



Bard College Conservatory of Music

20 Years of Music, Vision, and Excellence

Undergraduate Degree Recital

Adelaide Braunhill, *bassoon*

Sunday, April 12, 2026 at 1:00 pm
Olin Hall

“Carignane” (1953)

Jacques Ibert
(1890-1962)

Chelsea Yang, *piano*

Sextet for Piano and Wind Quintet (1939)

Francis Poulenc
(1899-1963)

Allegro vivace, Très Vite et emporté (Lively, Very fast and fiery)
Divertissement, Andantino (Entertainment, Moderately slow)
Finale, Prestissimo (Finale, Very fast)

Christian Midy, *flute*
Kai O'Donnell *oboe*
Mohammad AbdNikfarjam, *clarinet*
Dominik Kovác, *horn*
Hasti Safaei, *piano*

Sonata for Bassoon and Piano (1921)

Camille Saint-Saëns
(1835-1921)

Allegretto moderato (Moderately fast)
Allegro scherzando (Fast and playful)
Adagio (Slowly)

Chelsea Yang, *piano*

NOTES ON THE PROGRAM

Jacques Ibert (1890-1962) was a French composer known for his witty and colorful musical style. Written in 1953, “Carignane” was inspired by the Carignane red wine grape, typically found in France and Spain.

Francis Jean Marcel Poulenc (1899-1963) was a French composer and pianist. The Sextet for winds and piano, finished in 1939, embodies Poulenc’s signature style—mixing neoclassicism with French elegance, humor, and lyricism. It features jazzy harmonies, unexpected modulations, and a balance between lightheartedness and emotional depth.

Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921) was a French composer, organist, conductor and pianist. Within the last year of his life, he composed three notable sonatas for wind instruments and piano, aiming to expand the repertoire for less celebrated woodwinds (oboe, clarinet, and bassoon).

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Adelaide Braunhill is in her final semester at Bard College and Conservatory, pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Bassoon Performance and a Bachelor of Art in Psychology. She currently studies under the expert instruction of bassoonist Marc Goldberg.

Adelaide began her musical education on the cello at age six and switched to the trumpet in the sixth grade. She began taking bassoon lessons in eighth grade and quickly realized that she enjoyed being a bass clef reading instrument. During high school, she was fortunate to be a member of Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra and frequently returns to play with them as a substitute bassoonist and sectional coach.

Last year, under the tutelage of Prof Natalie Wittlin, she completed her senior thesis in Psychology, focusing on the effects of adolescent girls’ exposure to female role models within Disney films and how it pertains to individual agency. For the past year she has also been a part of Prof Sarah Dunphy-Lelii's *Child Development Project* laboratory, which examines the way that 4- and 5-year old children interact with and think about robots. The CDP lab, in collaboration with the human-robot interaction laboratory in the Computer Science Program, is currently collecting data in local nursery schools to further their understanding of these topics.

Over the last five years Adelaide has explored and developed a passion for chamber music and is very grateful for the opportunities she has had collaborating with her peers. She has also enjoyed 10 semesters with the Bard College and Community orchestra where she has enjoyed making connections with musicians beyond the conservatory.

After graduation, Adelaide plans on returning to the Boston area to live with her family. She will continue playing the bassoon while she pursues a degree in Nursing.

Sichen Yang is a solo pianist who earned her Bachelor of Piano Performance from the Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music in Budapest, studying under László Baranyay of the Liszt Academy faculty. She is currently pursuing her Master of Piano Performance at the Bard Conservatory of Music, where she studies with Blair McMillen.

Sichen has appeared as a soloist at Esterházy Castle, Budapest Cultural Hall, and Stiftskirche Church in St. Goar, Germany. She has participated in the Cziffra Festival, the Sankt Goar International Music Festival, and advanced training programs at the Leon Fleisher Academy and the Saline Royale Academy in France. Her artistic development has also been shaped by studying masterclasses with Pierre Vallet (The Juilliard School), Douglas Humpherys and Alan Chow (Eastman School of Music), Nina Tichman (Cologne University of Music and Dance).

Sichen is a recipient of the Instrumental Arts Fellowship at Bard College, the China Scholarship Council Scholarship, and the Hungarian government's Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarship.

Kai O'Donnell is a fifth-year Bard College Conservatory student pursuing a BM in Oboe Performance and a BA in Philosophy. He began playing the oboe at age 15 in Richmond-Rosenberg, Texas. Kai began studying with Mayu Isom, 2nd oboe and English hornist of the Houston Grand Opera. Prior to Bard, he played in Houston Youth Symphony, Virtuosi of Houston, and frequently performed with the TMEA All State ensembles. Kai now appears frequently with the Bard College Conservatory Orchestra, the Bard College Community Orchestra, and has appeared with The Orchestra Now. He has also been a fellow at Texas Music Festival. He has performed in masterclasses with Anne Leek, Nicholas Stovall, and Melissa Hooper. Kai currently studies with Elaine Douvas, and Alexandra Knoll. In his free time, he enjoys reading or traveling with friends.

