



# Bard College Conservatory of Music

## Faculty Recital Series-Part I

Luosha Fang, violin  
Zhenni Li-Cohen, piano

Saturday, October 7, 2023 at 7:00 pm  
László Z. Bitó '60 Conservatory Building

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Sonata for Violin and Keyboard No. 3 in E major, BWV 1016

Adagio  
Allegro  
Adagio ma non tanto  
Allegro

J.S. Bach  
(1685-1750)

Violin Sonata No. 10 in G major, Op. 96

Allegro moderato  
Adagio espressivo  
Scherzo: Allegro - Trio  
Poco allegretto

Ludwig van Beethoven  
(1770-1827)

Intermission

Elegy for Solo Viola

Igor Stravinsky  
(1882-1971)

Sonata for Viola and Piano, Op. 147

Moderato  
Allegretto  
Adagio

Dmitri Shostakovich  
(1906-75)

Violinist and violist **Luosha Fang**, a 2011 graduate of the Bard College Conservatory of Music, brings her adventurous spirit to music ranging from canonical repertoire to world premieres. As violinist, she has performed as soloist with the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Atlantic Symphony, the Louisville Orchestra, the West Virginia Symphony, the Bay-Atlantic Symphony, and the American Symphony Orchestra, with whom she gave the U.S. premiere of the Grażyna Bacewicz Violin Concerto No. 5. With the Albany Symphony Orchestra, she recorded George Tsontakis's double violin concerto "Unforgettable" for release on NAXOS Records. She will perform Kurtág Concertantes with The Orchestra Now at Carnegie Hall in the spring of 2023. As violist she has performed as soloist with the New Japan Philharmonic, the Nagoya Philharmonic Orchestra, the TOHO-Gakuen Orchestra, the Hiroshima Symphony Orchestra, the Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra, and the Franz Liszt Chamber Orchestra.

Ms. Fang has won international competitions on both instruments, including the 2019 Classic Strings International Competition in Vienna and the 2018 Tokyo International Viola Competition, as well as Astral Artists' 2013 National Auditions and the S&R Foundation's 2015 Washington Award, as both violinist and violist.

Ms. Fang's chamber music career began in her undergraduate days as founding first violin of the Chimeng Quartet, which won the Silver Medal at the 2010 Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition. Chamber music has been central to her career ever since, and she has played in the Marlboro, Krzyzowa, Kronberg, Ravinia, Festspiele Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Bard Music, Caramoor, Aspen, Music from Angel Fire, and Incontri in Terra di Siena festivals. She has worked with such musicians as Gidon Kremer, Christian Tetzlaff, Steven Isserlis, Antoine Tamestit, Mitsuko Uchida, Nobuko Imai, Viviane Hagner, Claudio Bohórquez, Matthias Kirschnereit, Pamela Frank, Timothy Eddy, Gilbert Kalish, István Várdai, Akiko Suwanai, Andrei Ionita, Boris Giltburg, Peter Wiley, Ida Kavafian, Steven Tenenbom, and members of the Guarneri and Juilliard string quartets. During 2021 and 2022, Ms. Fang was violist of the Pavel Haas Quartet in Prague, with whom she recorded the Brahms String Quintet No. 2 in G major, Op. 111 and Piano Quintet in F minor, Op. 34.

She has performed at such prestigious venues as Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center, the Library of Congress, Kioi Hall in Tokyo, De Bijloke in Gent, the Graz and Vienna Musikvereins, the Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg, the Meistersingerhalle in Nuremberg, the Konzerthaus in Berlin, the Muzikgebouw in Amsterdam, Wigmore Hall in London, the Auditorio Nacional de Música in Madrid, the Flagey Piano Days in Brussels and the East Neuk Festival in Scotland.

Ms. Fang comes from a family of musicians. Her grandfather took violin lessons from Alfred Wittenberg, a pupil of Joseph Joachim, who came with other Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany to Shanghai in 1939. Under the guidance of her father, Fang made her debut at age eight in her native China with Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 3, and at sixteen moved to the USA on a scholarship to the Bard College Conservatory of Music, where she studied with Ida Kavafian and Arnold Steinhardt. After graduating from Bard with degrees in violin and Russian Studies, she attended the Curtis Institute of Music as a violin student of Ida Kavafian and Shmuel Ashkenasi. At this time, she began viola studies with Steven Tenenbom, and in 2016 entered the Escuela Superior de Música Reina Sofía in Madrid as a viola student of Nobuko Imai. In Fall 2019 she was invited to teach at the Bard College Conservatory of Music as instructor of violin/viola.

Always in pursuit of new artistic frontiers, Ms. Fang has also collaborated with the Almanac Dance Circus Theatre and the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company. She studied acting and theater at Bard College and the University of Pennsylvania. Fang plays on a Pietro Guarneri violin made in 1734 and a Dominique Peccatte bow kindly loaned by Dr. Ryuji Ueno. She plays on the 'Josefowitz' 1690 Andrea Guarneri viola.

