

Hopkins Center for the Arts
presents

Dartmouth College Wind Ensemble

Balance

Brian Messier, director
Nathaniel Chen '25, oboe
Braydon Baxter '25, piano



THE
HOP

Sunday, May 11, 2 pm
Rollins Chapel
Dartmouth College • 2025

Dartmouth College Wind Ensemble is funded in part by the Deborah E. & Arthur E. Allen Jr. 1932 Fund, the Richard F. Mattern 1970 Fund and Friends of the Dartmouth College Wind Ensemble.

We thank Mrs. Selma Bornstein for her generous donation of the Petrof concert grand piano, given in loving memory of her husband Dr. Murray Bornstein and used for today's concert.

Program

Approximate duration: 75 minutes

Alcatraz

Pino Verde Quartet

Nubia Jaime Donjuan

Cumbia Moderna

Anniversary performance, winner of 2020 DCWE Composition Competition

Rodrigo Martínez Torres GR

Salsa del Alma

World premiere, Hop commission

Nathaniel Chen '25, oboe

Nubia Jaime Donjuan

Fantasy for Piano and Wind Ensemble

Braydon Baxter '25, piano; composer, original cadenza

Alec Wilder

May We Meet Again

World premiere

Chase Harvey '25

Tarot

II. King of Cups

Lindsay Bronnenkant

From the Dartmouth College Wind Ensemble Director

Welcome, and thank you for joining us this afternoon. It is a pleasure to present this concert to you, and we are grateful for your support of the Dartmouth College Wind Ensemble. The title of today's program, *Balance*, reflects both the theme of the music and the journey we have taken together as musicians and as a community.

First, *Balance* is reflected in the structure of our program. We are proud to feature three works by Mexican composers and three by American composers. This selection honors our ongoing work with the Mexican Repertoire Initiative, bringing diverse voices and rich musical traditions to the forefront of our ensemble's performance. The works on each half of the program are musically

in balance and reflective of one another.

Second, *Balance* speaks to the experience of our students in the DCWE. As we strive to maintain a high musical standard, we also recognize the importance of creating an environment where work and play can coexist. Our musicians are committed to excellence, but as a primarily non-credited ensemble composed of non-music majors and minors, the balance between dedication and fun is an ever-shifting line.

Finally, *Balance* resonates on an emotional and spiritual level, particularly in the context of the challenges we have all faced this year. It has been a difficult time culturally, socially, and personally

for everyone, and many members of the DCWE have experienced significant loss. Two of our pieces this afternoon are dedicated to the memory of loved ones, reflecting the grief that we carry. But in this program, we also find balance—balancing grief with happiness, sorrow with joy, and finding light in the remembrance of those we've lost.

As we navigate through this program together, I hope you will find moments of reflection, connection, and joy. Thank you again for being here with us.

*Dr. Brian Eugene Messier
Director of Bands, Senior Liaison
for Hop Ensembles*

Program Notes

Nubia Jaime Donjuan ***Alcatraz***

The *Alcatraz* referenced in the title is not the famous prison, but rather a small island off the coast of Hermosillo, Sonora. Isla Alcatraz is a sanctuary for sea lions, birds, and other species, located just off the shore of Bahía de Kino, a place frequently visited by the people of Hermosillo.

As a composer, I feel a strong need to reflect in my artistic work the iconic places and landscapes of my country, particularly from my home state of Sonora. I chose the classical rondo form to bring *Danzón Alcatraz* to life, as it

provides the opportunity to present a kind of "theme and variations" within the same work.

Alcatraz is dedicated to the Cuarteto Latinoamericano de Mujeres, in support of elevating the role of women in music.

Nubia Jaime Donjuan

Rodrigo Martínez Torres GR ***Cumbia Moderna***

The vibrant, dynamic rhythms of *Cumbia Moderna* by Rodrigo (Roy) Martínez Torres capture the essence of modern *cumbia* music, blending traditional Colombian styles with contemporary influences.

Premiered in the spring of 2022 as the winning piece of the 2020 Dartmouth College Wind Ensemble Composition Competition, this work is an emblem of creativity, innovation, and cultural fusion.

This spring marks the four-year anniversary of *Cumbia Moderna's* premiere, a milestone that coincides with a special moment in Roy's journey. The piece was instrumental in his acceptance into Dartmouth College's MFA in Sonic Practice program in 2022, where he has since cultivated his artistic voice. As Roy approaches the culmination of his time at Dartmouth in this final term,

Program Notes continued

we celebrate both the work itself and the lasting relationship we've built with this talented composer.

Cumbia Moderna is more than just a composition—it represents the intersection of tradition and innovation, much like Roy's own journey at Dartmouth. As we reflect on these four years, we are proud to have witnessed Roy's growth and to continue to support his artistic endeavors as he moves forward into new musical horizons.

