

ASPEN FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Today, Daniel Gurevich is second oboe.

DANIEL GUREVICH *Oboe*

For Aspen Music Festival and School (AMFS) student Daniel Gurevich, a defiant decision in the fifth grade turned out to be a life-changing and career-defining moment. With beginning band and orchestra starting that school year, Gurevich was sent a list of instruments to choose from. Oboe wasn't on the list. Actually, "it was on the list of things you weren't supposed to pick," Gurevich recalls. His dad brought him to two music stores to find an oboe to rent. Although his band teacher was likely a little displeased when he showed up, oboe in hand, on the first day, she would likely be proud now, as Gurevich is completing his third degree in oboe performance and is on track for a fruitful career in music.

While it wasn't an immediate career choice at 12 years old, looking back, many factors led Gurevich to pursue the oboe. He grew up with classical music in the house: his mother is a professional singer. He notes that, like many others, he was captivated by the sound of the oboe when he heard it in *Peter and the Wolf* and in countless movie scores—especially *Star Wars*. But it was during a tour to various European cities with his youth orchestra in the eighth grade that he had his 'aha' moment. Something clicked, and "after that tour, I came home and thought, 'I have to do this. There's no way around this,'" Gurevich says, recalling the moment he decided he was going to pursue a career in music. "I don't need anything else in life—this is good."

His pursuit has thus far proven successful: Gurevich completed his bachelor's degree at The Juilliard School studying with Elaine Douvas and a master's at San Francisco Conservatory with Eugene Izotov. He is currently completing a Professional Studies Diploma at the Mannes School of Music in New York. In addition to taking various freelancing and orchestral positions, Gurevich also sells oboe reed-making tools that he invented. In a full-circle moment, many of the stores he bought reeds from when he first started as a child are now selling his tools.

This year marks Gurevich's third summer in Aspen since first attending the AMFS in 2019. He will be studying with all three of the oboe artist-faculty members, whom he cites as one of the main reasons he is back for a third time. "They are all very serious about making sure the students get the most out of Aspen. They're here for us, which is amazing," he says. Playing side-by-side with his teachers is also a big plus, and "sort of a rare experience," he says. "They are leading by example. The orchestra level goes up and you feel like you're playing in an absolutely amazing orchestra. It's great."

Although it's one of the most complex pieces in standard orchestral repertoire, Gurevich likely won't be nervous for today's performance of *The Rite of Spring*, which he says is one of his favorite pieces. He comes into today's concert with more than adequate experience with the piece: "I played it for the first time just over a year ago, subbing for the San Francisco Symphony," he says. He is well prepared, but any musician knows that one must deal with nerves that may come up during a performance. "Keep it simple," advises Gurevich on concert preparation. "That way your mind is on the music. Just be prepared and it will go well. People will enjoy the concert."

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DANIEL GUREVICH IS A RECIPIENT OF THE DR. CHRISTINE GRAD SCHOLARSHIP IN HONOR OF JOHN DELANCIE
AND THE DORIS B. KOVNER CHAMBER MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP