

BEARING WITNESS:

The Academy's Annual
Leonard Bernstein Celebration

AUGUST 25

| 2019



A LETTER FROM Aaron Stern

Academy for the Love of Learning Founder

Leonard Bernstein (Lenny as I knew him) and I joined most deeply in our shared understanding that the power in music goes well beyond the music itself. Music can *wake us up* and *activate deep learning* and Lenny's 1st Symphony – his *Jeremiah* – is a perfect and timely vehicle for this. Because of this power, experiencing a performance without small groups at small tables, discussing its impact – sharing deeply felt aspirations and strengthening and inspiring the will to act – in other words – *moving off the stage and into life* – would be unthinkable at the Academy! I look forward to exploring this performance in conversation with you all tonight.

I've chosen *Jeremiah* because it is at once a universal theme and quite personal to our present world. It reveals, in deeply stirring ways, both our tendencies toward human destructiveness – and our remarkable capacity to see and recognize them. It invites us to *Bear Witness* as a portal to awakening more fully to what we see in ourselves, our communities and our world in hopes that we can be moved to bring greater awareness to these tendencies and take action, together.

Though I adhere to a secular view of ethics, much as is advocated for by His Holiness the Dalai Lama, I have come to recognize over the years that the spirit of learning running through my veins, informing our work here at the Academy, may well trace back to my ancient ancestral Jewish root. Perhaps that is why *Jeremiah* speaks to me so deeply. Lenny and I often spoke of the Jewish Kabbalistic concepts of Chochma (wisdom) and Bina (knowledge). We sensed that these two streams were present in our personal story together and our collaboration. The interplay between Chochma and Bina (my stream being Chochma and Lenny's, Bina) is the powerful union and liberating dynamic at the foundation of the Academy – the living legacy that arises out of our conception – *the love of learning*.

That legacy will be present tonight, as in all of our upcoming endeavors. The LB Fellowship for Arts and Transformation is, indeed, a direct response to the question Lenny asked, "Don't We Never Learn?" and my response, "Yes, we *do!* We can transform!" And not only transform ourselves but the very water we swim in. By this I mean systemic and sustainable change, change that heals and transforms our communities and our broader culture, including through generative and healthy community exchange on important topics such as this evening. Beginning this fall, we are launching the *Future of Learning* dialogue series with a public conversation featuring my beloved friend and legendary human being, activist and writer, Gloria Steinem. Stay tuned!

Tonight's event was co-created by the Academy's entire Staff and Faculty. My sincere and deepest acknowledgement and appreciation for the inspiring and beautiful work by all involved.

As has been said by others, *what we appreciate, appreciates!* Thank you for joining us and thereby helping to strengthen the Academy's work and roots in Santa Fe and beyond. We look forward to continuing to explore, together, how we can bring more bold and compassionate change into our communities and the world.

