

# Longy School of Music of Bard College and Eudaimonia, A Purposeful Period Band showcase social missions with Vivaldi's oratorio, 'Juditha Triumphans'

January 21 – 22, 2017 – Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall

**CAMBRIDGE, Mass.**—The [Longy School of Music](#) Early Music Department and [Eudaimonia, A Purposeful Period Band](#) will present Antonio Vivaldi's only surviving oratorio, "**Juditha Triumphans**," (1716) at Longy's Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall on January 21 at 8 p.m. and January 22 at 3 p.m. The oratorio, a Baroque masterpiece, tells the story, from the Old Testament Book of Judith, of a Jewish widow who saves her people from the army of Nebuchadnezzar; mezzo-soprano [Carrie Cheron](#) will sing the role of Judith.

With her city besieged by an enemy demanding to be paid overdue tributes, Judith and her maid sneak their way to the enemy's camp, to the Assyrian General Holofernes. Holofernes falls in love with her and, after giving a feast in her honor, falls into a drunken sleep. In his sleep Judith beheads him, leaving the leaderless army in disarray, and returns victorious to Bethulia.

The collaboration is part of Longy's project-based learning curriculum. In addition to preparing this extraordinary music and studying its unusual history, participants join in the project's administration, production, and social action elements. The work's themes of xenophobia, poverty, abuse and disempowerment are challenges sadly still facing our society and bring special meaning to both Eudaimonia and Longy.

Directed by harpsichordist (and Longy faculty) Vivian Montgomery and violinist Julie McKenzie, Eudaimonia is a baroque orchestra, founded in 2015 with the purpose to shine a spotlight on the social and humanitarian work happening in the Boston community.

"I've spent decades as a performer and scholar delving into the messages and artistry of this extraordinary piece, but there are many special layers of meaning for us in dramatizing it now, exactly 300 years after its premiere by the gifted female musicians of the Ospedale della Pietà in Venice," said Montgomery. "The results are especially rich, bringing to life Judith's story, Vivaldi's exotic sounds, and the Pietà's neglected musical history, through a collaboration between Longy's wonderful historical performance students and the mission-driven members of Eudaimonia."

Eudaimonia has invited **local humanitarian groups to present information at tables before the performance, at intermission, and after the performance.** The groups include: [Tunefoolery Music](#), for musicians in mental health recovery; [The Muslim Justice League](#), an organization that educates, organizes and advocates for human and civil rights that are violated or threatened under national security pretexts; [Yad Chessed](#), providing emergency financial assistance to those struggling to meet their basic needs; [Family Promise Metrowest](#), a community of 19 host congregations providing safe, temporary shelter, meals and support to homeless families; and [Samaritans of Boston](#), working to reduce the incidence of suicide in our community.

Admission is '**Pay What You Decide**' following the program. All contributions are tax-deductible and are made directly to Eudaimonia and their social action partners. For more information, visit [www.longy.edu/events](http://www.longy.edu/events).

## About Longy School of Music of Bard College

Longy School of Music of Bard College is a conservatory whose mission is to prepare musicians to make a difference in the world. World-class faculty and an innovative curriculum encourage students to push their artistic presentation beyond the proscenium model. Longy promotes musical understanding and technical mastery, and inspires imagination and inquiry into the musician's role in the world. Longy serves graduate and undergraduate students from over 35 states and 16 countries between its Cambridge and Los Angeles campuses, with the latter housing the El Sistema-inspired Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) program.

Interviews, Press Passes & High  
Resolution Images

**Dayla Arabella Santurri**

781.479.6951

Dayla@DaylaArabella.com

**College**

Allison Gerlach

Associate Director of Marketing &  
Communications 617.831.1791

[agerlach@longy.edu](mailto:agerlach@longy.edu)

**Concert Hall**

27 Garden Street

Cambridge, MA 02138

[longy.edu](http://longy.edu)

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)