

Bard College Conservatory of Music

Degree Recital

Yuling Nan, *ruan*

Saturday, May 17, 2025, at 3:00 PM
László Z. Bitó '60 Conservatory Building, Performance Space

长风引 “*Ode to the Long Wind*”

Pamela Zhang

Pei-Hsuan Shen, *piano*

琴趣 “*When Ruan Meets Cello*”

Simon Kong Su Leong

Yushi Yao, *cello*

– Intermission –

山韵 “*Mountain Rhapsody*” (1996)

Zhou Yuguo

Valley

Stream

Peak

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Yuling Nan (b. 2001) is a Ruan performer and scholar currently pursuing her master's degree in Chinese Music and Cultural Arts at the Bard Conservatory of Music. Trained under Professor Xu Yang of the Central Conservatory of Music, she earned a dual degree in Ruan performance and Asian studies from Bard College and Bard Conservatory. Her work bridges tradition and modernity, with a research focus on the contemporary transmission of traditional music. A recipient of the Gold Medal at the 4th Nanyang International Music Competition, she has performed at major venues including the New York China Institute and the Chinese Embassy in the U.S. Drawing on her bilingual background, Yuling is committed to revitalizing Chinese musical heritage on global stages and fostering cross-cultural dialogue through performance.

Taiwanese pianist **Pei-Hsuan Shen** is acclaimed for her expressive artistry across a diverse range of musical genres, with extensive experience spanning chamber music, opera productions, and orchestral collaborations. Pei-Hsuan has performed at prestigious venues including Carnegie Hall, Jazz at Lincoln Center, and Taiwan's National Concert Hall and National Recital Hall. She is a two-time fellow of the Music Academy of the West. Currently, Pei-Hsuan is a piano fellow at the Bard College Conservatory of Music. She holds a Graduate Diploma from the New England Conservatory and earned both her Master's and Bachelor's degrees from National Taiwan Normal University. She will join the New World Symphony in the 2025-2026 season.

Yushi Yao (b. 2006, Wuhan) began studying cello at the age of seven. She received her early musical training at the Primary and Middle Schools affiliated with the Wuhan Conservatory of Music, where she studied under Professor Long Man and ranked among the top of her class. An active performer and competition participant throughout her youth, Yaoshi has consistently demonstrated both artistic promise and academic excellence. In 2024, she was admitted to the Bard College Conservatory of Music, where she continues to pursue her passion for cello performance.

ABOUT THE COMPOSERS

Zhou Yuguo is an associate professor and director of the Department of National Instrumental Music at Xi'an Conservatory of Music. He is also a composer and conductor, serving as the permanent conductor of the Oriental Nationalities Symphony Orchestra of the conservatory.

Kong Su Leong is a composer born in Sabah, Malaysia. He is the Secretary General of the Sabah Chinese Music Society, founder of the Nanyang Arts Center, and music director of ecband, Sabah's pioneering electronic Chinese music pop group.

Jiang Ciliang is an award-winning composer known for his active collaborations with leading ensembles such as the Singapore Chinese Orchestra, Taiwan National Orchestra, Taipei City Chinese Orchestra, and the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra. His accolades include the National Music Creation Award from the Council for Cultural Affairs of the Republic of China (2005, Ensemble Category) and the Singapore International Chinese Music Composition Competition Award.

Pamela Zhang is a composer and visual artist pursuing a dual major in Music Composition and Visual Arts at Bard College, graduating in May 2025. Her work explores the intersection of sound, image, and memory, often drawing on personal and cultural history to create immersive, emotionally resonant experiences. She has studied composition with George Tsontakis, Joan Tower, Jessie Montgomery, and Xinyan Li, developing a diverse body of work that weaves in elements of her Chinese heritage. Recent collaborations with professional Chinese instrumentalists have deepened her connection to traditional music and expanded her compositional language. In the visual arts, Pamela works primarily with charcoal and pastel, focusing on the emotional atmosphere and narrative potential of imagery. Her current exhibition centers on memory through pastel works and sculpture. Passionate about cross-disciplinary storytelling, Pamela continues to explore the poetic possibilities of blending sound and image across mediums.