Mohammad AbdNikfarjam is an Iranian clarinetist from Tehran currently studying at the Bard Conservatory of Music, where he also earned an Advanced Performance Studies (APS) certificate. At Bard, he studies with renowned soloist David Krakauer and Pascual Martínez-Forteza. He was the winner of the 2024 Bard Conservatory Concerto Competition, performing Première Rhapsodie by Claude Debussy with the Bard Conservatory Orchestra conducted by Tan Dun in May 2025.

Before coming to the United States, Mohammad studied at the Tehran Conservatory of Music and the University of Tehran. He was active as a soloist and principal clarinetist with various orchestras in Iran, including a performance of Weber Clarinet Concerto No. 1 as the soloist with the Garousman Orchestra. He also won several national prizes, including first place at the Saba Chamber Music Festival and the Art and Culture Festival.

In the United States, Mohammad has performed with the Cleveland Orchestra under the baton of Hannu Lintu and with The Orchestra Now under Leon Botstein. Mohammad has participated in several international music festivals including the AIMS Festival in Spain, the Imani Winds Chamber Music Festival, the Kent Blossom Music Festival, and the Kurtág Festival at Bard. He also attended two programs at the

Curtis Institute of Music, where he studied intensively with Curtis faculty and mentors to further refine his clarinet playing and musicianship. Alongside performing, Mohammad is passionate about teaching and taught clarinet for more than six years at the Tehran Conservatory of Music, mentoring young musicians.

Hasti Safaei is an Iranian pianist currently studying at Bard Conservatory, where she works with Rieko Aizawa and Frank Corliss. She earned her Bachelor of Music from the University of Tehran and her Master of Music in Piano Performance from Texas Tech University, where she studied with the distinguished Spanish pianist Daniel del Pino.

As both a soloist and collaborative pianist, Hasti has performed a wide range of repertoire spanning solo piano literature, chamber music, and collaborative works with instrumentalists and singers. She is particularly passionate about chamber music and enjoys the artistic dialogue and shared musical expression that collaborative performance offers. Hasti has participated in several internationally recognized festivals and training programs, including the AIMS Festival in Spain, the Imani Winds Chamber Music Festival, the Kent Blossom Music Festival, the Kurtág Festival at Bard College, and programs at the Curtis Institute of Music. Through these programs, she has had the opportunity to work closely with leading performers, chamber musicians, and pedagogues while refining her artistry in both solo and ensemble settings.

Born and raised in Long Island, New York, **Christian Midy** is a devoted flutist currently pursuing a master's degree in the Instrumental Arts Program at Bard Conservatory, where he studies with Tara Helen O'Connor, flutist and member of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. He previously earned his bachelor's degree in flute performance at the Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College, studying under the esteemed Judith Mendenhall, principal flutist of the American Ballet Theatre Orchestra.

Christian's musical achievements include being a two-time finalist in the ACSM Concerto Competition, as well as receiving prestigious honors such as the Chamber Music Live Award and the Discimus ut Serviamus Award, which he has won twice. He has also attended the Lake George Music Festival, Usdan Summer Camp for the Arts for two years, and the Long Island Flute Festival, experiences that further honed his skills and broadened his musical perspective.

Christian has performed on renowned stages including Zankel Hall at Carnegie Hall and Rose Hall at Jazz at Lincoln Center, where he appeared with the Bard East/West Ensemble during the China Now Music Festival for two consecutive years. He also performed with the Bard Conservatory Orchestra at Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center and the Sosnoff Theater at the Fisher Center. Additional performance experience includes performances with the Queens College Orchestra and Opera Orchestra in Lefrak Hall. Christian's artistry and passion for flute performance continue to shape his aspirations, solidifying his presence as a dynamic and versatile musician.

Dominik Kovács started his high school years at Béla Bartók Conservatory with teacher Ferenc Farkas. In 2022, he was admitted to the Faculty of Music of the University of Debrecen, where he studied under the guidance of Professor András Kovalcsik. At the age of 20, he was a finalist in the Pécs Philharmonic's audition in the fall of 2023 and the spring of 2024 he won an audition for the Principal Horn position at the Miskolc Symphony Music Orchestra. In 2024 and 2025 he came 2nd place twice in the International Brass and Percussion Competitions in Debrecen and won the University rector's award twice. At the end of 2024 he won the National Online Hungarian Horn Competition University Group, High Horn Category. In the summer of 2022, he attended the Crescendo International Summer Academy, where he played principal in the symphony orchestra under conductor Delta David Gier. In the summers of 2023/2024/2025 he was at the Young Musicians Summer Academy (YMSA), where he also played principal in the symphony orchestra, conducted by Tamás Vásáry. In 2025, after a successful graduation, he was accepted to the Bard Conservatory for a master's degree where he currently studies with Barbara Jöstlein and Hugo Valverde. In his free time, he loves hiking, playing sports and traveling with his friends.