**Zhenni Li-Cohen's** riveting presence and passionate performances have brought audiences to their feet around the world. Hailed for her "torrents of voluptuous sound...Li impresses as an artist of tremendous conviction, who fascinates even as she provokes" by Gramophone Magazine, "a thrillingly good pianist" by The New Yorker and for her "...big, gorgeous tone and a mesmerizing touch" by The Philadelphia Inquirer, Ms. Li-Cohen has performed in such notable venues as Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Merkin Concert Hall, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and WQXR's Greene Space in New York, Philadelphia's Kimmel Performing Arts Center, Washington D.C.'s Smithsonian Museum, San Jose's California Theater, the Helsinki Music Center in Finland, the Grieghallen in Norway and the Berliner Philharmonie in Germany.

Upcoming engagements include concerto appearances with the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, the National Orchestra of the Dominican Republic, the Fairbanks, Johns Hopkins, Bucks County and Knoxville Symphony Orchestras, and recitals in New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Alaska, South Carolina, and Rhode Island. Deeply committed to the art of recording, Ms. Li-Cohen is passionate about memorializing lesser known works and sharing them with a greater audience as well as traversing the heights of the familiar giants of the repertoire. Fresh off the heels of her critically acclaimed debut album *Mélancolie*, she is currently working on three different recording projects with the Steinway & Sons label. In *Une Lettre/One Letter/Ein Brief*, she delves into the music of Sergei Bortkiewicz, a Ukrainian/Polish composer-pianist of the late 19th century whose life was constantly plagued by the horrors of war. *Legends of the Phoenix Queen* came about from Ms. Li-Cohen's desire to reconnect with her musical heritage, exploring traditional and contemporary Chinese works inspired by folk songs, stories and historic instruments. In *Beethoven's Apotheosis*, the great master's final piano sonata is juxtaposed with the iconic "Hammerklavier" sonata and 32 Variations.

Her difficult early years did not portend a remarkable career. After a year of study with her childhood teacher, she was rejected for lack of talent at the ripe old age of seven years. Intuiting her passion and promise, her father took charge of her music education, learning the piano himself in the process. Eventually, at age eleven, she moved away from home to continue her piano studies while her parents remained behind, working to support her education. Alone in her rental apartment, she spent her free time expressing her emotions through the piano and reading books endlessly. Music was her only refuge, and her prowess soared, until at age sixteen, she emigrated to the United States and was accepted to study at the Juilliard School shortly thereafter, earning Bachelors and Masters degrees in piano performance. She spent her summers in France, leading to a great love and appreciation for French music, particularly that of Claude Debussy, whose *Préludes* were eventually the subject of her dissertation. After further studies at Yale University, she pursued her Doctoral degree at McGill University in Montréal and began concertizing in earnest, earning worldwide recognition as the winner of the 2017 New York Concert Artists Worldwide Debut Audition, Astral Artist's 2016 National Auditions,

the Grieg International Competition in Norway, and the unanimous 1st Prize at the Concours Musical de France. Her performances have been broadcast internationally on Canada National CBC Radio, Chicago's WFMT Public Radio, Iowa Public Radio, New York's WQXR, Norwegian National Radio: NPK P2/ NPK Klassisk, Philadelphia's WWFM and WRTI, Texas Public Radio, and West Virginia's WVTF.

In addition to her solo career, Ms. Li-Cohen is a deeply devoted chamber musician. She has collaborated with members of the Aeolus, Borromeo, Jasper, Hugo Wolf, and New Orford quartets and has performed at numerous chamber music festivals including Classical Bridge, Fontainebleau Festival, Kneisel Hall, Methow Valley Chamber Music Festival, Music@Menlo, and Ravinia's Steans Music Institute. Her passion for chamber music led her to co-found "Fishin' in C Chamber Music Series", a diverse chamber concert series in Philadelphia with the aim of bringing music to underserved areas and "Opus 71 Concerts", a multimedia concert series near New York's Lincoln Center.

She is immensely grateful to be able to count among her artistic influences many incredible teachers and mentors, including Peter Frankl, Richard Goode, Joseph Kalichstein, Stéphane Lemelin, Seymour Lipkin, Robert McDonald, Mark Salman, Craig Sheppard, and Vera Wilson. In her spare time, she enjoys learning jazz and new languages, looking forward to becoming pentalingual, traveling and meeting people of different cultures.

Zhenni Li-Cohen is a Steinway Artist.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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Please join us next Sunday for Part II of this Faculty Recital Series when Luosha Fang, viola, performs works by Fitelberg, Martinů, Prokofiev, and Saariaho with violinist Shannon Lee.

**Shannon Lee, violin**

**Luosha Fang, viola**

**Sunday, October 15, 2023 at 7:00pm**  
**László Z. Bitó '60 Conservatory Building**  
Free and open to the public.

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and

**Noon Concert**

Conservatory students perform an hour-long program of short works

**Monday, October 16, at 12:00 pm**  
**László Z. Bitó '60 Conservatory Building**  
Free and open to the public.