



**Ana Aparicio**, originally from Maracay, Venezuela, is a fifth-year undergraduate student at the Bard Conservatory, studying with Daniel Phillips. She holds the Conservatory's Stephen and Belinda Kaye Scholarship. She began her musical studies at the age of four in Venezuela, in the music program El Sistema, where she performed as a soloist and concertmaster with several orchestras. She has performed with the Orchestra of the Americas in Europe, South America, and North America. Among the conductors she has worked with are Gustavo Dudamel, Benjamin Zander, Carlos Miguel Prieto, and Rafael Payare. She studied music at the School of Music Superior of Catalonia, Spain, and later at Texas Christian University, before enrolling at Bard College and the Conservatory. Her second major is economics.

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.

**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.

**Francis (Chung-Yang) Huang '23**, from Taiwan, graduated from Bard Conservatory of Music, with a second major in political studies. He began playing the piano at the age of five and took part in the Music Talent Program in Taiwan. Studied with Shai Wosner and Peter Serkin at the Bard Conservatory. He is currently a graduate student in the Instrumental Arts Program studying with Reiko Aizawa.

**Christiaan van Zyl** started his career as a cellist at the age of seven in South Africa. In 2011, he was appointed principal cellist of the Stellenbosch Chamber Music Festival Orchestra, and performed the solo cello part in the world premiere of "Kasi," composed by Hendrik Hofmeyr. In 2012, he obtained the Advanced Performance Certificate in cello (Trinity College London) with distinction and was awarded the Trinity College Exhibition Award for the highest achievement in cello in South Africa. In 2013, he joined the OSM Camerata and participated in the International Orchestra Festival in St Petersburg, Russia. In 2016, Chris attended master classes at the Gulbenkian Institute in Portugal under Varoujan Bartikian. He toured as principal cellist with the MIAGI orchestra and performed in Elbphilharmonie (Hamburg), the Royal Concertgebouw (Netherlands) and the Konzerthaus (Berlin). Chris is completing a MM degree in music performance at Bard College Conservatory of Music in the studio of cellist Peter Wiley.