

Bard College Conservatory of Music

Road to Freedom
CMC Degree Recital
Bryan Zhe Wang 王哲, *guqin*

Friday, April 26, 2024 at 8 pm
László Z. Bitó '60 Conservatory Building
Performance Space

Autumn Sounds 秋籟 (2018, US premiere)

Zhiyue Zhong 钟之岳 (b. 1984)

Lung Chan 陈隆, *zhongruan*

Grand Nomad Reed Pipe 大胡笳

Based on the version in *Shenqi Mipu* 神奇秘谱 (1425)

Transcribed by Yi Gong 龚一 (b. 1941)

Arranged by Guanren Gu 顾冠仁 (b. 1942)

Rearranged by Bryan Zhe Wang 王哲 (b. 1997)

Hiu-Man Chan 陈晓文, *guanzi*

Free and Unfettered Saunter 逍遥游 (1998, US premiere)

Fuhong Shi 史付红 (b. 1976)

Njya Lubang, *double bass*

— Intermission —

Ode to Autumn Orchid 秋兰兮辞 (2023, US premiere)

Wen Huang 黄文 (b. 1991)

Neilson Chen 陈柏勋, *piano*

Snow Chrysanthemum 雪菊 (2024, world premiere)

Xinyan Li 李昕艳 (b. 1978)

Performers

Bryan Zhe Wang 王哲 is now in the final year of the MA program in Chinese Music and Culture at Bard Conservatory, where he studies with the guqin virtuoso Professor Zhao Jiazhen from Central Conservatory in Beijing. He has won several gold awards in China's national guqin competitions in 2019 and 2022. In 2022, he won the Bard Conservatory Concerto Competition. In the 2023 Singapore International Guqin Tournament, Bryan ranked third among the gold prize winners in Professional Group A. Bryan played Yuejin Li's guqin concerto "A Fall Picture of Wild Geese in Cattail and Hibiscus" with Conductor Shuai Ma and the Chinese Orchestra of Central Conservatory of Music at Beijing National Library Arts Center in 2019. He premiered the chamber version of Wen Huang's guqin concerto "An Ode to Farewell" with Conductor Jindong Cai and Bard East/West Ensemble at Jazz at Lincoln Center in 2023. Also in 2023, Bryan presented his lecture-recital "From the Notation to the Sound: Fingering Interpretation in Contemporary Guqin Pieces" at the fifth annual conference of the US-China Music Institute "Ancient Echoes and New Sounds: Guqin in the 21st Century". Bryan also holds a Bachelor's degree in English Literature and Linguistics and a Master's degree in Translation and Interpreting from Beijing Foreign Studies University.

Hiu-Man Chan 陈晓文 is a first-year Suona and Guanzi major student of Master of Arts in Chinese Music and Culture at Bard College and a freelance musician of the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra and Hong Kong Taoist Orchestra. He achieved Silver Award in the Senior Professional Category of the 4th Singapore Nanyang International Music Competition for Suona. In 2023, Mr. Chan was awarded the Chinese Music Merit Scholarship by Bard College in the United States. He is embarking on a Master's degree program under the tutelage of Master Yazhi Guo.

Lung Chan 陈隆 is a Master's student of the Central Conservatory of Music (CCoM), studying under the tutelage of Prof. Xu Yang, a ruan player, educator and doctoral supervisor. He was admitted to CCoM Elementary School in 2011 and CCoM Middle School in 2012. During the period of his schooling, he has performed many times as a principal in the CCoM Traditional Orchestra. In 2022, he was admitted to the Master's Program of Ruan at CCoM and became a teaching assistant at the Bard Conservatory of Music. In 2023, he was honored as "Outstanding National Music Talent" in the first "Yuehai Cup" National Instrumental Music Competition.

Dr. **Neilson Chen** 陈柏勳, 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 (TON) 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.

Njya Lubang is a second-year bass player from Aurora, Illinois studying with Jeremy McCoy formerly of the Metropolitan Opera. In the college, she is a history major with an interest in pre-modern Africana studies. In the conservatory, she plays in the Chinese Ensemble, Baroque Ensemble, Opera Workshop and the Bard East/West Ensemble.

Composers

Fuhong Shi 史付红, a visiting scholar supported by the China Scholarship Council (CSC) at Columbia University in New York City, USA, a member of a council of the China Nationalities Orchestra Society, a member of the Chinese Musicians Association, currently is a professor and graduate supervisor in composition at the Central Conservatory of Music (CCoM) in Beijing, China. Apart from guidance received from many world-renowned composers and Professors, Shi, who has studied in Canada for many years, got her DMA in composition from the University of Toronto and a Master's degree in composition from the University of Victoria in Canada. From 2010 to now on, she has rewarded numerous compositional and research programs sponsored by the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China, China National Arts Fund (CNAF), Beijing Municipal Education Commission, CCoM and Irish Arts Council (Irish Language Art Songs project 2019). In 2018 and 2021, Return-A Concert of Fuhong Shi's Chamber Music Works and a musical trilogy Sound Jigsaw of large-scale symphonic concerti composed by Fuhong Shi financed by the CNFA were held in the Opera & Concert Hall of the CCoM. Fuhong has received numerous awards - the Taiwanese Symphony Orchestra Composition Contest (1997) - the Women Composers' Scholarship by the International Composition Workshop (Canadian

National Arts Centre 2006) - winner of the Karen Kieser Prize in Canadian Music (2007) - winner of the Generation Ensemble Contemporain de Montréal+ Composer's Competition (2008) - and was selected by the First Annual China National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA) Young Composer Project as one of six finalists (2011) (In 2018, the selected symphonic work titled Concentric Circles was published as one of the Chinese contemporary composers Music Album series by Kuke Music)- Bronze Medalist in the China National Orchestra Composition Competition curated by China Nationalities Orchestra Society (2014) -winner of the Donne in Music Composition Competition in Italy (2018).