Brian Messier

Nubia Jaime Donjuan ***Salsa del Alma***

This concertino for oboe draws its fire from the world of salsa and is dedicated to the memory of Frank Chen, father of the soloist, Nathaniel Chen. Frank danced with boundless soul, and his passion for movement lives on through his two children, Nathaniel and Natalina, who inherited his love for dance.

Built on the heartbeat of salsa, the work weaves together the clave rhythm, rich harmonic progressions, and a soloist whose voice shapes and reshapes the music with each new idea.

Nubia Jaime Donjuan

Alec Wilder ***Fantasy for Piano and Wind Ensemble***

Alec Wilder's *Fantasy for Piano and Wind Ensemble* is a rich, engaging work that blends classical precision with moments of playful spontaneity. Written in 1953, the composition explores the harmonic

and textural contrasts between the piano and the wind ensemble, offering both lyrical passages and dynamic, rhythmically charged sections. Wilder, known for his eclectic musical voice, creates a colorful, evocative atmosphere that stretches the boundaries of traditional wind ensemble repertoire, making *Fantasy* a standout piece for both performers and audiences alike.

This performance features Tracy Piano Competition winner and graduating senior Braydon Baxter '25, a talented pianist and percussionist who has been an integral part of the Dartmouth College Wind Ensemble for the past three years. Braydon has not only contributed his musical expertise but has also taken a creative step in composing his own original cadenza for the work, adding a personal and unique interpretation to the piece.

Brian Messier

Chase Harvey '25 ***May We Meet Again***

May We Meet Again is a piece dedicated to my oldest brother who passed away in the winter of last year. At first, grief is often understood solely as a response to loss. However, this piece explores the concept of euphoric grief. Although grieving manifests in various forms or processes, this particular experience has resonated with me the most. In my view, euphoric grief does not signify the absence of sadness. Rather, it encompasses additional emotions, feelings that emphasize cherishing

and celebrating life. Since my brother's passing, my family has recounted many stories to preserve our memories and has found ways to continue embracing his life. For me, this piece represents the rollercoaster of emotions we experience and the ways we navigate life in the wake of loss.

Chase Harvey '25

Lindsay Bronnenkant ***Tarot: II. King of Cups***

Lindsay Bronnenkant's *Tarot* draws inspiration from the Tarot card deck as well as the composer's exploration of planetary themes in the works of Gustav Holst. In the second movement, King of Cups, Bronnenkant channels the symbolic meaning of the King of Cups—a figure embodying emotional balance, wisdom, and compassion—in resonance with Holst's focus on celestial movements and their subtle influence on human nature.

In the context of the concert's theme, *Balance*, King of Cups provides a moment of reflective calm that brings the program to a graceful close. The movement is crafted with flowing textures and harmonic shifts, creating a sense of introspective equilibrium. Bronnenkant's writing, much like Holst's, invites the listener to find balance through its sweeping, meditative phrases and subtle interplay between the instruments, offering a moment of peace as we conclude the program.

Brian Messier

About the Dartmouth College Wind Ensemble

The **Dartmouth College Wind Ensemble** (DCWE) is a non-credited ensemble primarily composed of non-music majors. With a membership of 50–60

Dartmouth College students, supplemented by community members from the Upper Valley of New Hampshire and Vermont, the DCWE performs exciting, innovative

and culturally relevant music with the highest level of artistic integrity and a commitment to social justice.

About the Artists

Dr. **Brian Messier** is Director of Bands and Senior Liaison for Hopkins Center Ensembles; he directs the Wind Ensemble and Marching Band, teaches courses in applied conducting and arts entrepreneurship, and serves as ensemble coordinator and admissions liaison for the arts. Upon arriving at Dartmouth in 2019, Messier launched a Composition Competition, which he has since stewarded into the Mexican Repertoire Initiative at Dartmouth, sponsored by the Hopkins Center for the Arts. The initiative is committed to creating outstanding new repertoire by commissioning new works by Mexican composers and increasing performances of Mexican music within U.S. public schools, colleges and universities in order to better represent our shifting demographics.

In addition to his work at Dartmouth, Messier is founder and Artistic Director of the 2016 American Prize-winning Valley Winds based in the Pioneer Valley of Massachusetts, a group for which he also won the 2023 American Prize in conducting. Lauded for his work with ensembles ranging from youth to professional, Messier is in high demand as a clinician, adjudicator and guest conductor.

Nathaniel Chen '25 is an anthropology major and biology and music minor on the pre-med track. A former principal oboist of the LACHSA Symphony and Olympia Youth Orchestra, he studied music at the LA County High School for the Arts and received honors distinction from the Music Teachers' Association of CA. At Dartmouth, he plays with DCWE, DSO, chamber ensembles, and is a two-time winner of Culley Concerto Competition woodwind category. He's performed twice in Mexico City with UNAM's Banda Sinfónica and later this spring will present a senior recital of oboe works by Mexican composers. He also dances with Ujima and competes nationally in triathlon and figure skating, winning three gold medals at the figure skating national intercollegiate championships this past April.

