

78TH SEASON OF

CONCERTS

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART | OCTOBER 13, 2019





Brandon Ridenour, photo by Jiyang Chen

PROGRAM

Brandon Ridenour, trumpet

Cordeone, accordion/voice

Achilles Liarmakopoulos, trombone

Jorge Glem, cuatro

Bam Rodríguez, bass

Vamos Juntos

October 13, 2019 | 3:30

West Building, West Garden Court

The program will be announced from the stage.

THE MUSICIANS

Brandon Ridenour

A virtuoso trumpeter and composer, Brandon Ridenour's brilliance and self-assurance on the concert stage led to his victory at the Concert Artists Guild Competition and a thriving career worldwide. Recognized as "the trumpet of the future" (*Chicago Sun Times*) and for "demonstrating the trumpet's huge potential for lyricism" (*Cleveland Plain Dealer*), he has combined his wide-ranging activities as a soloist and chamber musician with his passion for composing and arranging, resulting in his distinctive artistic voice and vision.

Ridenour began arranging music for trumpet as both a solo and collaborative instrument in order to expand the instrument's possibilities, including the melding of musical styles and a new cross-genre repertoire. His arrangements are featured by such ensembles as Founders and USEFUL Chamber, and have been performed extensively by Canadian Brass, of which Ridenour, at the age of twenty, was the youngest member to join.

Active in the recording studio, Ridenour's latest release, *Come Together*, features his arrangements of Beatles' songs scored for a diverse array of instrumentations. The record celebrates the 50th anniversary of this Lennon and McCartney classic, and Ridenour hopes to convey through music the importance of humanity coming together.

Ridenour has appeared as a soloist with the National Symphony Orchestra, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and the Indianapolis and Edmonton Symphony Orchestras. He has performed with the New York Philharmonic, the International Contemporary Ensemble, the Knights, the Orchestra of St. Luke's, and the Mahler Chamber Orchestra. His other solo performances include the Kennedy Center, Walt Disney Hall, and Carnegie Hall, including his 2016 Weill Recital Hall debut and a recent Stern Auditorium performance of "Penny Lane," alongside Sting and James Taylor.

Cordeone

Cordeone began his musical journey playing in Portuguese balls at the age of nine. First studying the accordion for three years, he went on to teach himself to play piano, classical guitar, Portuguese guitar, Brazilian percussion, drums, and the bass.

In 1998, Cordeone embarked on a professional career in music. For more than ten years, he's worked and collaborated with Jah Mason, Turbulence, Norrisman, and Big Joe Turner and His Memphis Blues Caravan. Cordeone strives to compose music that best represents his personal and artistic identity.

In *Vida*, Cordeone's first album, he created an eclectic representation of his musical inventiveness, borrowing from jazz, fado, Brazilian music, funk, reggae, and hip-hop. Lyrics are sung in both Portuguese and French, with themes that shine a spotlight on some of the issues facing modern society. Often approached from a positive standpoint, each song puts forward a message of peace, respect, and unity. The work is a somewhat autobiographical depiction of the artist's vision of life, influenced by experiences that have shaped him as a person.

Achilles Liarmakopoulos

Award-winning trombonist Achilles Liarmakopoulos has dazzled audiences worldwide. As a member of the legendary Canadian Brass, Liarmakopoulos has toured extensively throughout North America, Europe, and Asia, performing and educating in the world's most important venues and institutions.

Liarmakopoulos holds degrees from Yale University's School of Music, the Curtis Institute of Music, the San Francisco Conservatory, and the Philippos Nakas Conservatory in his hometown of Athens, Greece. Upon completion of his studies, he won the position of principal trombone of the Greek Radio Symphony Orchestra. Liarmakopoulos has also appeared with the Malaysian Philharmonic, the Jacksonville Symphony, and the European Union Youth Orchestra. He continues to perform around the world with Pink Martini and has also played with salsa icon Ruben Blades. He is an adjunct trombone professor at the City University of New York, Brooklyn College.

Jorge Glem

Award-winning cuatro player, mandolinist, and musical producer Jorge Glem is one of Venezuela's musical treasures. Born in Cumaná, Venezuela, Glem currently resides in New York City, and has set out with a clear and driven purpose of presenting the Venezuelan cuatro as a universal instrument. His amazing talent and purpose have allowed him to share the stage with world-renowned musicians, including Paquito D'Rivera, Jordan Rudess, Rubén Blades, Carlos Vives, Calle 13, Natalia Lafoucarde, Gaby Moreno, Guaco, Desorden Público, Ensemble Gurruffó, Gualberto Ibarreto, and Etienne Charles.

Glem has been the winner of prestigious awards, such as El Silbón de Oro, Siembra del Cuatro, and three Pepsi music awards for his album *En El Cerrito*. With three productions of his own, Glem is also currently collaborating with folk accordionist Sam Reider, as well as with Cuban-Venezuelan pianist, composer, and arranger, César Orozco. In 2019, Glem and Orozco successfully released their first album together, titled *Stringwise*.

Bam Rodríguez

Bassist Bam Rodríguez started his career with the prestigious El Sistema youth orchestra program in Venezuela, where he performed and toured the country with others, including Gustavo Dudamel. Soon after, he moved to Belgium and the Netherlands to pursue his studies.

Rodríguez resides in New York City, where he has toured, recorded, and performed with Chucho Valdés, Paquito D’Rivera, Arturo O’Farrill, Los Muñequitos de Matanzas, Deepak Chopra, Claudia Acuña, and Ray Santos. Rodríguez regularly performs and gives workshops in New York, Europe, Africa, the Middle East, South and North America, and the Caribbean.



Edmond Lebel, *Still Life of Musical Instruments*, c. 1863, National Gallery of Art, Washington, Robert B. Menschel Fund, 2006.109.1

Upcoming Events of the Seventy-Eighth Season of The William Nelson Cromwell and F. Lamot Belin Concerts

Unless otherwise noted, concerts are held in the West Building, West Garden Court.

Ran Dank and Soyeon Kate Lee, pianists

Piano solo and duo works, featuring music by Bach, Liszt, Enrique Granados, and Nikolai Kapustin, and a world premiere by composer Marc-André Hamelin.
October 20, 3:30

Sound Sketch

Jacqueline Pollauf, harp

Lamentations, Prayers, and Meditations in Contemporary Art and Music
East Building Library
October 25, 12:10

Slavic Soul Party!

Far East Suite

A reimagination of Duke Ellington’s *Far East Suite* with an Eastern European brass band twist!
October 27, 3:30

Gaelynn Lea, singer-songwriter and violinist

Presented in honor of Disability Employment Awareness Month
October 29, 12:10
West Building Lecture Hall

General Information

Admission to the National Gallery of Art and all of its programs is free of charge, except as noted.

The use of cameras or recording equipment during the performance is not allowed.

Please be sure that all portable electronic devices are turned off.

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Concerts are made possible in part through the generosity of donors to the National Gallery of Art through The Circle. Reserved seating is available in recognition of their support. Please contact the development office at (202) 842-6450 or circle@nga.gov for more information.

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