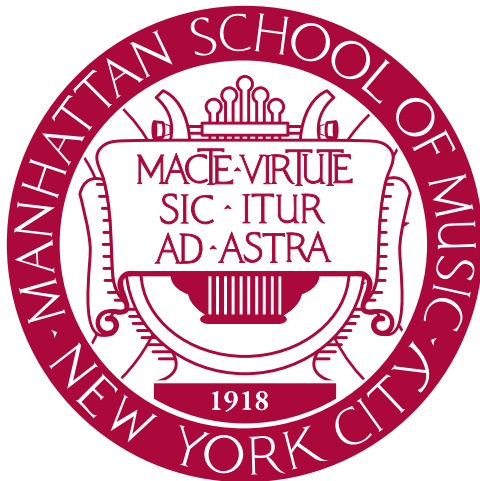


MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC

COMMENCEMENT AWARDS  
& HOODING CEREMONY



Wednesday, May 21, 2025

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2025

# MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC COMMENCEMENT AWARDS & HOODING CEREMONY

## ***Welcome***

Dr. Joyce Griggs, *Executive Vice President and Provost*

## ***Musical Performance***

AARON COPLAND      *Laurie's Song* from *The Tender Land*  
(1900–1990)      Sofia Gotch (PPD '25), *soprano*  
Hong Ziyi, *piano*

## ***Recognition & Hooding for Doctor of Musical Arts Candidates***

Dr. James Gandre, *President*

Dr. Joyce Griggs, *Executive Vice President and Provost*

Dr. Jeffrey Langford, *Associate Dean for Doctoral Studies*

Dr. Monica Coen Christensen, *Dean of Students*

## ***Presentation of Provost's Teaching Excellence Award***

Provost Griggs

President Gandre

## ***Recipients***

J. Mark Stambaugh, *Composition & Academic Core Faculty*

Mark Schnaible, *Voice, Vocal Arts & Collaborative Piano Faculty*

## ***Recognition of Commencement Award Winners***

Provost Griggs

President Gandre

## ***Closing Remarks***

Dr. Joyce Griggs, *Executive Vice President and Provost*

# 2025 CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF MUSICAL ARTS

*Research Advisor:* Peter Andreacchi

YunJae Choi, *violin*

*The Two Violin Sonatas of Darius Milhaud: A Comparative Analysis*

Seoul, South Korea

MMA Yale School of Music

BM New England Conservatory

Xinyao Feng, *piano*

*Echoes of Liszt: The Changing Reception of His Paraphrases and Transcriptions from Premieres to Present*

Dongguan, China

MM Manhattan School of Music

BM Manhattan School of Music

Tzu-Wei Jack Huang, *cello*

*Exploring Diversity and Innovations in 21st-Century Cello Concertos*

Kaohsiung City, Taiwan

MM The Juilliard School

BM Manhattan School of Music

Na Yoon Kim, *clarinet*

*Isang Yun's Synthesis of Eastern and Western Styles and Its Influence on Sukbi Kang and Unsuk Chin*

Seoul, South Korea

MM The Juilliard School

BM The Juilliard School

Yadi Liang, *instrumental accompanying*

*Folk Influences in the Chamber Music of Alexander Tcherepnin: A Study of*

*Rhapsodie Géorgienne and Song and Dances*

Guangxi, China

MM Manhattan School of Music

MM Manhattan School of Music

BM China Conservatory of Music

Yiying Niu, *piano*

*Three Approaches to the Piano as a Resonating Body: Morton Feldman, La Monte Young, and Tristan Murail*

Anyang, China

MM The Juilliard School

BM Manhattan School of Music

*Research Advisor:* Peter Andreacchi and Heasook Rhee

Haerin Kim, *instrumental accompanying*

*From Romanticism to Impressionism: The Evolution of Ernest Chausson's Style as Seen through an Analysis of Selected Songs*

Busan, South Korea

MM Manhattan School of Music

MM Kyung Hee University

BM Kyung Hee University

*Research Advisor:* Anthony DeMare

Yifei Xu, *piano*

*The Art of Vocalizing Pianists: A Comprehensive Guide for the New Generation*

Tianjin, China

MM Manhattan School of Music

BM Manhattan School of Music

***Research Advisor: Reiko Fütting***

Anna Dmytrenko, *piano*

*Prokofiev Piano Concerto No. 2: An In-Depth Look from the Pianist's Bench*

Newark, Delaware

MM Universität der Künste Berlin

MM Universität der Künste Berlin

BM Royal Academy of Music, London

Julian Bennett Holmes, *composition*

*Shades of the Ancient Greek: Genera and Vicentino's Archicembalo in the 21st Century*

Brooklyn, New York

MM Manhattan School of Music

BM Mannes School of Music, The New School

***Research Advisor: Jeffrey Langford***

Chieh-I Yang, *viola*

*Lionel Tertis and the English Musical Renaissance*

Taichung City, Taiwan

MM The Juilliard School

BM The Juilliard School

***Research Advisor: Ronnie Oliver***

Rong Zhang, *choral conducting*

*A Profound Experiment in the Fusion of Western and Eastern Music: The First Chinese Oratorio Chang Hen Ge (Song of Everlasting Sorrow) by Huang Zi*

Wenzhou City, China

PS Manhattan School Of Music

MM New England Conservatory

BM Shanghai Conservatory of Music

***Research Advisor: Joanne Polk***

Xinyu Wang, *piano*

Tianjin, China

*Piano Masterworks From China: Bright Sheng's My Other Song (2007) and Zhou Long's Dunhuang Fantasia (2018)*

PS Manhattan School of Music

MM Manhattan School of Music

BM Manhattan School of Music

Yi Zeng, *piano*

*A Performance Guide for the Sonata for Piano Solo by Judith Lang Zaimont*

Zhenjiang, China

MM Manhattan School of Music

BM Manhattan School of Music

# COMMENCEMENT AWARDS

## Harold Bauer Award

Dmitry Yudin

This award was established by Janet D. Schenck, founder of Manhattan School of Music, to honor her teacher, pianist Harold Bauer, who was instrumental in the development of the School. It is given to a graduating student in recognition of outstanding accomplishment, cooperation, and promise.

