



Bard College Conservatory of Music

20 Years of Music, Vision, and Excellence

Undergraduate Degree Recital

Danni Chen, *guqin*

Sunday, April 26, 2026 at 1:00 pm
Bitó Conservatory Building, Performance Space

Bai-he Maneuver 捭阖 (2018)

Kehan (Eric) Wang, *guqin*

Tianqi Liu
(b. 1996)

Clouds over the Xiao and Xiang River 潇湘水云

Chuwang Guo
(1190-1260)

Spring Breeze 春风 (1982)

Qianling (Fiona) Liu, *percussion*

Yi Gong
(b. 1941)
Guohu Xu

- INTERMISSION -

Autumn Riverside Hibiscus and Wild Geese 秋蒲蓉宾图 (2018)

Yumi Jang, *piano*

Yuejin Li
(b. 1995)

Blues in the Bamboo Grove 竹林中的布鲁斯 (2023)

Yumi Jang, *piano*

Shuya Feng
(b. 2002)

NOTES ON THE PROGRAM

Bai-he Maneuver 捭阖 (2018)

In Guiguzi, a Chinese book on rhetoric from the 4th century CE, the chapter entitled "Bai-he" (opening and closing) explains the art of maneuvering to unite or divide political coalitions, and expands the open/ closed dichotomy into a universal principle. The composer shows this relationship through a guqin duet.

Clouds over the Xiao and Xiang River 潇湘水云

This piece is one of the greatest masterpieces of the Chinese guqin, composed by Guo Chuwang. Written amid the chaos of the late Southern Song, when the country faced northern invasion, the piece expresses profound sorrow over a fragmented homeland. It paints a vivid soundscape of mist-shrouded mountains, surging waters, and swirling clouds over the Xiao and Xiang Rivers in Hunan, blending natural imagery with deep patriotic longing.

Spring Breeze 春风 (1982)

This is a landmark of modern guqin music, drawing on Xinjiang ethnic musical elements. It breaks traditional guqin conventions with bright melodies, lively rhythms, bold key modulations, and innovative fingerings adapted from pipa. It vividly evokes spring's vitality and expresses optimism, showcasing the guqin's modern artistic potential. This piece will be performed with African drum as accompaniment enhances the rhythmic vitality and authentically evokes the vibrant musical style of Xinjiang.

Autumn Riverside Hibiscus and Wild Geese 秋蒲蓉宾图 (2018)

Wild geese have long been cherished by men of letters, for they embody purity and unwavering loyalty. Should one perish, the other will never live alone. This piece sings of wild geese and the love that remains faithful until death.

Cui Bai, a great painter of the Northern Song Dynasty (960 - 1127), created his famous work Autumn Riverside Hibiscus and Wild Geese, which depicts a beautiful autumn scene by hibiscus flowers: two wild geese full of vitality, soaring into the sky, calm and distant, their hearts bound for a thousand miles. The composer drew profound inspiration from this painting.

Blues in the Bamboo Grove 竹林中的布鲁斯 (2023)

This work is a duet for guqin and piano. It integrates traditional Chinese literati atmosphere with modern jazz blues language. The ethereal guqin depicts the tranquility of a bamboo grove, while the piano adds flexible, swinging jazz rhythms. Through the dialogue between Eastern poetry and Western blues, the piece creates a unique musical atmosphere that is both elegant and freely expressive.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Danni Chen, *guqin*

Danni is a member of the Chinese Guqin Society. She graduated from Kedron State High School in Brisbane, Australia, and is currently a fifth-year student majoring in Guqin and Photography at Bard College Conservatory of Music. She studies guqin with Professor Zhao Jiazhen, President of the Chinese Qin Association and PhD supervisor at China's Central Conservatory of Music. She was awarded the gold medal in the youth category of the 3rd "Hong Qin Cup" Guqin Competition in 2022, and won the bronze medal in the guqin professional youth group A of the 2nd "Guoyun Cup" Chinese instruments competition in 2024.

Kehan (Eric) Wang, *guqin*

Kehan was born in Inner Mongolia, China, and is currently a super senior at Bard College and Bard College Conservatory of Music, pursuing a double major in Music Performance and Theater. Since 2010, he has studied the guqin under Professor Zhao Jiazhen at the Central Conservatory of Music. He was awarded the Gold Prize at the 2nd World Instrumental Competition hosted by the Eastman School of Music in 2018. In 2019, he received Gold Prizes at the "Hongqin Cup" Guqin Competition (Taizhou Division) in China and the International Instrumental Competition at Brigham Young University–Hawaii. In the same year, he performed in a guqin recital as part of a Chinese music exhibition at the Pacific Asia Museum, as well as in a Zen-inspired guqin concert at Hsi Lai Temple. In 2024, he won the Gold Prize in the Professional Category B (Plucked Strings – Guqin) at the 2nd "Guoyun Cup" Chinese Traditional Music Competition (Ningbo Division), organized by the Chinese National Orchestra Society, and was honored with the title "Rising Star of Chinese Music."

Qianling (Fiona) Liu, *percussion*

Qianling is a student in the Graduate Conducting Program (GCP) at Bard College Conservatory of Music. She earned her undergraduate degree in Music Education from Zhejiang Conservatory of Music. During her undergraduate studies, Qianling was a percussionist in the MTC Marching Band, where she participated in numerous performances and developed strong ensemble skills, rhythmic precision, and stage experience. At Bard, she not only studies conducting, but also performs as a percussionist in Chinese Ensemble and Opera Workshop productions. These experiences further strengthen her versatility and collaborative musicianship across different settings.

Yumi Jang, *piano*

Yumi Jang, Collaborative Piano Fellow at Bard College Conservatory of Music, began her musical journey at age four and has since built an active international career as a solo, collaborative, and chamber pianist, as well as an educator. She has performed at renowned venues worldwide, including Carnegie Hall, Walt Disney Concert Hall, Royal Albert Hall, and Mirabell Palace. Yumi has won top prizes such as the New York International Music Competition, the American International Music Competition in Cleveland, the Vienna Classical Piano Competition, the Québec Music Competition, and the Hong Kong Asia Open International Piano Competition. She earned her Bachelor of Arts at Yonsei University in South Korea, her Master of Music at the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University, and holds a Doctor of Musical Arts in Piano Performance from the University of Western Ontario, Canada. Yumi has served extensively as a collaborative pianist at the University of Western Ontario, the University of Toronto, and the Glenn Gould School at the Royal Conservatory, and has worked as a rehearsal pianist with the National Ballet of Canada.