



Bard College Conservatory of Music

20 Years of Music, Vision, and Excellence

Presents Recital

Elizabeth Chernyak, *viola*
Nomin Samdan, *piano*

Friday, January 30th, 2026 at 7:00 pm
Bitó Conservatory Building, Performance Space

Viola Concerto, Sz. 120, BB 128
Moderato
Adagio religioso
Allegro vivace

Béla Bartók
(1881-1945)

– *Intermission* –

Suite No. 4 in E-flat Major, BWV 1010
Prelude
Allemande
Courante
Sarabande
Bourrées I & II
Gigue

J. S. Bach
(1685-1750)

Rhapsody No. 1 for solo viola

Jessie Montgomery
(b. 1981)

Viola Sonata No. 1 in C Minor, op. 18
Allegro moderato
Poco lento e cantabile
Finale - Presto

York Bowen
(1884-1961)

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Elizabeth Chernyak is a Canadian violinist and violist studying with Luosha Fang and Melissa Reardon. After starting Hartwick College at age 15 under the direction of Uli Speth, she transferred to Bard College Conservatory of Music, completing her bachelor's degrees in violin performance and biology in 2024 with Daniel Phillips and Marka Gustavsson, and will receive her Advanced Performance Studies certificate in violin performance in 2026. Chernyak has attended Colorado College, Meadowmount, Eastern, Round Top, Encore, Borromeo, and Music Mountain Summer Festivals. Chernyak is passionate about chamber music and recent performances include Meadowmount's Chamber Music Playoffs and Round Top's Chamber Competition Winners concert. Chernyak's orchestral experience includes The Orchestra Now, where she can be heard on their album "Transcription as Translation" under Leon Botstein; Bard Conservatory Orchestra, with whom she performed at Alice Tully Hall in Lincoln Center as principal second violin and has premiered multiple works by Tan Dun, and the Woodstock Symphony Orchestra. Chernyak also attended the New York String Orchestra Seminar in 2024 and 2025, performing under the baton of Jaime Laredo and serving as associate principal viola at Carnegie Hall. In pursuit of her passion for modern music and art, Chernyak has collaborated with Sō Percussion, Joan Tower, Tan Dun, the Sinfonietta Project, and the Center for Curatorial Studies at Bard to program concerts with contemporary music and has premiered works by many rising composers including Steven Bonacci, John Brockett, Jayla Kai, and more. In 2024 and 2025 she premiered multiple works on both viola and violin with the Bard East/West Ensemble at the China Now Festival in Carnegie Hall, Jazz at Lincoln Center and on tour to Washington D.C at the University of Maryland and the Chinese Embassy. Chernyak enjoys performing solo works, having won the Binghamton Youth Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition (2020), receiving second prize in the Young Artist Group for the 20th-21st century category of the American Virtuoso International Music Competition (2024), and having participated in the Oneonta Concert Association Youth Program (2017) and Saugerties ProMusica, both as a soloist and member of the Suprema Quintet. Chernyak's other interests include conducting, which she studied with James Bagwell, composition, arts administration, which she has pursued at the Kaatsbaan Cultural Park and Music Mountain, ultimate frisbee, and teaching.

Born into a family of musicians, pianist **Nomin Samdan** made her first public appearance at the age of 7 in her native country, Mongolia. Since then, she has had an expansive career as a soloist, collaborator, and educator; performing across the continents of Europe, Asia, and North America. Recent professional appointments include a position on the Piano Faculty of the Mongolian State Conservatory, as well as pianist for the Mongolian State Opera and Ballet House. A long-time admirer of contemporary music, Ms. Samdan has premiered vocal works by Juliana Hall, Michael Finnissy, Dennis Balthory-Kitz, and Albin Fries. Ms. Samdan received her B.Mus and Graduate Performance Diploma in Piano Performance from Boston Conservatory at Berklee under the guidance of YaFei Chuang; additionally, Ms. Samdan holds a M.M. in Collaborative Piano from Boston University. Nomin is currently a Collaborative Piano Fellow at the Bard Conservatory, working under the mentorship of Erika Switzer and Kayo Iwama.