

Bard College Conservatory of Music

Third Year Recital

Jiayun (Ivy) Chen, *piano*

Friday, December 5, 2025, 3:00 PM
Olin Hall

Sonata No. 3 in A Minor, op. 28

Sergei Prokofiev
(1891-1953)

Étude No. 7, *Pour les degrés chromatiques*

Claude Debussy
(1862-1918)

Thème original et variations in F Major, op. 19, no. 6

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
(1840-1893)

For Children

Béla Bartók
(1881-1945)

Jiayun Chen, *cimbalom*
András Szalai, *piano*

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Jiayun (Ivy) Chen was born in Zhejiang, China. Since 2023, she has been studying at the Bard Conservatory in the studio of Rieko Aizawa. She began studying piano at the age of four, and although she did not attend a conservatory before college, she continued to practice and study piano throughout her school years. She has performed in large events across many cities in China and received provincial awards while performing with choirs. She has collaborated with her colleagues in various chamber music ensembles, worked with many vocalists as a collaborative pianist, and played for the Catholic Mass in the Bard Chapel. Her interest in the arts extends beyond music; her second major is Film Production. In her film work, she often incorporates musical elements, while filmmaking in turn enriches her musical practice.

Since mid-September of this year, she has been studying the cimbalom with András Szalai.

András Szalai was born in 1985 in Budapest. He graduated in classical cimbalom performance and composition from the Ferenc Liszt Academy of Music. He is a prizewinner of several national and international cimbalom competitions. His artistic focus lies in performing early music arrangements, 20th-century music, and contemporary solo and chamber works. Over the past twenty years, he has premiered or performed several pieces by Hungarian and international contemporary composers. He frequently performs works by György Kurtág, who has also composed a solo piece for him. As a soloist and chamber musician, he has appeared at major festivals, including the Budapest Spring Festival, the Lockenhaus Chamber Music Festival, the Aix-en-Provence Festival, and the Haydn Festival in Fertőd.

PROGRAM NOTE

The **cimbalom** is a trapezoid-shaped, stringed instrument played with two mallets. It is often called the “Hungarian piano.” In its modern form, the cimbalom was developed in 1874 in Budapest by the Czech-born instrument maker József Schunda Venczel. The project was supported by Franz Liszt, who envisioned a concert instrument that could represent Hungarian music on the international stage. Schunda’s innovations – adding legs, a damper pedal, and extending the instrument’s range – transformed the cimbalom from its folk roots into a versatile instrument suitable for both solo and orchestral performance.