



The Art of Violin
Degree Recital
Elizabeth Chernyak, *violin*

Sunday, May 12, 2024 at 5 pm
László Z. Bitó '60 Conservatory Building

Concert Fantasy on Themes from Gershwin's Porgy and Bess, Op. 19 Igor Frolov (1937-2013)

Neilson Chen, *piano*

Rhapsody No. 1 for Solo Violin

Jessie Montgomery (b. 1981)

Sonata No. 4 in E minor, Op. 27
I. Allemanda

Eugène Ysaÿe (1858-1913)

Slavonic Fantásie in B Minor

Antonín Dvořák (1841-1904)
arranged by Fritz Kreisler (1875-1962)

Neilson Chen, *piano*

— Intermission —

A Yiddishe Mamme

Aleksandr Chernyak (b. 1954)

Katherine Chernyak, *violin*
Elizabeth Liotta, *bass*
Miles Wazni, *clarinet*
Jaelyn Quilizapa, *tambourine*
Aleksandr Chernyak, *balalaika*

Ethan Young, *cello*
Neilson Chen, *piano*

Elizabeth Chernyak is a Canadian violinist and violist currently studying violin performance and biology at Bard College Conservatory of Music. She is a student of Luosha Fang and has previously studied with Daniel Phillips and Uli Speth, and currently studies viola with Marka Gustavsson. Elizabeth has attended Eastern Music Festival (2019 and 2021) where she was taught by Uli Speth, Julian Schwartz, and Avi Nagin, and attended Round Top Festival Institute (2022 and 2023) where she studied with Christiano Rodrigues, Joan Kwon, Elizabeth Adkins, and Chen Zhao, among others. Elizabeth is passionate about chamber music and her most recent performances include Ligeti String Quartet No 1, which she performed at Round Top's Best Of Chamber Competition Winners concert (2023). She also has extensive experience performing in orchestras, having played in the Bard Conservatory Orchestra, Hartwick Chamber Orchestra, Binghamton Youth Symphony Orchestra, and more, being led by notable conductors including Gerard Schwartz, Thomas Wilkins, Carl St. Clair, Robert Spano, Joseph Young, and JoAnn Falletta. Elizabeth's experience with viola includes solo performances, chamber, and various ensembles such as the Bard East/West Ensemble, Bard Baroque Ensemble, and the Woodstock Symphony Orchestra, as well as contributing to various projects in the Bard Vocal Arts Program and Bard U.S. China Institute. Elizabeth enjoys performing solo works, having won the Binghamton Youth Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition (2020), receiving second prize in the Young Artist Group for the 20th-21st century category of the American Virtuoso International Music Competition (2024), and having participated in the Oneonta Concert Association Youth Program (2017) and Saugerties ProMusica (2022, 2023). Elizabeth regularly schedules solo recitals with the goal of bringing awareness of different composers and genres as well as her own interpretations of what these pieces mean to her. She seeks to unite multiple art forms (film, poetry, music, literature, visual art, theater and multimedia) in her performances to further this goal and create a meaningful message to the audience. Elizabeth has collaborated with SO Percussion, Joan Tower, Tan Dun, the Sinfonietta Project, and CCS Bard among others to program unique concerts with contemporary music. Elizabeth is also interested in pursuing conducting, composition, and teaching.

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.

Ethan Young is in his third year at the Bard College Conservatory of Music, where he studies cello with Peter Wiley. Prior to his conservatory study, he studied cello with Annette Perry-Delias for six years in Brookhaven, New York. In addition to his solo studies, his first chamber music experience was as member of the East End Youth Quartet from 2016-2019, and he has participated in numerous music festivals local to Long Island, as well as the NYSSMA All State Symphony Orchestra in 2019, and the NAFME All Eastern and All National Symphony Orchestras in 2020 and 2021. Ethan has participated in masterclasses given by the Cassatt String Quartet as well as cellists such as Alberto Parrini, Natasha Farny, and Tomoko Fujita. He is also studying physics as a second major alongside music, and is an avid chamber musician.

