



Bard College Conservatory of Music

20 Years of Music, Vision, and Excellence

Graduate Degree Recital

Hengjian Zhang, *sheng*

Monday, May 11, 2026 at 1:00 pm
Olin Hall

Weishan Lake Boat Song 微山湖船歌 for Sheng and Chamber Ensemble

Mu ShanPing
(1939–2022)

Beitong Liu, *erhu*
Xiaoyan Zoey Luo, *pipa*
Shiyao Zhang, *ruan*

Air on the G String, from Orchestral Suite No. 3 in D Major, BWV 1068

J.S. Bach
(1685–1750)
Arr. Hengjian Zhang

Love of Leaf Letter 信葉情 for Sheng Duet (2012)

Liu Chang 劉暢
(b. 1988)

Yi Zhang, *sheng*

– INTERMISSION –

River Journey 江行 for Sheng Concerto (2017)

Lan Tian 兰添

Georgi Chikolov, *piano*

Rainbow 虹 for Sheng Concerto (2006)

Liu Wenjin 刘文金
(1937–2013)

I. The Life
II. The Storm
III. The Rainbow

Georgi Chikolov, *piano*

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Hengjian Zhang is a musician from Shandong, China. He has studied sheng performance under well-known musicians and professors including Pei Dazheng, Dong Qing, Chen Shuo and Wang Lei. He has extensive ensemble experience. During his undergraduate studies, he served as a soprano sheng player in the Tianjin Conservatory of Music Chinese Chamber Ensemble and as an alto sheng player in the Tianjin Conservatory of Music Chinese Orchestra. He is a member of the Echos of China Ensemble and an active participant in the Bard East-West Ensemble. He has performed at various concert halls including the Tianjin Grand Theatre, Central Conservatory of Music Opera Hall, Tsinghua University, Tongji University, Shandong University, Lincoln Center, and Carnegie Hall. He possesses masterful performance skills and is the recipient of multiple prestigious honors, including Gold Medals at both the 2025 Dunhuang Cup (North American Division) and the 2025 Lingyun Music Awards. In 2024, he graduated from Tianjin Conservatory of Music with a bachelor's degree and is currently a second-year graduate student at Bard Conservatory of Music. He is currently studying under the tutelage of Professor Wang Lei and Professor Jindong Cai, and is expected to graduate in May 2026.

Beitong Liu is an accomplished erhu musician celebrated for her versatility and artistry across a wide range of musical genres, including traditional Chinese music, jazz, contemporary works, improvisation, musical theater, and opera. She has captivated audiences at renowned venues such as Carnegie Hall, Jazz at Lincoln Center, Fisher Center, and the Chinese Embassy in New York City and Washington, D.C. Beitong has also performed at the University of Maryland, Vassar College, Rose Hall - Camphill Village Kimberton Hill and a variety of esteemed music festivals and galas. She is the co-founder of Bright Moon band, co-founder of the Echoes of China Ensemble and an active member of the Bard East-West Ensemble. Beitong continuously pushes the boundaries of erhu performance, blending Chinese music with jazz, improvisation, and musical theater.

Xiaoyan Zoey Luo, a pipa musician whose work bridges traditional Chinese music and contemporary performance contexts. She is the co-founder of the Echoes of China Ensemble, an active member of the Bard East-West Ensemble and a performer at the China Now Music Festival. Immersed in Chinese music from a young age, she entered Bard Conservatory US-China Music Institute for a Pipa Performance and Film Production double degree, and was later granted direct admission to its master's program. She has delivered outstanding performances at major international venues and institutions, including Carnegie Hall, Jazz at Lincoln Center, and the Consulates General of China in New York and Washington, D.C. In June 2025, during the Bard East-West Ensemble's China tour, she appeared as a soloist in 11 concerts. In 2025, she was awarded the Gold Prize at both the Dunhuang Cup Chinese Instrumental Performance Competition North America Division and the Stanford Baipu International Music Competition.

Shi Yao Zhang. A second-year master's student majoring in Pipa at the Central Conservatory of Music, currently serving as a Pipa Graduate Assistant at the US-China Music Institute. Admitted to the Central Conservatory of Music in 2020, studying under Associate Professor Liu Xiaojing; recommended for admission to the master's program at the Central Conservatory of Music in 2024, studying under Professor Zhang Hongyan, a renowned Pipa performer and educator.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Yi Zhang is a musician from China. She specializes in sheng performance and has studied under renowned sheng musicians and professors, including Guo Liang and Yang Shoucheng. She graduated from the Affiliated Secondary School of Xinghai Conservatory of Music, where she received rigorous professional training. She is currently studying at the Bard Conservatory of Music, with a strong interest in traditional and contemporary performance as well as cross-cultural musical collaboration.

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.