

Bard College Conservatory of Music

Presents

NUANCE

Katherine Chernyak, *viola*

Friday, January 30, 2026 at 4:00 pm
Bitó Conservatory Building, Performance Space

Viola Concerto in A Minor
Andante comodo
Vivo con motto preciso
Allegro moderato

William Walton
(1902-1983)

Lara Saldanha, *piano*

Cello Suite No.5 in C minor, BWV 1008 (trans. for viola)
Prelude
Allemande
Courante
Sarabande
Gavotte I
Gavotte II
Gigue

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

-Intermission-

Viola Spaces no. 1, "*Beside the Bridge*"

Garth Knox
(b. 1956)

Violin Sonata (arr. for viola)
Allegretto ben moderato
Allegro
Recitativo-Fantasia: Ben moderato – Molto lento
Allegretto poco mosso

César Franck
(1822-1890)

Juliette Benveniste, *piano*

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Violist and Violinist **Katherine Chernyak** is currently in the advanced Performance studies program at Bard Conservatory. Born in Ontario, Canada, she has performed in notable venues like Carnegie Hall, MET Museum in New York, Jazz at Lincoln Center, National Cathedral in DC, and Ravinia Festival in Chicago. Katherine has participated in esteemed music festivals such as the Roundtop Festival Institute, the Bach Institute, and the National Orchestral Institute (NOI). Passionate about orchestral playing, she is a substitute player with the Orchestra Now, a participant of the New York City Orchestra Project, and has played under the batons of Marin Alsop, Joseph Young, JoAnn Falletta, Tan Dun, and more. Katherine has been assistant concertmaster and principal viola of the Bard Conservatory Orchestra and concertmaster of ensembles such as NOI's conductorless orchestra, Bard Baroque Ensemble — leading their debuts at Fisher Center and in the Next Generation Festival at Troy Savings Bank Music Hall in spring 2025—, Bard's Opera Workshop, and the East West Ensemble, performing in the China Now Festival at Carnegie Hall. As a chamber musician, she has participated in renowned festivals like the Bowdoin International Music Festival, Pacific Crest Festival, and the Borromeo Music Festival in Switzerland. Katherine has been coached by talented chamber musicians such as Itamar Zorman, Zvi Carmeli, Raman Ramakrishnan, and more. Katherine won the Binghamton Youth Symphony Concerto Competition and played as a soloist in their winter concert in 2020, was a semifinalist in the Music International Grand Prix (2023), and has played in the Saugerties ProMusica Concert series. They have participated in masterclasses led by Ken Hakii, Nikki Chooi, and Adele Anthony, as well as; the Horzowski Trio, Pacifica, Jasper, and the Cassatt Quartets. Enthusiastic about teaching, Katherine was a youth mentor at NOI in 2024, teaches locally, and is currently a member of Bard Conservatory's Music Mentorship Initiative, teaching children in Kenya. Katherine believes in connecting different forms of art, playing in unique settings like the Rohmer Gallery or the National Gallery of Art in DC, and has worked with the Innovation Studio at the University of Maryland to create performances that engage and interact with audiences. She enjoys playing contemporary music and has worked with notable composers like Joan Tower, Erica Lindsay, and Xinyan Li. In the summer of 2025, Katherine joined the East West Ensemble on their first tour to China, performing in seven cities with a diverse program of music ranging from pieces by Zhou Long to Antonio Vivaldi. Katherine currently studies with Luosha Fang and Melissa Reardon, and received her bachelor's degrees in biology and violin performance at Bard, studying with Erica Kieseewetter. In her free time, Katherine enjoys playing ultimate frisbee, piano, and conducting.