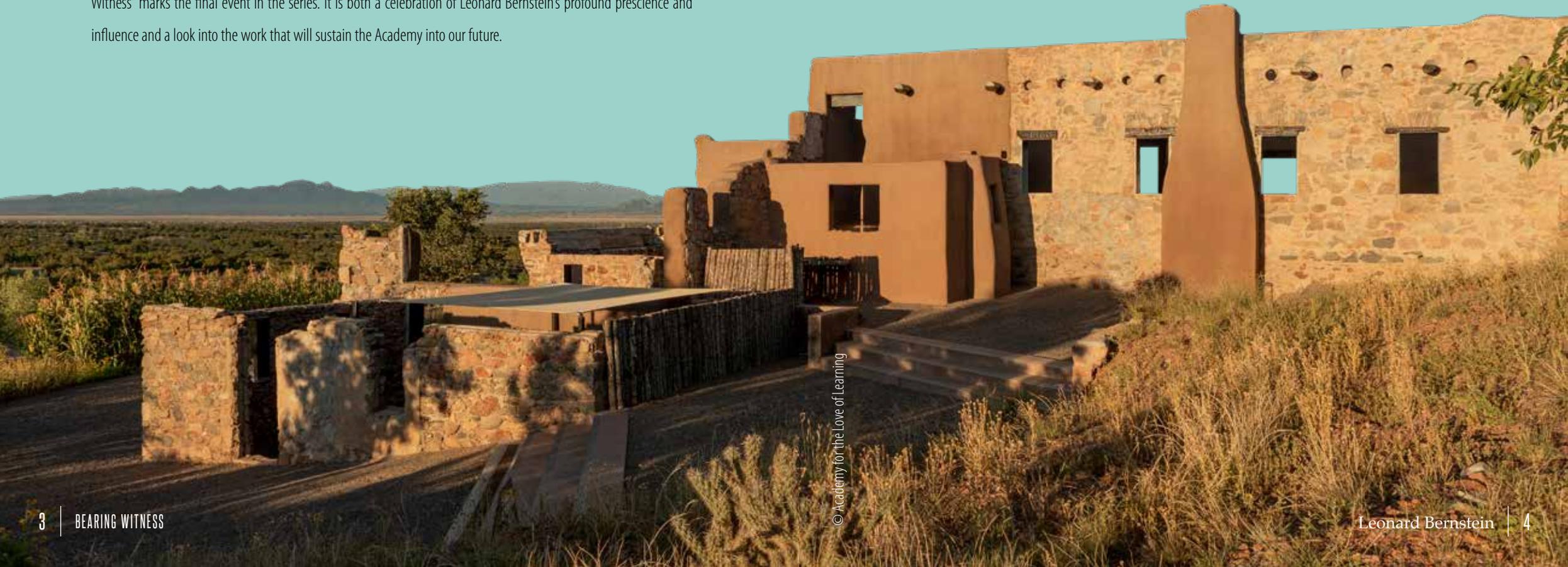


Academy for the Love of Learning Founder and President

Aaron Stern with Leonard Bernstein, New York, early 1980s.

2018 marked both the Academy for the Love of Learning's 20th anniversary and the centennial of the birth of the 20th-century musical giant Leonard Bernstein. To celebrate these milestones we chose the theme **Reflection and Emergence: 20 Years of the Academy for the Love of Learning**. Throughout 2018 and into 2019 we've held events and conversations reflecting upon our past and looking forward to our bright, emerging future. "Bearing Witness" marks the final event in the series. It is both a celebration of Leonard Bernstein's profound presence and influence and a look into the work that will sustain the Academy into our future.

The Academy shares a deep history with Leonard Bernstein, and ultimately was birthed from an intense collaboration between Bernstein and Academy Founder and President Aaron Stern during the final decade of Bernstein's life. Stern, then Dean of the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago, had a profound discovery about learning while observing how music students learned music. From that discovery, Stern recognized that a restoration of the human capacity to



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learn was essential not only to the revitalization of music, but all of education and more generally, Western culture itself, and perhaps beyond. From this, Stern began to develop a body of work, pedagogy and learning methodologies that are now at the center of the Academy for the Love of Learning.

Stern's approach to learning found its counterpart in Bernstein's vision for a better world and a life-long commitment to sharing that vision through music. Stern's clear conviction that "by taking the lid off learning, we can learn ourselves to a better world, individually and collectively" touched and inspired Bernstein deeply. Bernstein invested in Stern enormously during the last decade of his life. Following Bernstein's death in 1990, Stern further developed and peripatetically implemented the methodologies he first began to explore while at the Conservatory. He went on formally to found the Academy in 1998 to embody this burgeoning work.

In August 2018, the Academy celebrated our 20th anniversary year with a concert and birthday celebration, "Lenny's Living Legacy," on what would have been Leonard Bernstein's 100th birthday. Those of you who joined us for that beautiful event know the concert featured special works from Bernstein's repertoire performed by award-winning musicians along with stories of Aaron's time spent with Lenny and stories of his personhood and musicianship, and Aaron performed a deeply moving piece he wrote upon Bernstein's death. We also took the opportunity to announce some new Academy initiatives that we have now launched in 2019.

