

M Manhattan
School of Music

FACULTY RECITAL

Sasha Romero, trombone

with **Ching-Chia Lin** and the **New Alchemy Trombone Quartet**

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2024 | 7:30 PM
GORDON K. AND HARRIET GREENFIELD HALL

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PROGRAM

SASHA ROMERO
(b. 1991)

Identity

Ching-Chia Lin, piano

FRANCIS POULENC
(1899–1963)

Quatre petites prières de saint François d'Assise, FP. 142

Nikki Abissi, trombone

Carlos Jiménez Fernández, trombone

Jennifer Hinkle, bass trombone

ZOE CUTLER
(b. 1996)

Scribbles (for 1 floppy fish)

Pause

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN
(1770–1827)
(arr. Sasha Romero)

Piano Sonata No. 8 in C Minor, Op. 13
("Sonata Pathétique")

III. *Rondo*

Nikki Abissi, trombone

Carlos Jiménez Fernández, trombone

Jennifer Hinkle, bass trombone

SASHA ROMERO
(b. 1991)

Song for Sierra

Ching-Chia Lin, piano

CLAUDE DEBUSSY
(1862–1918)

Trois Chansons

Nikki Abissi, trombone

Carlos Jiménez Fernández, trombone

Jennifer Hinkle, bass trombone

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Sasha Romero

Sasha Romero was appointed principal trombone of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra in 2018. Prior to her appointment at The MET, she held the position of principal trombone with the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra from 2016-2018.

Hailing from Longview, Texas, Sasha grew up within the acclaimed and robust Texas band system and achieved great musical success at a young age. She went on to earn her Bachelor of Music degree at Baylor University, where she studied with Brent Phillips; and her Master of Music degree at Rice University, studying with Allen Barnhill.

In addition to a lengthy list of national and international solo and chamber music competition wins to her name, Sasha is honored to have been a semi-finalist in the first Brass Division of the 2019 XVI International Tchaikovsky Competition in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Sasha is a passionate educator, and currently serves on the trombone faculties at Rutgers University, Mannes School of Music, and Bard College Conservatory of Music. A highly sought-after teacher, soloist, and clinician, she has presented solo recitals and masterclasses at numerous colleges, universities, music conservatories, and industry conventions across the United States.

When she is not at The MET, teaching, or screaming into the night at the shortcomings of NYC's public transportation system (looking at you, weekend subway service), Sasha is occasionally invited to perform as a guest trombonist with the world's major orchestras, including the New York Philharmonic, London Philharmonic, Dallas Symphony, Houston Symphony, and others. She can be heard on Weezer's *OK Human* album, as well as the film soundtracks to *The Good Liar* (2019) and *Joker* (2019).

Sasha currently makes her home in New York City, where she spends an embarrassing amount of time catering to the demands of her absurdly adorable cats and searching endlessly for decent Mexican food.

Sasha Romero is an S.E. Shires Performing Artist and she has a signature mouthpiece line with Long Island Brass Co.

Nikki Abissi

Nikki Abissi is Second Trombonist of the American Symphony Orchestra. An active performer, she frequently plays with many of the country's fine orchestras, in chamber recitals, on Broadway and in the Radio City Orchestra. Before moving to New York, she held positions with The Alabama Symphony, Colorado Symphony, and Macon Symphony, as well as a fellowship with the New World Symphony.

Nikki received her Bachelor of Music degree from The Juilliard School under the instruction of Joseph Alessi, Principal Trombonist of the New York Philharmonic. She received her Master of Music Degree from Stony Brook University under the instruction of Michael Powell, Principal Trombonist of the Orchestra of St. Luke's and member of the world renowned American Brass Quintet. Nicole's other teachers include Per Brevig, Warren Deck, Glenn Dodson, Ian Bousfield, and Thomas Riccobono.

Nikki is also an inventor. She has a patented extension handle for the trombone called Extendabone. As a short trombonist herself, she knows this is a tool that needs to be available for herself, and other trombonists around the world.

