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National Museum of Women in the Arts Presents Pianist Lydia Brown, Apr. 19
as part of Shenson Chamber Music Concerts

WASHINGTON—The National Museum of Women in the Arts (NMWA) presents a lineup of acclaimed performers as part of the annual Shenson Chamber Music Concerts under the artistic direction of Gilan Tocco Corn. Through these concerts, the museum carries out its mission of recognizing and supporting women in all areas of the arts. Women musicians performing in the museum’s free concert series have been impressing audiences for 19 years. The series was named in honor of Drs. Ben and A. Jess Shenson, who were longtime supporters of the museum and lovers of music.

Join NMWA in welcoming pianist Lydia Brown and award-winning singers of the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (CCM) on Wednesday, April 19, 7:30–9:30 p.m., for a program featuring the cabaret songs of acclaimed American composer and pianist William Bolcom.

Better known for his work on the operas McTeague and A View from the Bridge, the Pulitzer Prize and Grammy Award-winning composer Bolcom and his longtime collaborator/lyricist Arnold Weinstein wrote 29 cabaret songs from 1963 to 1996. Brown, a personal friend of Bolcom, and the singers from the CCM Opera department have combined these witty, thought-provoking and frequently hilarious songs into a showcase of one of the greatest living composers of our time.
Praised by the *New York Times* as “intensely expressive,” pianist Lydia Brown has performed at such notable venues as the Salle Cortot, the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Alice Tully Hall, 92nd St. Y, Caramoor, the Phillips Collection, the Freer Gallery of Art, SongFest, Philadelphia Chamber Music Series, the Kennedy Center Terrace Theater, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Weill Recital Hall, Grand Teton Music Festival, Brooklyn Friends of Chamber Music Series, the Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concerts of Chicago and Santa Fe New Music.

Active in the performance and promotion of new music, she has premiered song cycles by Libby Larsen, Paola Prestini, Daniel Sonenberg and Renée Favand-See, as well as songs by Richard Hundley. She has prepared several U.S. operatic premieres, including *Emilie* by Kaija Saariaho, *Faustus, the Last Night* by Pascale Dusapin and the New York premiere of Elliott Carter’s *What Next?* Brown holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in collaborative piano from the Juilliard School, as well as degrees from the Eastman School of Music and Yale University. She currently serves as assistant conductor at the Metropolitan Opera, where she has worked with, among others, James Levine, Fabio Luisi and Esa-Pekka Salonen.

**University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music**

The Department of Opera at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (CCM) boasts one of the most comprehensive training programs for opera singers, coaches and directors in the United States. The Shenson Chamber Music Concert program features mezzo-sopranos Chelsea Duval-Major, Eleni Antonia Franck, Reilly Nelson and Paulina Villarreal.

**Chelsea Duval-Major**, mezzo-soprano, is currently a Master’s student at CCM, where she studies with Tom Baresel. She will continue to pursue her studies as an Artist Diploma Student at CCM starting in the 2017–18 year. Upcoming performances include the role of Elisetta in Cincinnati Chamber Opera’s production of *Il matrimonio segreto* by Cimarosa.

Mezzo-soprano **Eleni Antonia Franck** is about to complete her Artist Diploma in opera at CCM; she has performed in Cincinnati, Chicago and New York. This performance of William Bolcom’s cabaret songs will be her debut in Washington, D.C.
Canadian mezzo-soprano **Reilly Nelson** attended Eastman School of Music, where she received a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance, and CCM, where she completed a Master’s of Music in Vocal Performance. Reilly was the winner of the 2017 Middle/East Tennessee District MONC auditions as well as a finalist and recipient of the Carolyn Weber award at the Kurt Weill Foundation’s Lotte Lenya Competition in 2016.

**Paulina Villarreal** has established herself as a frequent song recitalist and cabaret, operatic and theater singer in the Eastern United States and Northern Mexico. Performance credits include a Fellowship with the Tanglewood Music Center (Lenox, MA), *Simply Sondheim with the Boston POPS*: Stephen Sondheim’s 85th birthday celebration (Boston), Macy’s Artwave Sampler with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and featured appearances with Cincinnati Opera as a Young Artist.

Over the years, the series has welcomed emerging and established artists, including the Ahn Trio, Sara Daneshpour, Sara Davis Buechner, Simone Dinnerstein, the Eroica Trio, Ingrid Fliter, Sharon Isbin, Olga Kern, Valentina Lisitsa, Anne Akiko Meyers, Mary Millben and Eugenia Zukerman.

**All Shenson Chamber Music Concerts are FREE with reservations. Please note, space is limited. Seating is first-come, first-served.** Visit [nmwa.org/shenson](http://nmwa.org/shenson) to register. NMWA is located at 1250 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20005—two blocks north of Metro Center. NMWA has partnered with Parking Panda, the nationwide leader in online parking reservations, to allow visitors to purchase guaranteed parking in advance at nearby parking garages. Visit [https://www.parkingpanda.com/national-museum-of-women-in-the-arts-parking](https://www.parkingpanda.com/national-museum-of-women-in-the-arts-parking).

*The Shenson Chamber Music Concert Series is made possible by support from Fred M. Levin and Nancy Livingston and The Shenson Foundation in memory of Drs. Ben and A. Jess Shenson.*

**National Museum of Women in the Arts**

The National Museum of Women in the Arts (NMWA) is the world’s only major museum solely dedicated to celebrating the creative contributions of women. The museum champions women through the arts by collecting, exhibiting, researching and creating programs that advocate for equity and shine a light on excellence. NMWA highlights remarkable women artists of the past while also promoting the best women artists working today. The museum’s collection includes over 5,000 works by more than 1,000 women artists from the 16th century to the present, including Mary Cassatt, Frida Kahlo, Alma Thomas, Lee Krasner, Louise Bourgeois, Chakaia Booker and Nan Goldin.
NMWA is located at 1250 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C., in a landmark building near the White House. It is open Monday–Saturday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. and Sunday, noon–5 p.m. For information, call 202-783-5000 or visit nmwa.org. Admission is $10 for adults, $8 for visitors 65 and over and students, and free for NMWA members and youths 18 and under. Free Community Days take place on the first Sunday of each month. For more information about NMWA, visit nmwa.org, Broad Strokes Blog, Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.

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