The first of these is **The LB Fellowship for Arts and Transformation**, a two-year program for catalytic creative practitioners. Planning for the LB Fellowship commenced in earnest in 2019. The aspiration at the heart of

the Fellowship has been to create a new field, with a new kind of culture worker – one who works at the intersection of Transformative Learning practices, Contemplative/Healing practices, and Community Arts practices – in order to awaken and catalyze sustainable change.

Five invited Fellows joined Aaron and other Academy faculty to imagine and design the Fellowship as one that truly supports and amplifies Fellows' current and emergent work toward systemic and sustainable change at the local level and beyond. With the design process nearly complete, the Fellowship will formally launch in early 2020.

The second initiative is **the Future of Learning dialogues**. These public dialogues will inspire and connect people to the potential for learning as a healing generative force – a force connected to wellbeing, meaning and purpose – individually and in our communities. The Academy's mission is to reclaim learning – the *love of learning* – from which we have sadly become distanced. We see a future when *the spirit of learning* is restored to its proper place in our human experience. These dialogues will be livestreamed across the globe right from our home here in Santa Fe.

We are excited to announce the launch of the *Future of Learning dialogues* will take place on October 15, 2019 and will feature Gloria Steinem in conversation with Aaron Stern here at the Academy campus.

We thank all of you for joining us in reflecting upon our history and celebrating the Academy's emerging future. Thanks to your support, the Academy stands as a vibrant and vital organization actively helping us to learn to become better at being human beings.

TONIGHT'S Program

Please note that all activities will take place at Seton Castle after check-in at the main building

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| 6:00 P.M. | Arrival and appetizers provided by Dig & Serve | Main Building Upstairs Courtyard/Garden |
| 6:30 P.M. | Dinner provided by Dig & Serve | Seton Castle |
| 7:30 P.M. | Welcome
Jessica Smyser and Laura Pancoast | |
| 7:35 P.M. | Introduction to Bernstein's <i>Symphony No. 1: Jeremiah</i>
Aaron Stern | |
| 7:45 P.M. | Screening of <i>Symphony No. 1: Jeremiah</i>
Leonard Bernstein conducting the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, enhanced by Electric Playhouse | |
| 8:15 P.M. | Community Reflection and Conversation – From Lamentation to Learning
led by Aaron Stern and Academy Faculty | |
| 8:45 P.M. | Poetry Reading over dessert
Hakim Bellamy, poet | |
| 9:00 P.M. | Reprise of "Lamentations"
live performance by mezzo-soprano Katherine DeYoung and pianist Grisha Krivchenia | |
| 9:15 P.M. | Closing
Aaron Stern | |



PROGRAM Notes

This evening will find us exploring the powerful human capacity to Bear Witness by experiencing, reflecting upon and finding shared meaning in Leonard Bernstein's *Symphony No. 1: Jeremiah*. Based on the Old Testament story of the fall of Jerusalem, *Jeremiah* includes three movements:

1. Prophecy (warning)
2. Profanation (desecration)
3. Lamentation (mourning)

These movements will serve as inquiry points into Bernstein's question "*Don't We Never Learn?!*" and Aaron Stern's response — that "as human beings, we have the capacity to transform both individually and collectively." After experiencing the symphony, we will discuss in small groups how we are affected by the piece and how together, we can "learn ourselves" into a better world, activating the transformational capacities that lead to healing and change.

Gathering together as a community, with both strangers and friends, we will bear witness to one of Bernstein's earliest masterpieces. Dinner will be provided by Dig & Serve. An historic performance of the symphony by the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Bernstein, will be presented via video projection at Seton Castle. After the film, we will have an opportunity to exchange thoughts and reflections with a facilitated dialogue. Hakim Bellamy will perform an original poem inspired by our collective bearing witness. We will close the evening with a powerful reprise of the third movement, "Lamentation," performed live by Apprentice Artist Katherine DeYoung from the Santa Fe Opera.





