



Bard College Conservatory of Music

20 Years of Music, Vision, and Excellence

Graduate Degree Recital

Minghui Mia Wu, *dizi*

Friday, April 24, 2026 at 1:00 pm
Bitó Conservatory Building, Performance Space

Joyful Reunion 喜相逢

FENG Zicun (1904-1987)
arr. ZHOU Chenglong (b. 1946)
trans. by Minghui Mia Wu (b. 2001)

Ziheng Xu, *violin*
Katherine Chernyak, *viola*
Schuyler Lillian, *cello*
Hengjian Zhang, *percussion*

The encounter of passion and indifference 热情与冷漠的邂逅 (2015)

LI Bochan (b. 1992)

Wan-Ling Chen, *piano*

New Wind Rises 新风起 (2026)

JP Wogaman II (b. 1994)

Sichen Yang, *piano*

– INTERMISSION –

Light of Yesterday 往日回光 (2025)

Minghui Mia Wu (b. 2001)

I. Missing Among the Stars

II. Morning Market

Schuyler Lillian, *cello*

Snow over the Broken Bridge 雪意断桥 (2013)

LIU Xijin (b. 1948)

Ella Nagy, *piano*

Mountain Sentiment 山野情

DAI Ya (b. 1964)
Shiyue Zhang (b. 1995)

Ella Nagy, *piano*

NOTES ON THE PROGRAM

Joyful Reunion 喜相逢

Joyful Reunion is a lively work by *Feng Zicun*, one of the 20th century's most influential dizi masters, showcasing the dizi's bright, agile, and expressive character.

This new version, adapted from *Zhou Chenglong*'s arrangement for four *dizi*, assigns three flute parts to violin, viola, and cello, creating a rich dialogue between *dizi* and strings and presenting the work in an entirely new light.

The encounter of passion and indifference 热情与冷漠的邂逅 (2015)

Throughout the work, two contrasting emotional states are interwoven: at times as passionate as flames rising from the desert, at others as distant and cold as glaciers formed upon mountain peaks. These opposing forces encounter and intertwine, continuing without end.

New Wind Rises 新风起 (2026)

On the surface, a title like "New Wind Rises" makes almost comically perfect sense for a solo piece for flute — or any woodwind instrument, for that matter. *New Wind Rises*, written for the Dizi, however, carries a great deal more significance to me.

I first explored the Dizi in 2019 when composing "Two Lovers on the Yangtze". This was after my first trip to China, so back then you could say the "new wind" that was rising was my own fascination with, and respect for, China's culture and musical vocabulary. Now, the "new wind" is the friendship I've begun developing with Míng huì "Mia" Wú, for whom I've written this new work. And in 10 years, who knows what the wind will hold!

But in the spirit of capturing the meaning of a work at its creation, let's enshrine it as the stirring of friendships and cross-cultural connections that lead to great musical adventures.

Light of Yesterday 往日回光 (2025)

Light of Yesterday is inspired by the composer's memories of her grandparents. The first movement, *Missing Among the Stars*, reflects on the loss of her grandfather, evoking the image of a star quietly shining in the night sky. The second movement, *Morning Market*, recalls joyful childhood moments with the composer's grandmother while capturing the lively, everyday atmosphere of a traditional Chinese morning market. Together, the two movements reflect the gentle light of memories that continue to glow from the past.

Snow over the Broken Bridge 雪意断桥 (2013)

The Broken Bridge of West Lake is known as a lovers' bridge of *Jiangnan*. People long for a heavy snowfall, hoping to fully behold the lake's austere and ethereal beauty in winter. The poignant love story associated with the bridge further stirs the heart, evoking deep longing for clear skies.

Snow over the Broken Bridge draws on folk music from the *Jiangsu-Zhejiang* region, embedding emotion within the landscape and expressing feeling through scenery.

Mountain Sentiment 山野情

Folk song, rustic charm, and regional character—this work embodies the distinctive style of the Northern school of dizi performance. With its unadorned yet rich beauty, sincere emotion, and passionate, uninhibited expression, the piece presents a vivid musical personality that lingers in the listener's memory.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Minghui Mia Wu is a *dizi* (Chinese flute) performer currently studying at the Bard Conservatory. She studied *dizi* under Li Yue and is the winner of the 2025 Bard Concerto Competition. A graduate of the Central Conservatory of Music, she is a featured artist at the National Centre for the Performing Arts and the founder and artistic director of the *dizi* brand *Qiyunlu*. She has performed at Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, and represented China at the Santiago International Book Fair in Chile. Mia is passionate about sharing the unique beauty and versatility of the *dizi* through cross-cultural collaborations and contemporary performances.

JP Wogaman II (b. 1994), is an American composer, producer, and performer whose work spans concert music, dance, and film. A graduate of the University of Michigan School of Music, his career highlights include a 2019 arrangement of Strauss Waltzes for The Washington Ballet and performances at the Italian Embassy in Washington, DC. His film credits include the feature scores to "Sweet Dreams" and "There Is A Monster", and he is currently in post-production on his third feature, "Exit Row II: Unraveled". A 2025 Arlington Arts Individual Artist Grant recipient, JP is now making his directorial debut with "Two Lovers on the Yangtze", an animated short film built around his 2020 chamber work of the same name.

