



IAP Degree Recital: Christopher Nelson

Saturday, April 27, 2024 at 1:00pm
László Z. Bitó '60 Conservatory Building

Souvenir d'un lieu cher, Op. 42

Méditation
Scherzo
Mélodie

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
(1840-93)

Neilson Chen, piano

Violin Sonata No. 2, Op. 49 'Quasi una sonata'

Alfred Schnittke
(1934-98)

Yilin Li, piano

Intermission

24 Preludes for Piano, Op. 34 (Trans. Dmitri Tsyganov)

1. Moderato
6. Allegretto
10. Moderato non troppo
13. Moderato
17. Largo

Dmitri Shostakovich
(1906-75)

Violin Sonata in G Major, Op. 134

Andante
Allegretto
Largo - Andante

Dmitri Shostakovich

Raised in Southern California, **Christopher Nelson** is a violinist that has performed music ranging in style from Monteverdi to Kurtág. He has attended several prominent music festivals including the Aspen Music Festival, National Repertory Orchestra, Round Top Festival Institute, Taconic Chamber Intensive, and the Fellowship String Quartet Program at Madeline Island Chamber Music. Influential teachers Christopher has studied with include William Fitzpatrick, Moni Simeonov, Daniel Phillips, Paul Kantor, and Gail Mellert. During his studies at Chapman University (BM '20), Christopher developed an engulfing interest in the history of the Soviet Union through the music of Dmitri Shostakovich. In 2022, Christopher began studies at the Bitó Conservatory of Music at Bard College (MM '24) where he is currently a student of Carmit Zori in the Graduate Instrumental Arts Program.

Dr. Neilson Chen, a native of Taiwan, is a highly sought-after recitalist and collaborative pianist, whose thoughtful interpretations and dazzling technique have been described by the L.A. Times as “stunning.” The recipient of two Master’s degrees and Doctor of Musical Arts from Arizona State University, Neilson has studied under such esteemed teachers as Constance Lee, Anne Epperson and Dr. Andrew Campbell. Currently, he is a Collaborative Pianist at The Orchestra Now (TÖN) and Bard College-Conservatory of Music as well as a Collaborative Pianist in Residence at Meadowmount School of Music. Over the course of his career, Neilson has been the recipient of many prestigious honors and awards, including winning the inaugural Duo Competition at Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara, in 2019. Performing extensively throughout the United States and internationally, he has concertized in Germany, Luxemburg, France, Ireland, Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan. Honored to have performed in renowned venues, he appeared at the National Concert Hall in Taiwan, Carnegie Hall, Tempe Center for the Performing Arts and Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. Recent collaborations with prestigious artists include Joshua Bell, Luosha Fang, Janet Sung, Raman Ramakrishnan and members of the Juilliard String Quartet. Committed to fostering the talent of younger musicians, Neilson is esteemed by many musicians as a colleague and a mentor.

Yilin Li, a pianist from Shenyang, China, is a fifth-year student at Bard Conservatory of Music where she is pursuing a dual-degree program in piano performance and French studies on full scholarship. She is currently under the instruction of Professor Rieko Aizawa and has previously studied with Professors Gilles Vonsattel, Benjamin Hochman, and Vladimir Petrov. Yilin has appeared as a soloist with The Orchestra Now, the East Tennessee Symphony Orchestra and the Todi Music Master Orchestra. In 2022, she was named a winner of the Bard Conservatory Concerto Competition, and in 2018, Yilin was awarded third prize at the Southern American Chopin Competition. Recent performance engagements have brought her to varied locations such as the Bowdoin International Music Festival, the Maine Chamber Music Festival, the East Carolina Piano Festival, the Todi International Music Master in Italy, and the Shenyang Culture Artistic Center which is one of the most renowned performance venues in China. Besides music, Yilin is interested in French philosophy, French musicals, and has contributed writing to the Bard translation magazine *Sui Generis*. Yilin will be pursuing her Master of Music degree at Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University with professor Alexander Shtarkman, as a recipient of the Kaye Scholarship for post grad studies.