AARON Stern

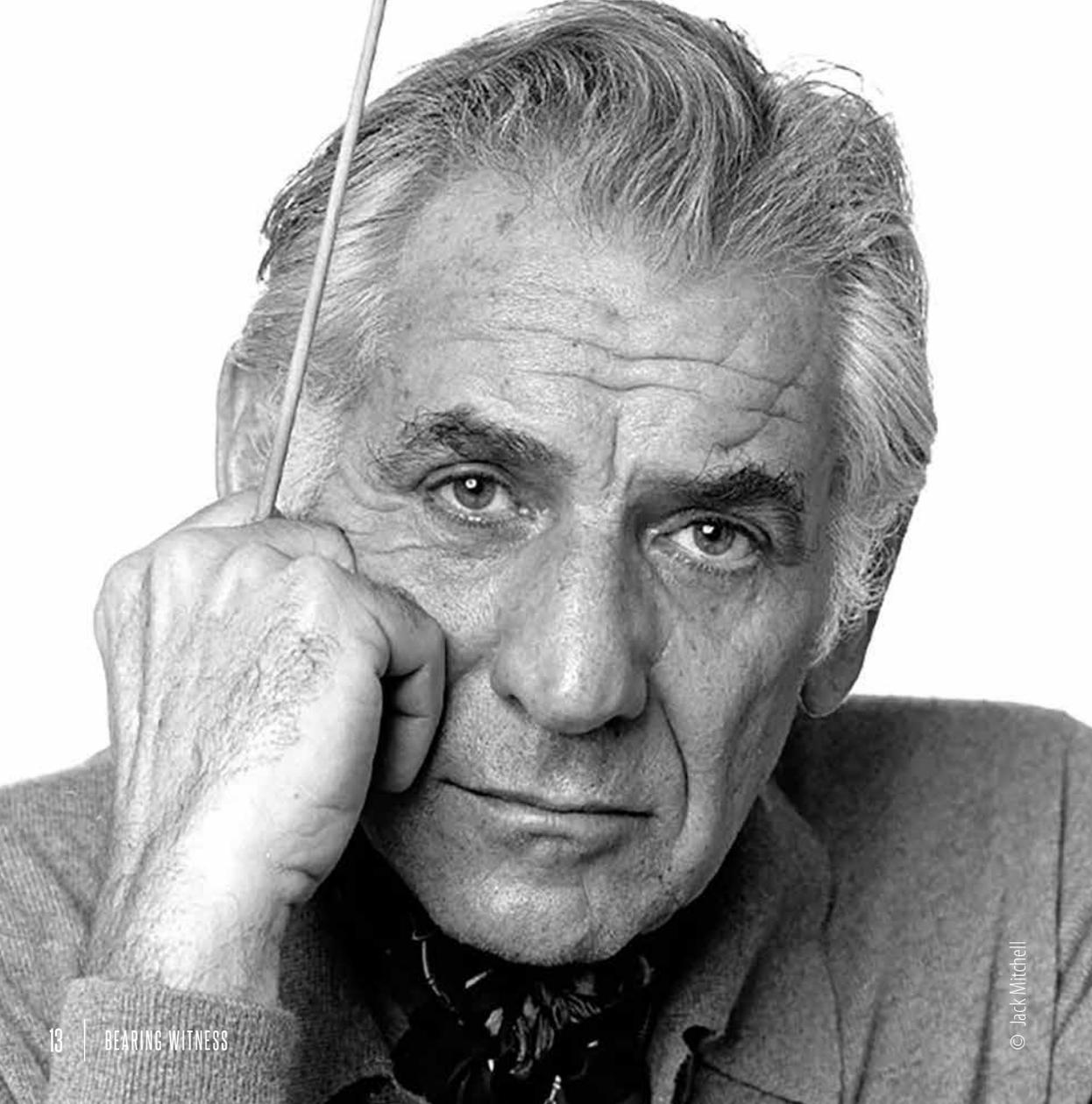
Aaron Stern, President and Founder of the Academy for the Love of Learning, is a musician, teacher, and internationally recognized consultant on learning.