Ziheng Xu, Born in Wuhan, China. He began studying violin at the age of six and soon developed a deep love for classical music. From 2017 to 2022, he studied at the Affiliated High School of the Wuhan Conservatory of Music, where he trained under Professor Yaoxi Zhu and Associate Professor Ying Zhang. In 2023, Ziheng was admitted to both the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing and the Bard College Conservatory of Music in the United States, receiving a full scholarship from Bard, where he currently studies with Professor Zhengrong Wang. In 2025, he was named the Winner of the Bard College Concerto Competition. Ziheng is pursuing his Bachelor of Music degree at Bard College Conservatory, with an expected graduation in 2028.

Katherine Chernyak is currently in the advanced Performance studies program at Bard Conservatory. She has performed in venues like Carnegie Hall, MET Museum in New York, and National Cathedral in DC. She is a substitute player with the Orchestra Now and is a participant of the New York City Orchestra Project. 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 has been principal viola of the Bard Conservatory Orchestra and concertmaster of ensembles such as Bard Baroque Ensemble and the East West Ensemble. She is currently a finalist in the Lowell Chamber Orchestra Competition and received honorable mention in the Yamaha Young Artist Competition (2026). She enjoys playing contemporary music and has worked with Joan Tower. In the summer of 2025, Katherine joined the East West Ensemble on their first tour to China. Katherine studies with Luosha Fang and Melissa Reardon, and received her bachelor's degrees in biology and violin performance at Bard.

Schuyler Lillian, New York City native, is an international cello pedagog, soloist and chamber musician. She holds degrees in performance and pedagogy from the Juilliard School of Music, the Cleveland Institute of Music, the Royal Irish Academy of Music and Trinity College Dublin. Schuyler has studied under the tutelage of Darrett Adkins, Joel Krosnick, Melissa Kraut, Hans Jensen and William Butt. Her extensive performance history includes performances as a soloist and chamber music throughout the United States, Ireland, England and the Czech Republic. She has performed in masterclasses for many renowned musicians, including Itzhak Perlman, Peter Wiley, Richard Harwood, Yo-Yo Ma, Zuill Bailey and Daniel Rowland. Schuyler was most recently awarded the first prize in the string solo division of the Maura Dowdall Solo Competition and completed a chamber music tour with the BBC with her piano trio, The Dublin Trio. Schuyler is currently building her string and chamber music program, Strings on the Strand, in downtown Kingston, NY.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Wan-Ling Chen was raised in Kaohsiung, Taiwan. Her musical journey began with piano studies at the age of five, and she started learning percussion as a minor at nine through an Arts-Talented Curriculum. Over the years, she has performed extensively with wind bands and had the opportunity to perform with the Navy Band on two occasions. In 2023, she performed as a marimba soloist with the NTNU Wind Band, and as a rehearsal piano through with Taipei

Philharmonic Opera Studio in annual performance opera “Il Trovatore” , then she earned her Master’s degree in Collaborative Piano from National Taiwan Normal University. In the summer of 2024, she participated in the Collaborative Piano Program at the Brevard Music Center, in fall, she participated as a rehearsal piano in opera “Al’s Variation” in Bard East and West ensemble. She’s also interested in musical theatre, and had the opportunity to perform “Assassins” as a percussionist and pianist with Bard Musical Theatre Performance Work Shop in Spring 2025. She earned her graduate certificate in Advanced Performance Studies at Bard College in New York in 2025, studied Collaborative Piano under Frank Corliss. Her previous teachers include Chih-Yu Chen, Rachel Orloske and Shih-Hsing Lin.

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. She has participated in the Cziffra Festival, advanced training programs at the Leon Fleisher Academy and the Saline Royale Academy in France.

Sichen is a recipient of the China Scholarship Council Scholarship, and the Hungarian government’s Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarship.

Ella Nagy is an Irish-Hungarian pianist, winner of the Maura Dowdall Concerto Competition, the Royal Irish Academy of Music Chamber Festival Dublin Prize, and the Blackwater Valley Opera Festival | John Pollard Bursary, becoming the first instrumentalist to receive the award. Ella holds Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in solo piano performance from the Royal Irish Academy of Music and is currently a Collaborative Piano Fellow at Bard College Conservatory. Previously, Ella served as répétiteur with the Irish National Opera Studio program, performing in productions, masterclasses, and a national tour of Donizetti’s L’elisir d’amore. Her work features on RTÉ Lyric FM, BBC Radio Ulster, and Jonathan Nangle’s album Surface Patterns.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

These two years at Bard have been a brief yet deeply meaningful chapter of my graduate studies—filled with growth, joy, and the privilege of meeting so many inspiring teachers and friends.

First, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Professor Jindong Cai for his constant guidance and encouragement, to Professor Yue Li for the invaluable support and inspiration he has offered in my musical development, and to Professor Xinyan Li, my composition mentor, who has not only guided me from the very beginning of my creative journey but has also cared for me throughout these years. All three professors have supported me generously, both academically and personally.

I would also like to remember Shutong Li, who recently passed away. He was not only our teacher but also our friend—always kind, warm, and gentle. His presence and spirit will remain with us.

My sincere thanks go to Ziheng, Katherine, Schuyler, Hengjian, Wan-Lin, JP, Sichen and Ella, with whom I had the honor of creating six wonderful pieces for this concert. You are not only dear friends, but also my greatest supporters in bringing this performance to life. I am equally grateful to Qianling, Kehan, Celine, Danni, Coco, Yijie, Pamela, Andrew, Jimmy, Junting, Raphael and Tom for all the beautiful memories we have shared.

Finally, I would like to thank my family—my parents and my grandmother, as well as my grandfather, who passed away last year. I hope he can hear my music and be with me in spirit.

Though this journey has been short, it has been profoundly meaningful. I will carry this love and support with me as I continue forward.