



Bard College Conservatory of Music

Celebrating 20 Years of Music, Vision, and Excellence

Undergraduate Degree Recital

Lexi Lanni, *soprano*
with Nikita Tumanov, *piano*

Sunday, May 10, 2026, at 4:00pm
László Z. Bitó '60 Conservatory Building, Performance Space

Was mir behagt, ist nur die muntre Jagd, from *The Hunting Cantata*, BWV 208
J.S. Bach
(1685-1750)
Lameck Otieno, *viola*

Where'er You Walk, from *Semele*
G.F. Handel
(1685-1759)

I Know That My Redeemer Liveth, from *Messiah*

– PAUSE –

Laudate Dominum, from *Vesperae Solennes de Confessore*
W.A. Mozart
(1756-1791)

Ah! Fuggi il traditor!, from *Don Giovanni*

Mi tradi quell'alma ingrata, from *Don Giovanni*

– PAUSE –

Caro Nome, from *Rigoletto*
Giuseppe Verdi
(1813-1901)

Si, vendetta, tremenda vendetta, from *Rigoletto*

Javy Polanco, *bass-baritone*
Georgi Chikolov, *piano*

Fleeting is a Maiden's Favour, from *The Wreckers*
Ethel Smyth
(1858-1944)

Glitter and Be Gay from, *Candide*
Leonard Bernstein

(1918-1990)

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Lexi Lanni is a Rhode Island and New York based soprano who is graduating this May with a BA in Computer Science and a BM in Vocal Performance. Graduating this year, Lexi is part of the inaugural class of undergraduate singers in the conservatory and studies with Teresa Buchholz. She recently made her orchestral debut here at the Fisher Center, performing an excerpt from Brahms' Ein Deutsches Requiem. Prior to Bard, Lexi attended the Boston University Tanglewood Institute and Washington National Opera Institute summer programs. Favorite roles studied include Donna Elvira and Cendrillon with the Bard Conservatory's Opera Workshop. One of her proudest accomplishments has been being a part of and establishing the Musical Mentorship Initiative at Bard College, a free, volunteer-based program across two continents that provides free music education to children both in person and virtually. Lexi is also a student ambassador at Bard and owns and operates her own small business in her free time: find her at @generational_vintage on Instagram. Much love to my biggest supporters, Mom, Dad, my grandparents, and Reed.

Nikita Tumanov is a pianist whose artistry is grounded in a deep respect for musical history, tradition, and sincere musicianship. He began his formal musical journey at the age of 19, a defining start that has shaped his disciplined and intentional approach to the piano. He earned his Bachelor of Music in Performance, summa cum laude, from the Brooklyn College Conservatory of Music, where he studied under the distinguished pianist Ursula Oppens. Nikita is currently pursuing his Master's degree at Bard College under the guidance of Rieko Aizawa.

His artistic development has been further enriched through master classes with world-class musicians such as Mikhail Voskresensky, Eduardo Monteiro, and the Zephyros Quartet. In addition to his classical training, Nikita has explored jazz performance as a member of the Brooklyn College Big Band Jazz Ensemble, directed by Ronnie Burrage. He is also an alumnus of the Maine Chamber Music Seminar at Snow Pond, where he deepened his engagement with chamber music and collaborative performance.

Committed to expressive integrity and intellectual depth, Nikita Tumanov approaches performance with reverence for tradition while cultivating a thoughtful and personal musical voice.

Fredrick Lameck Otieno is a third year Conservatory student in the double-degree program. He grew up in Korogocho, one of the largest slums on the edge of Nairobi, Kenya and is the only one of his nine siblings to go beyond secondary school. He started his musical journey studying viola and violin in the Ghetto Classics Program, a Kenyan organization that teaches music to children from poverty in the belief that music can be a gateway to a better life. While at Bard, Fredrick has continued to offer on-line lessons to Kenyan children in the Ghetto Classics Program. In his second year he and three other Bard Conservatory students, received a Davis Peace Prize grant to develop a Music Mentorship program to offer music lessons to children in Korogocho and to establish a creative partnership between Bard and the Ghetto Classics Program.

Javy Polanco is a Bronx-born bass-baritone currently studying voice with Rufus Müller at the Bard College Conservatory of Music. A graduate of Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School, Javy began their musical journey as a flutist and songwriter. They studied at the Jazz Academy at Jazz at Lincoln Center and contributed original music to Carnegie Hall's *Voices of Hope: In Response* project, which highlighted the life-affirming power of music during times of crisis. Javy is a proud alumnus of the Manhattan School of Music Pre-College and the Boston University Tanglewood Institute, where they had the opportunity to perform with the Boston Symphony Orchestra under the baton of John Williams. For Javy, music is a vital expression of identity, and they are committed to amplifying and celebrating multiracial and queer perspectives through both their artistic work and educational pursuits.

Georgi Chikolov is a Bulgarian pianist currently studying in the studio of Blair McMillen, pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance at Bard College Conservatory of Music, alongside a Bachelor of Arts in Computer Science. Known for his expressive playing and versatility, Georgi has distinguished himself, winning over 70 first and special prizes in national and international competitions including awards at the "Franz Schubert", "Schumann - Brahms", "Nikolai Rubinstein", and "Carl Filtsch" competitions. He is the recipient of the prestigious "Dobrin Petkov" prize for exceptional artistic achievements, awarded at the NSMDA "Dobrin Petkov" in Plovdiv, Bulgaria. Georgi's musical journey has been enriched by performances throughout Europe, Asia, and the United States with a wide range repertoire, spanning solo and collaborative works from Baroque to contemporary jazz fusion, reimagining musical connections beyond cultures.