Braydon Baxter '25 is a music major with a double minor in mathematics and anthropology, and member of the Class of 2025 at Dartmouth College. As a pianist, Braydon is actively involved in several performing groups on campus, including the Dartmouth College Wind Ensemble. In 2023, Mr. Baxter received the Frank J. Guarini Institute for International Education's Rick Angulo World

Experience Award, and in 2024 he received first prize in the Gerald A Tracy Memorial Piano Competition. Mr. Baxter is deeply interested in music composition and theory, and plans to pursue graduate studies in these fields following graduation from Dartmouth this Spring.

Nubia Jaime Donjuan began her professional studies at the University of Sonora and has studied composition with Arturo Márquez, Alexis Aranda, and Brian Banks, and orchestration with David H. Bretón. Proud of her roots and being raised by her musician father and historian mother, Nubia has adopted the artistic and cultural expressions of her surroundings to create her music. Nubia balances being a composer and performer, having founded the Philharmonic Orchestra of Sonora where she currently serves as the co-principal cellist. As a composer and performer, she forms part of the project Las Montoneras, which unites the work of female composers, performers and researchers, seeking to make women's work more recognized in the national music scene. Nubia was the first woman to win the Arturo Márquez Chamber Orchestra Composition Contest (2021), with her work *Maso Ye'eme*.

About the Artists continued

Rodrigo Martínez Torres GR is a Mexican composer interested in the inner architecture of sound, and its resonances with the mind. He's also focused on abstraction of popular music as a tool for new creations. He is a multi-instrumentalist who performs in different genres and styles. He is currently pursuing an MFA in Sonic Practice at Dartmouth College. Rodrigo has been awarded composition prizes and fellowships in both the US and Mexico, including a MacDowell fellowship

and a FONCA Jóvenes Creadores grant. His practice spans radio production and broadcasting, band-leading, writing for the orchestra, and composing for film and theater.

Chase Harvey '25 is a composer from South Carolina whose music ranges from concert music for large and small ensembles to electronic film scoring and sound design. As an instrumentalist, he has played in many groups on campus and

recently opened for the HanUnder Art Festival. Last year, Chase won the Culley Concerto Competition grand prize by playing Alan Hovhaness's xylophone fantasy. He is one of Dartmouth's 2024–2025 Senior Fellows working on an experimental music film exploring the experiences of queer farmers across rural America. After Dartmouth, Chase plans to continue working on music and sound projects before pursuing graduate studies.

Dartmouth College Wind Ensemble

Brian Messier, conductor

Flute

Tim Bonis '26, piccolo
Elsa Coulam '27, piccolo
George Jabren II '28, piccolo
Brin Jaffe '25
Linden Schaefer '25
Clara Young '28

Oboe

Nathaniel Chen '25
Anika Larson '26
Eloisa Roach '28, English horn
Bea Sears '26

Bassoon

Lucy Langenberg '22
Oskar Troicki '28

E-flat Clarinet

Dwight Aspinwall '84

B-flat Clarinet

Emily Anderson '28
Ramsey Ash '24
Conor Joyce C
Andrew Lee '28
Catherine Liao '25
Anna Raymond '27
Julia Spigai '26
Marjorie Tassey C
Bri Yi '28
Leah Zamansky '24

Bass Clarinet

Jim Lenz C
Morgan Reik GR

Alto Saxophone

Jesse Dong '26+
Francisco Garcia '28, soprano
and tenor+
Tracy Weener '26

Tenor Saxophone

Noah Stigeler '28+

Baritone Saxophone

Lun Jiang '28+

Trumpet

Grace Asmar '28
Caleb Cox '28
Jake Crawford '27
Jared Daigrepont '26
Julia D'Antico C
Jacob Friedman '28
Joe Parmigiani '28

Horn

Avery Aaronson '28
Shannon O'Leary C
Janet Proctor C
Shisui Torii '27

Trombone

Alice Cook '25
Tommy Cowan '28
Gabriel Rodriguez '28
Samuel Young '27

Bass Trombone

Ian Smith '24

Euphonium

Margaret Frazier '25

Tuba

Chase Harvey '25
Max Liedtka '28

String Bass

Omar Nava Báez MX

Harp

Greta Richardson '26

Piano

Braydon Baxter '25, percussion
and organ
Claire Chang '28, percussion

Percussion

Beccy Abraham GR
Vittorio Bloyer '28
Blaine Boxwell '27
Lucy Coleman '26
Alex Lewton '27
Jack Liedtka '27
Addison Verrill '28

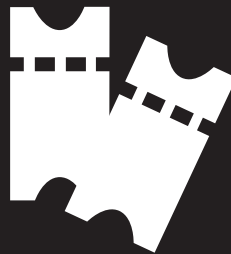
C = Upper Valley community member
GR = Dartmouth College graduate student
MX = Mexican guest artist
+ = Pino Verde Quartet member

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