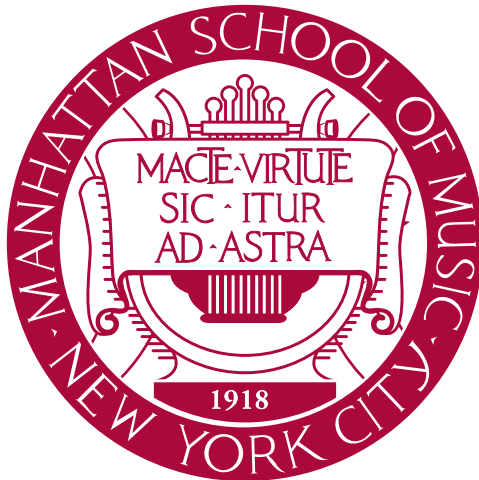


MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC

COMMENCEMENT AWARDS
& HOODING CEREMONY



Wednesday, May 20, 2026

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MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC COMMENCEMENT AWARDS & HOODING CEREMONY

Welcome

Joyce Griggs, *Executive Vice President and Provost*

Musical Performance

WITOLD LUTOŚLAWSKI
(1913–1994)

Variations on a Theme by Paganini

Erin Daniels (BM '26), piano

Tamazi Mzhavanadze (BM '26), piano

Recognition & Hooding for Doctor of Musical Arts Candidates

James Gandre, *President*

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

Lisa Yui (MM '00, DMA '05), *Interim Associate Dean for Doctoral Studies*

Dr. Monica Coen Christensen, *Dean of Students*

Musical Performance

TIFFANY LEARD / JOE DEANGELO *Etruscan Night Rider* for Violin and Piano
(b. 2000) / (b. 1997)

Joe DeAngelo (MM '26), violin
Tiffany Leard (MM '26), piano

Presentation of Provost's Teaching Excellence Award

Provost Griggs
President Gandre

Recipients

Yu-Chun Chien (MM '13, DMA '18), *Aural Skills Head and Theory Faculty*
Inesa Sinkevych (PS '06, DMA '10), *Classical Piano Department Co-Head and Piano Faculty*

Recognition of Commencement Award Winners

Provost Griggs
President Gandre

Closing Remarks

Dr. Joyce Griggs, Executive Vice President and Provost

2026 CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF MUSICAL ARTS

Research Advisor: Peter Andreacchi

Karen Tay, *harp*

*Portrayal and Perception of the Peranakan Identity through 20th and 21st Century
Singaporean Composers*

Singapore, Singapore

MM Manhattan School of Music

BM Royal College of Music

Jixue Yang, *piano*

An Analytical Study of Alexandre Lunsqui's Piano Cycle Histos

Fuzhou, China

MM Manhattan School of Music

BM Manhattan School of Music

Research Advisor: Linda Chesis

Laura del Sol Jiménez Collazos, *flute*

*The Methods by Which Three Latin American Composers Reference Their Heritage,
Explored Through Their Compositions for Flute*

Calarcá, Colombia

MM Manhattan School of Music

BM Pontificia Universidad Javeriana

Research Advisor: Reiko Fütting

Giuseppe Buscemi, *guitar*

*An Analytical Study of Bruno Bettinelli's Compositional Approach Through His
Twelve Etudes for Solo Guitar*

Alcamo, Italy

GD Accademia Pianistica Internazionale "Incontri col Maestro" di Imola

MM Istituto Superiore di Studi Musicali "V. Bellini" di Caltanissetta

BM Conservatorio Statale di Musica "A. Corelli" Messina

Robert Sherrod Stricklin III, *composition*

Historical Absence: Luigi Nono in America

Dallas, Texas

MM Manhattan School of Music

BM Southern Methodist University

Research Advisor: David Macdonald

William Bixby Kennedy III, *clarinet*

Completing Stravinsky's Arrangement of L'Histoire du Soldat for Violin, Clarinet, and Piano

Maryville, Tennessee

MM Yale School of Music

BM Indiana University

Research Advisor: James Massol

Serena Hsu, *viola*

A Vocal Approach to Viola Playing: Operatic Qualities in the Morceaux Concours of Rougnon, Sitt, Enescu, and Arends

Dublin, Ohio

MMA Yale University

MM The Juilliard School

BM Conservatoire de Paris

BM Cleveland Institute of Music

Research Advisor: Nils Neubert

Charlotte Alexandra Merz, *mezzo-soprano*

Zwischenfach: The Enigmatic Voice. A Pedagogical Approach and Quantitative Analysis of the Zwischenfach in French Grand Opera

Sydney, Australia

GD Sydney Conservatorium of Music

MM Manhattan School of Music

BM Sydney Conservatorium of Music

Shiyu Tan, *collaborative piano-vocal*

Form and Characteristics in Selected Song from Hugo Wolf's Mörike-Lieder

Hunan, China

MM Manhattan School of Music

BM Shanghai Conservatory of Music

Research Advisor: J. Mark Stambaugh

Christa Marie Dalmazio, *soprano*

The Aesthetic of Beauty in Eucharistic Repertoire: Sacred Solos Best Suited for the Catholic Liturgy

Colts Neck, New Jersey

MM Manhattan School of Music

BM Manhattan School of Music

COMMENCEMENT AWARDS

Harold Bauer Award

Seiran Tozlian and Vladimir Petrov

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

Laura Michele Orzechoski

A trustee of Manhattan School of Music for 30 years, 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

Tongyu Lu

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

Robert Sherrod Stricklin III

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

Raphael Bronstein Award

Risa Hokamura

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

Sarah Bell

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 Award

Yinan Wu and Serena Hsu

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 an outstanding student in the DMA program.

Cecil Collins Award

Nathaniel Wasibun

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.

Helen Airop Dowling Award

Cecilia Beatrix Martin

This award is given to an outstanding violinist graduating from the Bachelor of Music degree program.

Nicolas Flagello Award

Zeke Morgan

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

Baylee Kilgore

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

Shuwen Liao and Martín La Rotta Natale

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

Abbyun Nob

This award is given for outstanding achievement in chamber music.

Kraeuter Musical Foundation Award

Anthony Gabriel Wu

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

The Solomon Mikowsky Contemporary Piano Music Award

Jixue Yang

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

**The Solomon Mikowsky
Piano Pedagogy Award**

*Hannah Rosen
and Diana Skobina*

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.

**The Presser Foundation
Undergraduate Scholar Award**

Scott Lane Robert, Jr.

The Presser Foundation gives an annual Undergraduate Scholar award to a promising student at MSM.

Provost's Award in Excellence *Piper Reece Weldon and Evelyn Lehmann*

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 *Yu-Chun Chien and Inesa Sinkevych*

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

Juan Angel Johnston-Chavez

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

Roy M. Rubinstein Award

Terri Ji

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

Janet D. Schenck Award

Lauren Elizabeth Seery

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.

Andrés Segovia/Rose Augustine Award *Abbyun Nob and Giuseppe Buscemi*

The Andrés Segovia Award was established by Mrs. Augustine to honor her friend and colleague, one of the great artists of the 20th century. It is awarded annually to graduates of the Guitar Department.

Stan Sesser Award in Voice

Wonjin Choi and Su Hyeon Park

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

Mariana Clavijo Ledesma

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

*Kevin Cromer
and Piper Reece Weldon*

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.

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