

Bard College Conservatory of Music

Presents

Rapture & Revelation

Helena Baillie, *violin*

Anita Balázs, *cello*

Tianxing (Tessa) Ni, *piano*

Saturday, October 17, 2026 at 4:00 pm

László Z. Bitó '60 Conservatory Building, Performance Space

D'un matin de printemps

Lili Boulanger
(1893-1918)

Élégie, op. 24

Gabriel Fauré
(1845-1924)

Piano Trio No. 1 in D Minor, op. 49

Molto allegro agitato

Andante con moto tranquillo

Scherzo. Leggiero e vivace

Finale. Allegro assai appassionato

Felix Mendelssohn
(1809-1847)

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

London-born **Helena Baillie** was hailed by The Strad magazine for her "brilliance and poignance," and stands apart for a rare ease on both violin and viola. American Record Guide praised her 'gorgeous singing tone' in an album that 'from the opening flourish will be a special recital.' She enjoys a multifaceted career as a performer and violin and viola faculty member at the Bard College Music Program.

A prizewinner in international competitions including Munich ARD, Banff and Tertis, Helena has performed throughout Europe and the United States, with broadcasts on BBC Radio 3 and Performance Today for American Public Radio. She has collaborated in chamber music with Pinchas Zukerman, Midori, the Tokyo String Quartet and the Beaux Arts Trio. Her love of chamber music has taken her to the La Jolla Summerfest, Tucson Winter Chamber Festival, and the Kronberg Academy Festival in Frankfurt, among others.

Helena graduated from the Curtis Institute of Music, where she studied violin with Arnold Steinhardt and viola with Roberto Diaz. Isaac Stern, Felix Galimir, and Leon Fleisher guided Helena in chamber music. At Yale University, Helena studied violin with Peter Oundjian, and she spent a year in Berlin studying with the eminent violist Wilfried Strehle. Helena plays a 2012 violin made by Collin Gallahue in association with the studio of Brooklyn-based luthier Sam Zygmuntowicz. Her viola is a 2009 Sam Zygmuntowicz.

Hungarian cellist **Anita Balázs** was born into a musical family and started her music studies at the age of 5. From early childhood, she has been giving concerts in Europe, taking part in international festivals and masterclasses in Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Italy, Croatia, France and Switzerland with professors such as Heidi Litschauer, László Fenyő, Philippe Muller and Wolfgang Boettcher.

At the age of 17 she was admitted to the Franz Liszt Academy of Music of Budapest, Hungary in the class of Laszlo Mezo (Bartok Quartet) where she obtained both her Bachelor's and first Master's degree. She holds an Artist's Diploma from Montclair State University where she studied with Nicholas Tzavaras (Shanghai Quartet) as well as a Master of Musical Arts degree from Yale School of Music where she studied with legendary cellist and teacher Aldo Parisot, as well as Ole Akahoshi, Ani Kavafian, Peter Frankl, Ralph Kirshbaum, and Paul Watkins (Emerson String Quartet).

Laureate of several international competitions such as the Antonio Janigro International Cello Competition in Porec, Croatia or the Alfredo e Vanda Marcosig International Competition in Italy, she has also been awarded 1st prize as well as the Grand Prix of the Jury at the Janos Starker Competition in Hungary and 1st prize at the International Cello Competition in Liezen, Austria. She has performed before audiences all around Europe and the United States and has been invited to play as soloist with famous Hungarian and European orchestras and conductors such as Andras Ligeti, Izaki Masahiro and Kenneth Lam from the age of 12. She also performed in world-famous venues such as the Carnegie Hall, Metropolitan Opera, Philharmonie de Paris, or the Palace of the Arts of Budapest, Jazz at Lincoln Center.

Two time scholar of the Hungary Initiatives Foundation's Graduate Scholarship (2017, 2018) awarded to talented Hungarian individuals who have achieved outstanding results in their field of study. She served as cello and chamber music tutor at Montclair State University's Extension Division and she is also a member of the Albany Symphony Orchestra. She is currently cello teacher at the Preparatory Division at Bard College as well as the Mount Academy in Esopus, NY.

Tianxiang Tessa Ni, a 2023 Latin GRAMMY Foundation Scholarship recipient, studies at Bard Conservatory, where she pursues a dual-degree in Piano Performance under the guidance of Rieko Aizawa alongside German Studies at Bard College. Tessa has won first prize at the BIMFA International Competition, the 2020 Chicago International Music Competition, the 30th Città di Barletta International Young Musician Competition, and the 2023 Bard Conservatory Concerto Competition. She has appeared at the Chautauqua Institution, Taos Chamber Music Festival, Bowdoin International Chamber Music Festival, Vivace Music Festival, and the Maine Chamber Music Seminar. Born in Beijing, Tessa studied at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing from elementary school through high school under the guidance of Mai Su, Hongbo Quan and Xinning Zhang. She also grew up with a passion for horseback riding and now serves as the head of the Bard Equestrian Club.