



Degree Recital
Yixin Wang, *guzheng*

Sunday, April 14, 2024 at 7 pm
László Z. Bitó '60 Conservatory Building

Valley Stream

Zhou Long (b. 1953)

Elizabeth Bennett, *flute*
Hiu Man Chan, *guanzi*
Jaelyn Quilizapa, *percussion*

Chen Xingyuan's Political Marriage

Henan Music, notated by Cao Dongfu (1898-1970)

Fantasia on Western China Themes

Huang Zhenyu; Zhou Wang (b.1961)

Jaelyn Quilizapa, *percussion*

— Intermission —

Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon

Tan Dun, rearranged by Liu Le (b.1985)

Beitong Liu, *erhu*
Grace Molinaro, *cello*
Nomin Samdan, *piano*

Ode to the Land of Qin

Zhou Zhan (b.1972)

Nomin Samdan, *piano*

Blossoms in Blue (World Premiere)

Ray Lin (b. 2000)

Eszter Pókai, *clarinet*
Alberto Arias Flores, *horn*
Grace Molinaro, *cello*
Nomin Samdan, *piano*

Yixin Wang is dedicated to popularizing and educating the public about Chinese traditional instruments and music. She began playing guzheng at the age of 3 in Shanghai, China, and after moving to Houston, she joined the Houston Traditional Chinese Music Group and Texas Philharmonic Folk Orchestra. Recent including TEDx Sugarland, World Affairs Council of Greater Houston, Chinese embassies in Houston, New York, and Washington DC, Texas A&M, Rice, and Maryland Universities, and the China Institute. After winning the 2019 Bard Conservatory Concerto Competition, she premiered Dr. Xinyan Li's *Awakening Light*, the first guzheng piece to use the modulation bridges invented by suona virtuoso and instrument inventor Yazhi Guo. She is a student of Professor Zhou Wang in the Bard Conservatory's US-China Music Institute, with mathematics as a second major.

Born into a family of musicians, pianist **Nomin Samdan** made her first public appearance at the age of 7 in her native country, Mongolia. Since then, she has performed in many countries spanning the continents of Europe, Asia, and North America. She was a piano faculty member at the Mongolian State Conservatory and as pianist for the Mongolian State Opera and Ballet House. Nomin received a B.Mus and Graduate Performance Diploma in Piano Performance from Boston Conservatory at Berklee, and an M.M. in Collaborative Piano from Boston University.

Grace Molinaro, from the Washington, D.C. area, is a fifth-year student at Bard College and Conservatory, majoring in cello performance and Middle Eastern Studies (with Arabic). At Bard, she has premiered new chamber works by Bard and Hong Kong-based composers. She performed the first movement of Shostakovich Cello Concerto No. 1 with the Bard College Community Orchestra, after winning the 2019 Music Program Concerto Competition. Grace organized benefit concerts for the Afghan-led Arezo project and earthquake relief in Turkey and Syria.

Jaelyn Quilizapa, from Isleton, California, is a fourth-year student pursuing music performance and poetry in the Bard College and Conservatory double-degree program. Having honed her musical craft at the Interlochen Arts Academy, Jaelyn found a love in the art of "singing marimbists," blending vocals and percussion together to create covers of her favorite songs.

Hiu Man Chan (陳曉文), a first-year suona and guanzi student in the MA in Chinese Music and Culture Program at Bard College Conservatory's US-China Music Institute, has been a freelance musician in the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra and Hong Kong Taoist Orchestra. He won a Silver Award in the Senior Professional Category of the 4th Singapore Nanyang International Music Competition for suona. He is currently studying with Master Yazhi Guo.

Beitong Liu '23 is a second-year graduate student at the US-China Music Institute, majoring in ethnomusicology. She was also a member of the US-China Institute's first undergraduate class and majored in erhu performance and global and international studies. In 2021 she won the Bard Conservatory Concerto Competition. In 2023, under the baton of Maestro Jindong Cai, she made her debut at Jazz at Lincoln Center as a soloist with TÖN.

Clarinetist **Eszter Pókai**, a fourth-year student at the Bard Conservatory, with a second major in psychology. She appeared regularly as soloist with the Pannon Philharmonic and as a member of EAR Contemporary Ensemble in her native Hungary where she is a sought-after collaborator in Budapest's music scene. Eszter won first place at the 2019 New Millennium International Chamber Music Festival Competition.

Alberto Arias Flores '23 is a French horn player from Venezuela studying under the tutelage of Barbara Jöstlein Currie and Hugo Valverde at Bard in the Conservatory's graduate APS program. He graduated in 2023 from Bard Conservatory of Music with degrees in music performance and French studies and won the William Weaver Prize for his senior project. Alberto also has performed in the Miami Music Festival, Bard Music Festival, Classical Music Institute of San Antonio Symphony Orchestra, The Opera of San Antonio Orchestra, and The Orchestra Now.

Elizabeth Bennett, a first-year flute performance and anthropology major, plans to pursue ethnomusicology in the future. At the Bard Conservatory she studies with Tara-Helen O'Connor and plays in the Bard Conservatory Orchestra. She was previously a member of the Three Rivers Young Peoples Orchestra and a student of Rhian Kenny in her hometown of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.