest Florida Symphony, where he has been a featured soloist, and a member of Traverse Symphony. Prior to his appointment at Ball State in 2010, Mr. Berger was a member of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Cincinnati Pops, and The Florida Orchestra. He can be heard on numerous recordings with the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra conducted by Erich Kunzel and the Grammy-winning recordings of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra under conductor Paavo Järvi.

Mr. Berger has been an active educator, formerly teaching at the Interlochen Arts Academy, University of Central Florida, and the University of Tampa. He has presented master classes, lectures, educational recitals, and hosted clinics throughout North America. In the summers, Mr. Berger has taught at the Interlochen Arts Camp, and has made performance appearances with the Sun Valley Summer Symphony, Colorado Music Festival, Music in the Mountains, The Spoleto Festival, and the AIMS Festival in Graz, Austria.

Mr. Berger received his Master of Music from Southern Methodist University and his Bachelor of Music from Florida State University. His principal teachers were Gregory Hustis, principal horn of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Dr. William Capps, former principal horn of the Berlin Radio Orchestra and Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra, and Frederick Schmitt, charter member of the New York Brass Quintet.

Mr. Berger was also the host of the 50th International Horn Symposium (IHS 50) that was held at Ball State University in 2018.

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