As the Academy's creative and educational leader, Stern designs and directs the Academy's core curriculum and faculty, guides program development, and offers select trainings in depth facilitation and diverse aspects of the Academy's pedagogy.

During the early 1980s, Stern served as Dean of the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago. It was here that he began to focus on learning and educational processes, developing creative, experiential curricula that won national acclaim.

It was during that time that Stern re-met his mentor, musician Leonard Bernstein, and the two embarked upon an intense 10-year collaboration. Stern had already begun to imagine a new institution focused on learning and their conversations and shared experiences further informed Stern in his quest to find ways to awaken, nurture, and sustain a life-long love of learning as a means to becoming more fully human. This early work laid the foundation for what is now the Academy for the Love of Learning, founded by Stern in 1998.

Today, Stern conducts programming in Santa Fe, consultancies and seminars throughout the United States and other parts of the world and serves as a member of the Board and Fellow of the Mind & Life Institute, co-founded by His Holiness the Dalai Lama.



LEONARD Bernstein

Leonard Bernstein was a conductor, composer, pianist, author and teacher. Born in Lawrence, Massachusetts, he began piano lessons at around the age of ten. Graduating from Harvard in 1939 he continued his studies at the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia, which included conducting with Fritz Reiner. After studying with and assisting Serge Koussevitzky at Tanglewood, Massachusetts, Bernstein's major career break came in November 1944 when he was called upon at the last moment to substitute an ailing Bruno Walter at a concert in Carnegie Hall, which was broadcast nationally.

In the following years he held posts as conductor of the New York City Orchestra, head of the conducting department at Tanglewood and on the staff of Brandeis University. From 1958-1969 he was musical director and chief conductor of the New York Philharmonic, subsequently holding the lifetime title of laureate conductor. He made hundreds of recordings, appeared regularly on television, gave educational lectures, and wrote *The Joy of Music* (1954) and *The Infinite Variety of Music* (1959). He won countless awards, including the National Fellowship Award in 1958 for his lifelong support of humanitarian causes.