Born in Windsor, Ontario, **Katherine Chernyak** began playing violin at the age of seven. Katherine is finishing her undergraduate studies with Erica Kiesewetter and Luosha Fang. She has been assistant concertmaster of the Binghamton Youth Symphony Orchestra and the Little Delaware Youth Ensemble, concertmaster of the Eastern Festival Orchestra, and this past spring, assistant concertmaster in Bard Conservatory's production of Orpheus in the Underworld. In 2019, Katherine won the Binghamton Youth Symphony Concerto Competition and played solo in their winter concert, and in 2023, was a semifinalist in the Music International Grand Prix. Prior to Bard, she was enrolled at Hartwick College. In her free time, Katherine enjoys playing jazz, ultimate frisbee, and piano.

Elizabeth Liotta, a Venezuelan bassist, is pursuing a double major in double bass performance at Bard Conservatory and sociology at Bard College. She embarked on her musical journey in the youth orchestras of The National System of Youth and Children's Orchestras and Choirs of Venezuela, better known as "El Sistema." Elizabeth has a professional musical background, having performed both as a soloist and as a member of orchestras, including the Caracas Symphony Orchestra, the Simon Bolivar Symphony Orchestra of Venezuela, and the Classical Music Institute. Currently in her final year of undergraduate studies, Elizabeth has recently committed to pursuing a master's degree in the Double Bass Program at Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.

Jaelyn Quilizapa, hailing from Isleton, California, is a fourth-year student in the Bard College and Conservatory double-degree program, majoring in percussion performance and poetry. With roots at the Interlochen Arts Academy, Jaelyn specializes in the unique art of "singing marimbists," blending vocals and percussion to cover her favorite songs. Passionate about contemporary and chamber music, she thrives in diverse ensemble settings. Jaelyn's journey is marked by a deep-seated desire to leave a lasting impact on the worlds of music and poetry, aiming to bridge tradition and innovation with boundless enthusiasm.

Miles Wazni is a clarinetist from New Haven, Connecticut and is currently a fourth-year undergraduate student at Bard College Conservatory of Music. While in New Haven he participated in the Morse Academy at Yale School of Music for multiple years, and more recently, the Young Artist Program at the Curtis Institute of Music. He was a member of the New Haven Youth Orchestra, and won the New Haven Concerto Competition, performing as a soloist with the New Haven Chamber Orchestra. This year he won the Bard Conservatory Concerto Competition, performing as a soloist with The Orchestra Now in their 24-25' season. Miles also received an honorable mention for the 2024 Yamaha Young Performing Artist Competition. While in New Haven, Miles studied with clarinetist Sam Boutris, and now studies with Pascual Martínez-Forteza of the New York Philharmonic and David Krakauer.

Aleksandr Chernyak, from Russia, is a multi-talented musician and educator with a rich and diverse background spanning continents and cultures. Chernyak began his studies at the St. Petersburg Community University of the Music Arts, where he specialized in Vocal Opera. His roles included the Director and Lead Singer of the renowned Russian folk ensemble, *Balalaika-Tranzit*, Assistant Professor of Conducting and Ensemble at the University of Culture in St. Petersburg, and Director of a Student Exchange Agency. In 1998, he earned a Master of Arts in Music Education with a minor in Computer Multimedia Design at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. From 1992 to 2012, he actively participated in numerous religious retreats, theological seminars, and conferences, delving into the history and philosophy of Catholicism. His passion for education and cultural exchange led him to various teaching positions, including lecturer roles at institutions such as Washtenaw Community College, the University of Michigan, and Hartwick College. His impact on the musical landscape extended beyond academics as a Cantor, Cantorial Soloist, and Director of Music at Temple Beth El in Flint, Michigan and Minister of Liturgy and Music Director for the Diocese of Lansing, Michigan. His responsibilities included singing, playing piano and organ, directing choirs and soloists, and meticulously planning services and High Holidays. For two decades, he dedicated himself to planning and supervising liturgical services and holidays in multiple Catholic churches, leaving a lasting mark on the religious community.