**Program Description**

**U.S.-China Music Institute of the**

**Bard College Conservatory of Music**

**Annandale-on-Hudson NY  12504**

**Robert Martin**

**Director, Conservatory of Music  
Vice President for Policy and Planning**

**Professor of Philosophy and Music**

**Jindong Cai**

**Institute Director**

**Professor of Music and Arts**

**Conductor, Author and Educator**

**Mission: The cross-fertilization of Chinese and U.S. musical cultures**

INTRODUCTION

At a time when China is widely seen as crucial to the future of Western classical music, it is particularly important to acknowledge the significance of its own great musical traditions. The term “Chinese Music” covers a highly diverse range of music from the traditional to the modern, from the Han Chinese to ethnic minorities within mainland China and to people of Chinese origin in territories outside mainland China, using traditional Chinese instruments, other instruments, and voice. As with all music, it continues to evolve.

In China, all conservatories and schools of music have extensive Chinese Music programs, including instrumental and vocal studies, performance, composition, theory, and history/musicology. Some Chinese instrumentalists have become known throughout the world, and have collaborated with musicians and orchestras globally. In the U.S., although interest in Chinese music is growing rapidly, there has been until now no degree-granting program in Chinese music offered at any institution of higher learning. Bard has corrected this situation by creating the US-China Music Institute, with Jindong Cai as its director. **Our goal is to develop the Institute into the most innovative and comprehensive platform for the cross-fertilization of Chinese and US musical cultures anywhere.**

PROGRAMS UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF THE INSTITUTE

* **Chinese instrument performance degrees – the first outside of China.** 4-6 students per year, starting in Fall 2018, majoring in the performance of a Chinese instrument, will be included in Bard’s unique five-year undergraduate double-degree program leading to the simultaneous awarding of B. Music and B. Arts in a field other than music. We will work toward the creation of a joint degree program in Chinese Music with a Chinese music institution.
* **Annual Chinese music festival in New York City and on the Bard campus (Annandale-on-Hudson).** Following the successful example of the Bard Music Festival, now in its 27th year, the Chinese Music Festival will pay special attention to the new generation of composers and performers in China, drawing on materials from throughout the world including elements of theater and dance.
* **Scholarly research on Chinese music and culture**. Resident scholars and visiting fellows will carry out research projects on historical and contemporary aspects of Chinese music in context, including literature, philosophy, art history, sociology, and social history.
* **Collaboration with music institutions in China and the United States,** featuring student and faculty exchanges, exchange visits of ensembles and productions (orchestra, opera, and chamber music), and conferences to promote the interchange of ideas on music education. Annual week-long residency of a prominent Chinese Music ensemble from China.
* **Masters degree program in Chinese Music**: MM in Performance; MA in Musicology.

**BARD PROVIDES THE ELEMENTS NEEDED FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE INSTITUTE.**

Founded in 1860, Bard College is a highly selective private liberal arts college in the State of New York. It is approved by the Ministry of Education of China as an accredited foreign university.

With its beautiful 1,000 acre campus 90 miles north of New York City, Bard College and its Conservatory of Music provide:

* **An existing double-degree music performance program –** Founded in 2005, the Bard Conservatory’s graduates have distinguished themselves by admission to the leading graduate programs throughout the U.S. and Europe. Approximately 30% of the current students of the Conservatory are from China. There are approximately 100 undergraduates in the Conservatory, among the approximately 2,000 undergraduates in the College. A special full-year Intensive *English as a Second Language* course is offered for international students in the Conservatory whose English language proficiency is not at the level ordinarily required for admission to Bard College.
* **Academic resources** – scholars in literature, philosophy, economics, politics, theater, and film studies who specialize in China studies, currently on the Bard faculty.
* **Two full-sized orchestras on Bard’s campus -** *The Orchestra Now* is a unique pre-professional orchestra and master’s degree program designed to prepare musicians for the challenges facing the modern symphony orchestra. The Conservatory orchestra is a student training orchestra that has toured in China, Europe, and Cuba.
* **Global network –** Bard has campuses and programs in St. Petersburg, Russia; Berlin; Kyrgyzstan; the West Bank of Israel and elsewhere. The newest Bard High School Early College program is under development in Shenzhen, China.
* **Physical resources** - this includes a space that will be designated as the home of the US-China Music Institute.
* **Presence in New York City –** including the Bard Graduate Center for Studies in the Decorative Arts, Design and Culture (West 86th Street), Bard Hall (58th Street and 9th Avenue), Bard High School Early College Manhattan, and Bard High School Early College Queens.