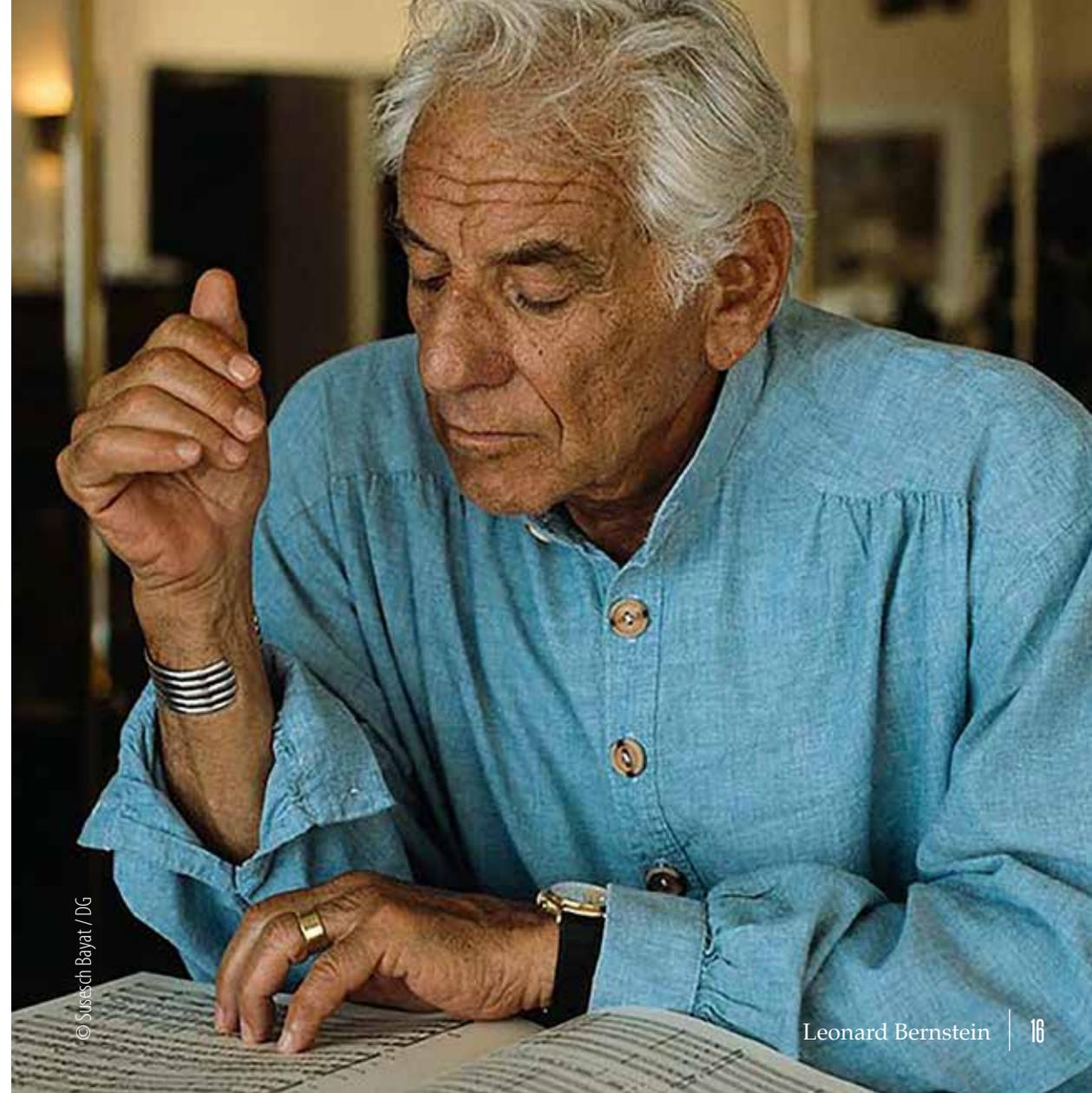
Among his wide variety of works he composed ballets such as *Fancy Free* (1944); musicals and operas including *On the Town* (1944), *Trouble in Tahiti* (1952) and its sequel *A Quiet Place* (1983), *Wonderful Town* (1953), *Candide* (1956) and *West Side Story* (1957); concert works including *Chichester Psalms* (1965) and three symphonies.

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Additionally, Bernstein took a deep interest in politics and was a friend of the Kennedys. His Mass was dedicated to John F. Kennedy. Among guests at fundraising parties in his apartment during the late 1960's, one could find some of the leading civil rights advocates of the period. During Bernstein's Philharmonic decade, the orchestra engaged its first African-American member, the violinist Sanford Allen.

Late in his extraordinarily restless and fruitful life, Bernstein defended his early decision to spread himself over as many fields of endeavor as he could master. "I don't want to spend my life, as Toscanini did, studying and restudying the same 50 pieces of music," he wrote in *The New York Times*.

"It would," he continued, "bore me to death. I want to conduct. I want to play the piano. I want to write for Hollywood. I want to write symphonic music. I want to keep on trying to be, in the full sense of that wonderful word, a musician. I also want to teach. I want to write books and poetry. And I think I can still do justice to them all."



