

LIVE *from*
HOCHSTEIN

Nocturnes and Nostalgia

Ekstasis Duo

Natasha Farny, cello & Eliran Avni, piano

Wednesday, April 22 2026


Hochstein Performance Hall

50 N. Plymouth Ave. • 585.454.4596 • hochstein.org

PROGRAM

Nocturne	Lili Boulanger
7 Canciones populares españolas V. Nana (Berceuse) VI. Canción	Manuel de Falla
Nocturne	Jennifer Higdon
Cello Sonata, Op. 119 II. Moderato	Sergei Prokofiev
Cello Sonata No. 1, Op. 38 I. Allegro non troppo	Johannes Brahms
<i>Requiebro</i> (Flirtations)	Gaspar Cassadó

The Hochstein School is grateful to Sidney & Barbara Sobel for generously providing continuous underwriting support for *Live from Hochstein* since 1993.

Today's *Live from Hochstein* performance is broadcast live and in stereo on  FM, 91.5 with host Mona Seghatoleslami

PERFORMERS

The term **Ekstasis** suggests an experience that lifts the spirit in an intensely joyful, profoundly moving, and unforgettable way. We believe that there is a treasure trove of unknown works that a listener would be excited to discover with us. Since their debut in 2018, the Ekstasis Duo has appeared on distinguished national stages including Merkin Hall (NY), Del E. Webb Center for the Performing Arts (AZ), Holland Theater (OH), the Resonance Chamber Music Series (MD), and The Strings Music Festival (CO). The duo premiered a concerto written for them by renowned Israeli-American composer, Avner Dorman. The premiere took place in July 2022 with the Sewanee Summer Music Festival Orchestra, followed by an October performance with the College Symphony Orchestra in King Concert Hall at SUNY Fredonia. Natasha and Eliran met at Juilliard and later reconnected as colleagues at SUNY Fredonia. They decided to perform masterpieces alongside recently-discovered jewels, with a special regard for minority figures.

PERFORMERS (cont.)

Acclaimed American cellist **Natasha Farny** is Professor of Cello at the State University of New York in Fredonia. In the summer, she teaches at the Sewanee Summer Music Festival and the Fredonia String Camp. She has released two CDs "French Cello Music" with pianist Jitka Fowler Frankova and "Women's Voices," with pianist Eliran Avni. Ms. Farny made her concerto debut at age 17 with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and studied at the Curtis Institute of Music, Yale College, the Eastman School of Music, and the Juilliard School. She also received a fellowship for additional study in Leipzig, Germany. While at Juilliard, Ms. Farny performed the world premiere of Olav Anton Thommessen's concerto "Through Reflection". More recent concerto performances have included appearances with the Buffalo and Abilene Philharmonics, and the Greeley Symphony Orchestra.

Ms. Farny has toured Brazil twice, and performed at the International Dvorak Society American Spring Festival. Additionally, She performed on the Theremin cello for a project in collaboration with the Asko/Schoenberg Ensemble, London Sinfonietta, and the International Contemporary Ensemble to perform the complete works of Edgard Varèse. Performances for the project were held at the Holland Festival, Festival d'Automne, the Southbank Centre, and at the Lincoln Center Festival. Ms. Farny has also played for audiences at the Bargemusic *Here and Now* and Chicago public radio's *Live from WFMT* series'. Ms. Farny's research interests include cello music written by women, with her studies leading her to win the Kasling Award at SUNY Fredonia. In 2021 Ms. Farny's writing, "Worthy of the Canon: Romantic Cello Sonatas by Women," was published in the College Music Society Symposium.

Israeli Pianist **Eliran Avni** is an emerging force in the contemporary classical music scene, having made his debut at age 17 with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Zubin Mehta. Since then, he has appeared as a soloist and collaborator throughout the world, playing in live broadcasts for the Israeli and German broadcasting systems. As a soloist, Eliran is known as a preeminent interpreter of the music of Avner Dorman, having recorded two CDs of the composer's works, and performing his Azerbaijani Dance with the Israel Philharmonic at Carnegie Hall. Having developed a strong affinity for chamber music after studies with Yo-Yo- Ma and Isaac Stern, Mr. Avni founded SHUFFLE Concert, a mixed chamber ensemble based on the original performance concept of the audience selecting music to be performed from a varied list of composers and genres. He served as Artistic Director of the ensemble from 2010-2018, performing throughout the US, Canada, and Israel. Eliran Avni has recorded for the Naxos, Tzadik and SHUFFLE Concert labels. A charismatic lecturer and teacher, Eliran has presented master classes and lectures in both the United States and Israel, and has taught at prestigious institutions such as The Juilliard School and the Bowdoin Summer Music Festival. Eliran began his childhood musical training at the Tel Aviv Academy with Marina Bondarenko, and later went on to earn BM, MM, and DMA degrees from the Juilliard School, where he studied with Dr. Yoheved Kaplinsky and Jerome Lowenthal.

*Hochstein programs are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.
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To learn more about The Hochstein School, visit our website at www.hochstein.org.
For information on how to support Hochstein, please contact Gwen Green, Director of Development, at development@hochstein.org or 585.454.4403 x223.

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JOIN US NEXT WEEK

Hochstein Merit Scholarship Winners in Concert

Noah Busch, violin & Rebecca Camilleri, cello

April 29, 2026 at 12:10PM

AUDIENCE REMINDERS

- Please enter and exit the hall only during applause.
- Food and beverages are not allowed in the Performance Hall.
- Please turn off cell phones and other devices that may sound or light up during the performance. The use of cameras/recording devices is strictly prohibited.
- Restrooms are located downstairs and can be accessed from the back of the Performance Hall. Wheelchair accessible/gender neutral restrooms are in the School; please ask an usher for directions.
- Fire exits are located along the sides and rear of the Performance Hall.