## William H. Borden Award

Nathaniel Scott Mesler

A trustee of Manhattan School of Music for 30 years, during 10 of which he served as Chairman of the Board, Mr. Borden had a great affinity for jazz. This award is given in his memory for outstanding accomplishment in jazz.

## Giampaolo Bracali Award for Music Composition

Dylan Wolf

In memory of composer, conductor, and Manhattan School of Music Composition faculty member and graduate ('70), this award is given annually for excellence in composition.

## Saul Braverman Award

Julian Bennett Holmes

This award is given for outstanding achievement in the study of music theory.

## Raphael Bronstein Award

Ji Hyun Baik

Established by friends to honor the memory of a beloved faculty member, this award is given to an outstanding violinist who demonstrates great promise as a performer and dedication to carrying on the pedagogical devotion Professor Bronstein exemplified.

## John Clark Award

Jacob Ogbu

John Clark was an alumnus of Manhattan School of Music and a faculty member for over 40 years. This award, established in his memory through gifts from his family and friends, is given for excellence in brass performance.

## Helen Cohn Awards

Lulwa Al Shamlan, Anna Dmytrenko,  
Yiyang Niu, and Chieh-I Yang

These awards, created by friends of Mrs. Cohn, honor her memory and her devotion to the piano. The awards are given to a pianist with outstanding work in chamber music and three outstanding students in the DMA program.

## Cecil Collins Award

Zachary Solano

Created by Manhattan School of Music alumni to honor the memory of Mr. Collins, a former faculty member and Chair of the Brass Department, this award is given for excellence in brass performance.

## Nicolas Flagello Award

Alaina J. Ferris

This award is given annually to a student for outstanding achievement as a composer. The award was established by family, friends, and colleagues to honor the memory of Mr. Flagello, a former faculty member, alumnus, and esteemed composer.

## Richard F. Gold Career Grant

Jennifer Robinson

This award is given by the Shoshana Foundation to recognize a graduating student who demonstrates exceptional promise for a career on the operatic stage.

## Carl Kanter Prize

Gabriel Ordás Fernández and Yuang Luo

This prize was established by Carl Kanter, a composer and active member of MSM's International Advisory Board for several years. Recipients are selected from among those graduating students who compose orchestral works during their final year that are performed at one of the two student orchestral composition concerts.

## Hugo Kortschak Award

Lulwa Al Shamlan

This award is given for outstanding achievement in chamber music.

## Kraeuter Musical Foundation Award

Austin Wegener

This award is given to a student who has excelled in chamber music performance.

## Solomon Mikowsky Contemporary Piano Music Award

Yifei Xu

This award is given annually for achievement in contemporary piano music in memory of Solomon Mikowsky.

### Solomon Mikowsky Piano Pedagogy Award

Jonathan Boyer

This award is given annually for the student who shows the most interest in and talent for piano pedagogy and who has the greatest potential to be an excellent piano teacher.

### Presser Foundation Undergraduate Scholar Award

Angela Tse

This award encourages and supports a student who exemplifies high academic accomplishment and leadership, and contributes to an inclusive community.

### Provost's Award in Excellence

Eric Frederich and Themba Pieterse

The Provost's Award is given to students who have demonstrated excellence in their commitment to academic, artistic, and community participation.

### Provost's Teaching Excellence Award

J. Mark Stambaugh and  
Mark Schnaible

Faculty recipients of this award demonstrate and exhibit excellence in their teaching and mentoring of students. Creating an energetic and positive learning environment, recipients foster transformative learning experiences, build upon MSM's Cultural Inclusion commitment, and exhibit a spirit of collegiality within the School.

### Hugh Ross Award

Sara Stevens

This award is given annually to a singer of unusual promise.

### Roy M. Rubinstein Award

Victoria Wong

This award is given to a young woman who demonstrates exceptional promise in piano performance.

### Janet D. Schenck Award

Themba Pieterse and Kayla Thomas

The Janet D. Schenck Award honors the woman who, in 1918, founded what was to become Manhattan School of Music, one of the largest and most prestigious private conservatories in the United States. This award, bestowed in Mrs. Schenck's memory, is in recognition of distinguished contribution to the life of the School.

### Stan Sesser Career Award

Sofia Gotch and Benjamin R. Sokol

The Stan Sesser Career Award in Voice is given to exceptional graduating students from the Graduate Program in Voice at Manhattan School of Music with extraordinary potential for a career in opera.

### Josephine C. Whitford Award

Karina Vartanian and  
Ja'hnil Pembleton

This award honoring Mrs. Whitford, who was for many years a dean of Manhattan School of Music, is given to a student whose exceptional personal qualities have contributed significantly to the enrichment of the spirit of the School.

### Jan Williams Award for Composition/ Contemporary Performance Collaboration

Hyesun Lee and  
Gabriel Henkin

In honor of Jan Williams (BM '63, MM '64), world-renowned percussionist, this award celebrates the collaboration of the Composition Department and Contemporary Performance Program and is given annually to two students who demonstrate outstanding collaboration.