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HAKIM Bellamy

Award-winning poet, journalist, actor, musician, community organizer, educator, and father, Hakim Bellamy has served Albuquerque and New Mexico in many capacities since arriving here as a University of New Mexico graduate student 13 years ago. First introduced to New Mexico Civic life as a radio journalist at KUNM 89.9FM, Hakim continued to grow his connection to the communities and culture of New Mexico through community organizing opportunities at the New Mexico League of Young Voters & Media Literacy Project. His experience in government includes four years at the NM State Office of African American Affairs and two years in Mayor Berry's administration. Hakim has served on the boards and grants panels of numerous arts organizations across the state, region (WESTAF) and country (NEA), however he credits his service as the Inaugural Poet Laureate of Albuquerque as his most profound insight into the cultural aspirations of this city. Hakim currently serves as Deputy Director of the City of Albuquerque's Cultural Services Department. He holds an M.A. in Communications from the University of New Mexico and is a W.K. Kellogg Foundation Community Leadership Network Fellow, as well as a Kennedy Center Citizen Artist Fellow.

Hakim has engaged with many programs of the Academy, including the Creative Action Team, the Creative Facilitation Cohort, LB Fellowship Design, and as a Teaching Artist with El Otro Lado in the Schools.



KATHERINE DeYoung

Mezzo-soprano Katherine DeYoung, originally from Traverse City, MI, is currently a member of the Apprentice Singer Program with the Santa Fe Opera. This summer, she is covering the role of The Mayor's Wife in *Jenůfa*. In the Fall, Katherine will return to Michigan Opera Theatre for a second season as a member of the Michigan Opera Theatre Studio, and to perform the role of Zita in *Gianni Schicchi*. Last season with Michigan Opera Theatre, Katherine performed *Sandman* in *Hänsel und Gretel*, *Old Lady* in *Candide*, *The Mother* in *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, covered *Olga* in *Eugene Onegin*, and performed *Mae* and covered *Ma Joad* in *The Grapes of Wrath*. Katherine holds a Master's Degree in Voice Performance from the University of Houston where she performed *Isabella* in *L'Italiana in Algeri*, *Fidalma* in *The Secret Marriage*, *Nurse Gertrude* in *Roméo et Juliette*, *Elizabeth Proctor* in *The Crucible*, and *Lady Sneerwell* in the World Premiere of *The School for Scandal*. Other roles performed include the title role in *Carmen* with Opera in the Ozarks. While in Houston, Katherine appeared with the Texas Medical Center Orchestra for their "A Night at the Opera" Concert and was the Alto Soloist for Chapelwood United Methodist's "Messiah Selections". In February, Katherine was a Finalist in the Houston Grand Opera 31st Eleanor McCollum Competition. She was also a District Winner of the 2018 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. Katherine is an alumna of Michigan State University.



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GRISHA Krivchenia

Grisha Krivchenia is a composer and pianist who divides his time between Santa Fe, the Seattle area, and concert dates throughout North America. Recent premieres of his work took place in Seattle, Los Angeles, and Bucharest. Grisha completed his studies at Oberlin Conservatory, where he studied piano with Sedmara Rutstein and composition with Jeffrey Mumford. In 2007, Grisha founded the music program at Spring Street International School in Friday Harbor. His solo piano and chamber music is published by Abundant Silence Publishing. Grisha takes a special interest in using art to amplify voices that might otherwise go unheard. He writes music in collaboration with hospice patients and has worked as a composer with the Academy's Lifesongs program. He recently completed a song cycle based on interviews with Syrian refugees living in Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey.



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ACUSHLA Bastible Stage Director

Acushla Bastible is the director and co-founder of Lifesongs, a cornerstone program of the Academy's arts and community engagement work. As an Academy faculty member, she also creates and facilitates programs and workshops on aging, death and dying, creativity, and collective storymaking.

Acushla is a multidisciplinary performance artist – actor, stage director, educator, writer, facilitator, and animateur. Her work in the US and abroad explores the intersections between performance, collective story-gathering and -making, and fostering caring, dignified communities.