At home, Nikki likes to play video games with her husband, two sons, two cats and dog.

Nikki Abissi is a Shires and Long Island Brass Performing Artist.

Jen Hinkle

Bass trombonist Jen Hinkle is one of NYC's most in-demand freelancers. Easily adaptable to a wide variety of musical styles, Jen has been engaged by a myriad of ensembles in the NYC metropolitan area, including The Metropolitan Opera Orchestra; Broadway shows including *Sweeney Todd*, *Wicked*, *Aladdin*, *Beautiful*, *Warpaint*, *Miss Saigon*, *Les Misérables*, *The Lion King*, *On the Town*, and *King Kong*; Grammy-nominated artist Dan Pugach's Nonet and Big Band; The Afro-Bop Alliance Big Band; Monarch Brass; Ed Neumeister's Assemblage Jazz Orchestra; countless chamber music ensembles and has been a studio musician on many albums, soundtracks and movie scores.

Jen is currently the Bass Trombonist of the Music in the Mountains Festival Orchestra and the International Pride Orchestra. She previously held positions with the Spokane and Tacoma Symphonies and has also performed with the Oregon, Seattle, New Jersey, and New Haven Symphonies.

A passionate educator and performer, Jen often performs solo recitals and leads clinics, studio classes, and masterclasses at colleges, elementary and high schools, and industry symposiums across the country. While music is Jen's primary artistic focus, her creative capabilities, interests, and talents span a variety of subjects including visual art, literature, composition, animal training, public speaking, disability advocacy, and community engagement. Their many areas of interest have led to quite a diverse and interesting career, and Jen is passionate about lecturing on the importance of following your own path and finding your own unique niche in your career field.

Jen shares her very bright and colorful life with her partner Sasha Romero, her service dog Kita, and their 4 cats Iggy, Ella, Chloe and Judy.

Jen Hinkle is a performing artist for Edwards Instruments and Long Island Brass Mouthpieces.

Kita Hinkle

Kita Hinkle is the first recorded medical alert service dog specializing in Trigeminal Neuralgia Type 2 pain detection. She is specifically trained to work in the music industry and was the first service dog in Broadway pits and on the Metropolitan Opera Stage. Her hobbies include playing with big sticks, napping on the couch with her 4 kitty siblings, and going on long sniffaris with Jen around Manhattan.

Carlos Jiménez Fernández

Carlos Jiménez Fernández became Principal Trombonist with the New York City Ballet Orchestra in the spring of 2022. He frequently performs with The Metropolitan Opera and has appeared with the New York Philharmonic, San Diego Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, All-Star Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra of Spain, Orquesta Sinfónica de Castilla y Leon and London Symphony Orchestra. In addition, he can be heard in the soundtrack for motion pictures such as the movies *Barbie* (2023) and *Madame Web* (2024).

As a chamber musician, Carlos has performed and recorded brass quintet and trombone quartet music for several projects and took part in the American Brass Quintet Seminar at The Juilliard School for four years as a member of the brass quintet Brass22, which attended the Aspen Music Festival in 2021. Carlos has also been a Fellow at the Tanglewood Music Center, Music Academy of the West, and the Verbier Festival Junior Orchestra.

Carlos holds a B.M. from The Juilliard School, where upon graduating, he was awarded the Peter Mennin Prize in Music. He is currently training to become a certified teacher of the Alexander Technique, and endeavors to include the principles of this discipline in his teaching and performing. His interests outside of music include reading, the outdoors, cooking, baking, and video games.

Ching-Chia Lin

Born in 1993, Ching-Chia Lin, as a cellist and a pianist, has won several competitions in her home country Taiwan. She completed her Master studies in the field of collaborative piano at National Taiwan Normal University in 2015.

In 2019, Ching-Chia moved to New York and began her study at the Manhattan School of Music in the studio of Heasook Rhee. As a collaborative pianist, she has participated many events at school, and started her accompanying career in NYC. She is now pursuing her doctoral degree.

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