

University of British Columbia School of Music  
6361 Memorial Road, Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z2 | music.ubc.ca

First Year Master Student Recital at Barnett Hall

April, 14th, 2025

7:00 p.m.

**Jichen Wang, Clarinet**

Clarinet Sonata in E flat major, Op 120 No.2

- i. Allegro amabile
- ii. Allegro appassionato
- iii. Andante con moto

Johannes Brahms  
(1833 – 1897)

Xuan Li, Piano

Canzonetta op.19

Gabriel Pierné  
(1863 –1937)

Qiuhan Wang, Piano

~ intermission ~

II Concerto for Clarinet

Óscar Navarro  
(b. 1981)

Qiuhan Wang, Piano

Theme for Clarinet

Michele Mangani  
(b. 1966)

Xuan Li, Piano

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This recital is in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the  
Master of Music degree with a major in Clarinet.

**Clarinet Sonata in E-flat Major, Op. 120 No. 2**

*Johannes Brahms (1833–1897)*

Composed in 1894, Johannes Brahms' *Clarinet Sonata in E-flat Major, Op. 120 No. 2* is one of two sonatas written for the clarinetist Richard Mühlfeld, whose playing deeply inspired the composer in his later years. Having declared his retirement from composing, Brahms was drawn back by Mühlfeld's artistry and went on to write some of the most important works in the clarinet repertoire. This sonata is more serene and lyrical than its companion in F minor, showcasing Brahms' characteristic warmth and richness. The first movement, *Allegro amabile*, exudes a gentle and tender quality, setting an intimate atmosphere with its flowing, song-like themes. The second movement, *Allegro appassionato*, presents a striking contrast, with its dramatic intensity, rhythmic drive, and interplay between the clarinet and piano. The final movement, *Andante con moto*, offers a set of variations that highlight the clarinet's expressive capabilities, ranging from delicate lyricism to playful virtuosity, bringing the sonata to a reflective and satisfying conclusion.

**Canzonetta, Op. 19**

*Gabriel Pierné (1863–1937)*

Gabriel Pierné's *Canzonetta, Op. 19* is a charming and elegant miniature for clarinet and piano. Composed in the late 19th century, this piece is infused with the French lyrical tradition, featuring a flowing melody and delicate harmonies. The title *Canzonetta*, meaning "little song," perfectly describes the piece's singing quality, making it a favorite among clarinetists for its expressive and refined character. Pierné, known for his contributions to French music as both a composer and conductor, had a particular gift for blending Romantic expressiveness with impressionistic color. This brief but exquisite piece highlights the clarinet's warm tone and fluid phrasing, evoking a sense of nostalgia and poetic elegance.

**II Concerto for Clarinet**

*Óscar Navarro (b. 1981)*

Óscar Navarro is a contemporary Spanish composer known for his vibrant and cinematic musical style. His *II Concerto for Clarinet* is an evocative and technically demanding work that showcases the full expressive range of the instrument. The first movement is filled with rhythmic energy and dramatic contrasts, featuring fiery passages and lyrical interludes that push the clarinet to its technical limits. The second movement offers a deeply emotional contrast, characterized by soaring melodies and rich orchestral textures, demonstrating Navarro's gift for melody and orchestration.

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This concerto has a special connection to clarinetist José Franch-Ballester, as it was both commissioned by the Valencia Music Institute and dedicated to him. Composed between November 2011 and January 2012, the piece was tailored to highlight Franch-Ballester's virtuosic abilities and deep musicality. The premiere performance took place on March 2, 2012, at the "Príncipe de Asturias" Auditorium in Oviedo, Spain, with Franch-Ballester as the soloist alongside the Orquesta Sinfónica del Principado de Asturias under the direction of Rossen Milanov. His collaboration with Navarro has played a crucial role in establishing this concerto as a significant work in the modern clarinet repertoire.

The concerto is structured in a single movement with three distinct sections. The first blends cantabile melodies with elements reminiscent of Spanish flamenco, incorporating rhythmic handclaps (*palmas*) to evoke the dance's vibrant energy. The second section delves into a minimalist aesthetic, emphasizing the clarinet's vocal qualities through expressive, lyrical passages. The final section is a virtuosic *presto*, demanding exceptional technical prowess from the soloist as it builds to a dynamic conclusion.

### **Theme for Clarinet**

*Michele Mangani (b. 1966)*

Michele Mangani is an Italian composer, conductor, and clarinetist whose works are widely admired for their melodic beauty and expressive depth. Born in Urbino, Italy, he studied clarinet, band instrumentation, composition, and orchestral conducting at the Conservatory "Gioachino Rossini" of Pesaro. His music, particularly for wind instruments, is recognized for its lyrical elegance and emotional sincerity.

*Theme for Clarinet* is a poignant and lyrical piece that highlights the instrument's ability to sing with warmth and sensitivity. The flowing lines and elegant phrasing create an intimate atmosphere, allowing the clarinet's expressive qualities to shine. Mangani's deep understanding of the clarinet is evident in this work, as he explores its rich tonal palette and ability to evoke deep emotions.

Mangani has received numerous awards for his compositions and continues to serve as a professor of Chamber Music for Wind Instruments at the Conservatory "G. Rossini" in Pesaro. His contributions to wind music, particularly in the clarinet repertoire, have solidified his reputation as a leading composer in the field.

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