In addition to her work with the Academy, Acushla is a freelance stage director for theatre and opera. She is an artistic affiliate with Littlelobe, a diverse artist collaborative devoted to arts and social change, and is the project co-director and stage director for Firerock, a musical production and storytelling project catalyzing climate engagement and leadership. She has also served as the artistic director of Angel Exit, an international performance collective based in the UK and Ireland, and as artistic associate with The Santa Fe Opera, where she directed touring opera productions and managed creative programming for students in the public schools.

In 2010, Acushla was honored for her artistic work as one of the 50 Most Influential Irish Women in the USA, awarded by the Irish Embassy and the Irish Voice newspaper. She is a graduate of Trinity College Dublin, the Courtauld Institute of Art in London, and École Internationale de Théâtre Jacques Lecoq in Paris. She is an alumnus of the Lincoln Center Directors Lab.



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LAURA Pancoast Development and Legacy Project Manager

Laura Pancoast provides support to the staff and faculty by connecting with individuals, businesses, and foundations to support the Academy's mission and programs. In addition, Laura manages annual Legacy events with Academy President and Founder Aaron Stern, honoring the Academy's history with Leonard Bernstein. Laura is passionate about finding sources to help sustain organizations that have the power to be positive agents of change in the world.

Trained as a classical vocalist, Laura was immediately drawn to the Academy's history with Leonard Bernstein and the ingrained goal to bring beauty and harmony to those who need it most through the outlets of art, education, story-telling, and transformational leadership. The daughter of former park rangers and believer in the healing power of the natural world, the Seton Legacy Project also held inspiration for Laura. She is continually motivated by and grateful for the opportunity to serve through the roles of development and fundraising to build on more interpersonal relationships, offering the Academy and its teachings to a broader audience with opportunities for growth and transformation.

Prior to the Academy, Laura served as the Development and Marketing Assistant at the Santa Fe Desert Chorale. Laura has also held arts administration positions and internships with Fargo-Moorhead Opera, Central City Opera, and served as the Assistant to the Director of the University of New Mexico Opera Theatre.

Laura Pancoast holds a B.M. in Vocal Performance from Concordia College and a M.M. in Voice from the University of New Mexico and has held fellowships with the Sphinx Organization in Detroit, MI and The Grants Collective in Albuquerque, NM. Laura is also a member of the Young Professionals Advisory Committee for the Santa Fe Animal Shelter.



Aaron Stern with Leonard Bernstein and Pope John Paul II in 1983 the day after a performance of the Jeremiah Symphony at the Vatican.

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IN Appreciation

Thank you to the following for supporting “Bearing Witness” as underwriters, gala committee members and table sponsors.

Synàkos Foundation



Adam Rubel
Charlie Harmon
Deborah Boldt
Elizabeth Harcombe
Richard Bentley

The Academy for the Love of Learning is grateful for all those that believe in us and our work, continuing to join with us as we dance this dream awake. Thank you to our program participants, Santa Fe and Northern New Mexico community leaders, nationwide partners and collaborators, our Friends, donors, volunteers, and all who have joined with us in our mission to “Take the Lid Off Learning.” And all who are yet to come.

There are so many ways to engage and participate. We want to hear from you! Please email learn@aloveoflearning.org with your ideas on how you want to join with us in continuing our mission.

Special thanks to:

Center for Healthy Minds, University of Wisconsin-Madison | Friends of the Academy | New Mexico Arts
The NoVo Foundation | Matthew Fox | The Mind & Life Institute | The McCune Charitable Foundation
Seton Village Neighbors | Synàkos Foundation | Anonymous Family Foundation



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Tano Security
Santa Fe Opera
Santa Fe Valet
Van’s Events

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Acushla Bastible, Director and Co-Founder: Lifesongs; Faculty

Ann Stahl, Board Treasurer

Anna Dale, Events and Administrative Coordinator

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Catherine Messier, Operations Manager

Chrissie Orr, Director: El Otro Lado; Faculty

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