Guanren Gu 顾冠仁 is a nationally acclaimed first-class composer for Chinese instruments. He was the Chairman and Artistic Director of the Shanghai Chinese Orchestra and Vice President of the China Nationalities Orchestra Society. He is now the Honorary President of the China Nationalities Orchestra Society, Committee of the Chinese Musicians Association and the deputy director of its traditional instrument department. Gu's composition successfully embraces both traditional and contemporary styles. His work includes pipa concerto, zhongruan concerto, erhu concerto, and orchestra.

Wen Huang 黄文 is a dynamic and prolific composer and pianist from China. Now she teaches at the Art Education Center of Hunan University. She graduated from the Composition Department of the Central Conservatory of Music and studied under Prof. Xiaogang Ye, who is the Chairman of the Chinese Musicians' Association and the Dean of the Music School at The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen. Wen has received various composition awards for her works, including the Silver Prize at the 4th Hong Kong China Music Piano Works Competition, the Top Prize at the 2nd China-ASEAN Music Festival Composition Competition, and the Silver Prize and Best Work Award from the "Qintai-Dunhuang Cup" Chinese Guqin Art New Works Competition, and she was also the winner of the U.S. Golden Key Composition Competition. Wen's compositions span a wide range of musical genres and has been involved in creating music for major music festivals, piano performances, film and televisions, and she has collaborated with orchestras such as The China National Center for the Performing Arts Orchestra, China National Symphony Orchestra, China Philharmonic Orchestra, Changsha Symphony Orchestra, The Hubei Provincial Song and Dance Theatre Ethnic Orchestra, and more.

Dr. **Xinyan Li** 李昕艳 is a visiting professor of music at US-China Music Institute at Bard College Conservatory of Music. Her music works have been featured at Aspen Music Festival, Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, National Opera Center, Composers Now Festival, Music Mountain Festival, and IDRS Conferences. Her music has been performed by Eighth Blackbird, PRISM Quartet, Omaha Symphony, American Composers Orchestra, The Orchestra Now, Bergen Woodwind Quintet, Cassatt String Quartet, Earplay, and principal musicians of Philadelphia, Baltimore, Detroit, St. Louis, Montreal, and Bergen Orchestras. Her awards include ASCAP Morton Gould Young Composer Award, ACO New Music Readings, Tsang-Houei Hsu International Music Composition Award, IDRS Conference 2016 Schwob Prize in Composition, and LunArt Festival Call for Scores. Dr. Li's interview has been broadcast by Sweden's national radio — Sveriges Radio; her wind quintet was released by Albany Records; her music for Lao Zi's Dao De Jing, translated by Ken Liu, has been released by Audible. Rooted in Chinese music and culture, Dr. Li composed many works for Chinese instruments, performed by virtuosos Zhihou Hu, Yazhi Guo, Zhang Qiang, Zhou Yi, Yimin Miao, Shenshen Zhang, Guowei Wang, Chen Yue, Huang Mei, and Yixin Wang, etc. She received her DMA in Composition at UMKC, and earned her Bachelor's and Master's degrees at China Conservatory of Music in composition and music theory.

Yi Gong 龚一 is a guqin master from Shanghai, presently one of the instrument's leading figures. Born in Nanjing, he trained first under several local players (including Liu Shaochun and Xia Yifeng) before proceeding to the Shanghai Conservatory where he absorbed a range of styles from such prominent masters as Zhang Ziqian, Xu Lisun, Gu Meigeng, and Wei Zhongle. Gong Yi has had, since the 1950s, a varied career performing, teaching, composing, and researching under the auspices of several institutions and ensembles, most notably the Shanghai Chinese Orchestra of which he was director and sole guqin player. In guqin circles, he is particularly noted for his efforts toward the integration of the instrument into the conservatory mainstream.

Zhiyue Zhong 钟之岳 is a high-caliber talent engaged by the Shanghai Conservatory of Music, where he is also an Associate Professor of the Department of Folk Music and Instructor of Master's students. He is also an external instructor for Master's students at universities and colleges such as Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University-Thailand, Chiang Rai Rajabhat University-Thailand, and Singapore Raffles Music College. He has learned music composition from esteemed composers such as Huang Lei, Xu Jianqiang and Law Wailun. As a composer, his work includes the Chamber Music Work «Běnmò» that won him the first prize (first place) in the 1st "Xiangyin Cup" National Instruments Chamber Music Competition of the Shanghai Conservatory of Music in 2007; the national orchestra «Zào Luó Páo»; Zhongruan and the orchestra's «Táng Shàng Xíng» were twice selected for the "Composer Workshop" Exhibition of the Singapore Chinese Orchestra and included in the "China Music - Zhongruan Volume"; Guqin and the band «Nán Yuán Xíng» has won him the "Excellent Performance Award" of the 2nd "Qintai Dunhuang Cup" Chinese Guqin New Works Exhibition (Wuhan, Hubei), where the music score was published by the Central Conservatory of Music Press.