

# PROGRAM

**JOAN TOWER \*\***  
(b. 1938)

PETROUSHKATES (1980)

*Andrea Abel, flute*  
*Bihan Li, violin\**  
*Noemi Sallai, clarinet*  
*Nathan Francisco, cello*  
*Neilson Chen, piano*

**NINO ROTA**  
(1911-1979)

TRIO FOR FLUTE, CELLO AND PIANO (1937)

*Andrea Abel, flute*  
*Nathan Francisco, cello*  
*Neilson Chen, piano*

**SARAH HENNIES \*\***  
(b. 1979)

GROWING BLOCK (2019)

*Sungyeun Kim, soprano\**  
*Andrea Abel, flute*  
*Noemi Sallai, clarinet*  
*Nathan Francisco, cello*

**TAN DUN \*\***  
(b. 1957)

PRAYER AND BLESSING (2020)

*Sungyeun Kim, soprano\**  
*Andrea Abel, flute*  
*Bihan Li, violin\**  
*Noemi Sallai, clarinet*  
*Nathan Francisco, cello*

**GUILLAUME CONNESSON**  
(b. 1970)

TECHNO PARADE (2002)

*Andrea Abel, flute*  
*Noemi Sallai, clarinet*  
*Neilson Chen, piano*

\* guest artists

\*\* Bard faculty composers

BARD ALUMNI ENSEMBLE

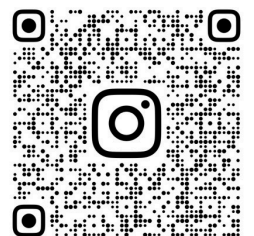


# ABOUT US

*The Bard Alumni Ensemble consists of Bard Conservatory Alumni graduates from the class of '16' to the class of '23, hailing from three continents. While we did not attend all at the same time, we share a special musical bond and a unique approach to chamber music that we learned from the same professors during our times at Bard. After graduating and starting our professional careers, we understood how valuable this common understanding is, which has led us to starting an ensemble.*

*As many great music institutions have an established alumni groups, we wanted to take the initiative to represent Bard and give back to the conservatory where we all learned so much. Through presenting our ensemble to audiences and venues outside of Bard, we hope to extend the talent and excellence that the Annandale-On-Hudson campus fosters to a wider audience, inspiring young students to attend and encouraging music-lovers to support the institution.*

**LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ENSEMBLE  
AND FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA TO  
SEE WHAT WE ARE UP TO IN THE  
FUTURE!**



**@BARDALUMNIENSEMBLE**

Taiwanese pianist, Dr. Neilson Chen, 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.” Neilson was the recipient of two Master’s degrees and a Doctor of Musical Arts. He is currently a Collaborative Pianist at The Orchestra Now, Bard College Conservatory of Music and 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. Performing extensively throughout the United States and internationally, he is honored to have performed in renowned venues such as National Concert Hall in Taiwan, Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center. Recent collaborations with prestigious artists include Joshua Bell, Luosha Fang, Raman Ramakrishnan and members of Juilliard String Quartet. Committed to fostering the talent of younger musicians, Neilson is esteemed as a colleague and a mentor.



**NEILSON CHEN, PIANO**



Andrea Abel is versatile flutist, composer, and multimedia artist from Hungary, currently based in Manhattan, NYC. Recognized by Millbrook Independent for their “Display [of] complete command of technical and emotional registers”. Focusing on contemporary music, Andrea has collaborated with renowned artists from the NYC new music scene, including members of the International Contemporary Ensemble, Talea Ensemble, Bang on a Can and performed with Da Capo Chamber Players, the Bowers-Fader duo and the Tactus Ensemble. As an active composer and multimedia artist, Andrea’s music has been performed in various venues in New York City, including their Merkin Hall debut in 2024, and has been performed by the Tactus Ensemble and the Bard-based Woven Duo. They premiered their first multimedia performance in 2019, “From Ictus to Raptus” an immersive multi-art show that they conceptualized, directed, and accomplished as a composer, writer, sound artist, videographer, dancer, choreographer, and stage and lighting designer.

**ANDREA ABEL, FLUTE**

Hungarian clarinetist Noémi Sallai was selected as the sole clarinet fellow in Carnegie Hall’s prestigious music program, Ensemble Connect for the 2018–2020 season. Ms. Sallai has spent her summers at the Crescendo Summer Institute, the Sarasota Music Festival and the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival. Ms. Sallai premiered works in the United States through The Juilliard School’s Focus! Festival and has received first prizes at several national and international clarinet competitions. Ms. Sallai appeared as a clarinetist in such renowned groups as the Budapest Festival Orchestra, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, the Binghamton Symphony Orchestra, The Princeton Symphony Orchestra, the Symphony in C, The Juilliard Symphony Orchestra and the Axiom contemporary music ensemble. Ms. Sallai holds a Master of Music degree from The Juilliard School of Music and a Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Arts degrees from Bard College. Her principal teachers include Jon Manasse, David Krakauer, Anthony McGill and Laura Flax



**NOEMI SALLAI, CLARINET**



**NATHAN FRANCISCO,  
CELLO**

Originally hailing from Chattanooga Tennessee, Nathan Francisco (cello, baroque cello, and viola da gamba) is a versatile musician with a diverse range of musical interests. He is active as a soloist and chamber musician, regularly performing throughout the east coast. Nathan's festival engagements include Taos (upcoming in 2024), Kneisel Hall, Bowdoin, as well as numerous Viola da Gamba Society Conclaves. Nathan currently studies at the Juilliard School under the tutelage of Zvi Plesser, Zlatomir Fung, and Sarah Cunningham. Prior teachers include Richard Aaron, Peter Wiley, Wesley Baldwin, and Martha Bishop. In his recreational time, Nathan enjoys hiking, playing disc golf, and sight reading chamber music with friends.

Bihan Li, a Chinese violinist and Juilliard alumna, has gained international acclaim as a soloist, concertmaster, and chamber musician. With top prizes at prestigious competitions, she has performed at iconic venues like Carnegie Hall and the United Nations, collaborating with renowned artists such as Yuja Wang and Joan Tower. Highlighting her chamber music finesse, Li clinched the Prix Ravel and was awarded for the Best Interpretation of the Ravel Quartet at Fontainebleau Castle in 2018. Her orchestral prowess was prominent as NYO-China's concertmaster at Carnegie Hall in 2017. 2019 saw her joining the New York String Orchestra Seminar and performing with the Juilliard Orchestra. Li holds a Master's from Juilliard under Ronald Copes, and dual degrees in Violin Performance and Asian Studies from Bard Conservatory with Weigang Li and Laurie Smukler. Currently, she is a doctoral candidate at Manhattan School of Music, under Nicholas Mann.



**BIHAN LI, VIOLIN**



**SUNGYEUN KIM, SOPRANO**

Korean-American soprano Sungyeun Kim is thrilled to be a part of 2024 Opera Saratoga Festival artist covering Sarah Brown (Guys and Dolls) and performing Fiordiligi (Cosi Fan Tutte) in gala concerts. Recognized for her potentiality as an operatic vocalist, Kim has performed in concerts at the most illustrious concert halls in South Korea, including Seoul and Sejong Arts Center. A graduate of Seoul National University, Kim recently finished Bard College Graduate Vocal Arts Program and has performed the Fox in Janáček's The Cunning Little Vixen, soprano soloist in Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 2, Bach Cantata BWV 82 with The Orchestra Now under the direction of Leon Botstein. Last Summer, Kim has successfully participated as a full-time fellow of both SongFest in Nashville and Toronto Music Summer Festival.