



IAP Degree Recital
Yuchen Zhao, violin
Neilson Chen, piano
Thursday, May 16, 2024, 7:30 PM
László Z. Bitó '60 Conservatory Building

“Suite Italienne” from the ballet “Pulcinella”

Igor Stravinsky
(1882-1971)

- I. Introduzione
- II. Serenata
- III. Tarantella
- IV. Gavotta con due Variazioni
- V. Scherzino
- VI. Minuetto e Finale

Rondo Brillant in B minor, D. 895

Franz Schubert
(1797-1828)

Intermission

Sonata for Violin and Piano—Hero
英雄—小提琴与钢琴奏鸣曲
(1957-)

Tan Dun (b.1957)
谭盾

- I. Hero 英雄
- II. Above Water 水之上
- III. Wind Sword 风之剑
- IV. Sorrow in the Desert 悲情沙漠

Violin Sonata in E-flat Major, Op. 18

Richard Strauss
(1864-1949)

- I. Allegro, ma non troppo
- II. Improvisation
- III. Finale, Andante-Allegro

Violinist Yuchen Zhao is currently studying for a MM degree under the tutelage of Professor Erica Kiesewetter at Bard College Conservatory of Music, NY. In the fall of 2024, he will become a member of The Orchestra Now (TÖN) at Bard.

He has performed at major venues such as Carnegie Hall, The Kennedy Center, DC, Jazz at Lincoln Center, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Symphony Space in NYC, National Center for Performing Art of China, Shanghai Grand Theatre, Chinese Embassy in Washington, and China Institute in New York City. He has shared the stage with world renowned musicians such as Kerson Leong, Marcus Roberts, Wu Man, Tan Dun, Grace Park, Danny Driver, Piers Lane, and many others. From 2020 to 2022, he served as the concertmaster for the establishment of Orchestra Academy at Zhejiang Conservatory of Music, working with Music Director Yongyan Hu, Visiting Professor at Yale University School of Music.

He has won numerous competitions including Alba Music Competition, Spain; Royal Music Competition, UK ; New Talent Music Competition, UK, and Hong Kong International Music Festival Competition, HK. He has participated in the Bard Music Festival, Hong Kong International Music Festival, Hangzhou International Chamber Music Festival, and China Now Festival in New York. In the summer of 2024, he will join the Berlin Opera Academy.

As an active organizer of cultural events, he co-organized and played in ten concerts with China Poly Group in ten major Chinese cities in 2022. This year, he is involved in organizing the North American tour of China Oriental Performing Arts Group; and he hopes to build a deeper friendship between China and the U.S. through cultural avenues.

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.