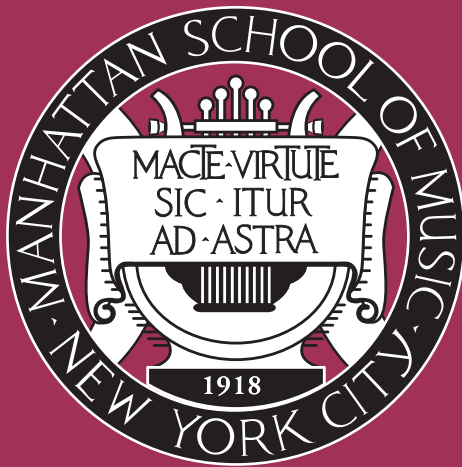


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THOSE
WHO EXCEL
REACH THE
STARS

Thursday, May 21, 2026
The Riverside Church

MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC 2026 COMMENCEMENT

Processional

The audience is requested to rise and remain standing during the processional.

MANLY ROMERO
(b. 1966)

Energy Transfer

DOROTHY GATES
(b. 1966)

Manhattan Celebration

GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL
(1685–1759)
(Arr. John Sheppard)

La Réjouissance from *Music for the Royal Fireworks*

Commencement Brass Ensemble

John Sheppard (BM '86), Conductor

Addison Ashley, horn

Sarah Bell (BM '26), horn

Ben Hommowun (BM '26), horn

Alyx Martos, horn

Ashton Sady (MM '26), horn

Itzel Uranga-Caamano, horn

Ryan Colarusso, trumpet

Chase Domke (PPD '26), trumpet

Benjamin Hambro (BM '24, MM '26), trumpet

Joshua Knight, trumpet

Christian Morales, trumpet

Kyle Nix (BM '25), trumpet

Leor Arbel (BM '26), trombone

Hunter Bingham, trombone

Malik Hamza, trombone

Jonathan Lee, trombone

Rebekah Marquez, trombone

Natania Ngawhau, trombone

Harry Ning (BM '24), trombone

Matteo Paoli (MM '26), trombone

Sarah Rathbun (MM '24, PS '26), trombone

Hannah Steward, trombone

Nathaniel Wasihun (BM '26), trombone

Ryan Parichuk, bass trombone

Jack Johnson, bass trombone

Fumiya Miyata (BM '24, MM '26), tuba

Melissa Samad, tuba

Introduction

Monica Coen Christensen, *Dean of Students*

Greetings

Justin Bischof (BM '90, MM '92, DMA '98), *Chair of the Alumni Association*

Lorraine Gallard, *Chair of the Board of Trustees*

James Gandre, *President*

Presentation of the President's Medal for Distinguished Service

President Gandre

Joyce Griggs, *Executive Vice President and Provost*

Recipients

Susan Botti (MM '90), *Composition Faculty*

Lorraine Gallard, *Chair of the Board of Trustees*

Duncan Patton, *Percussion Faculty*

Felix Rodriguez, *Maintenance Staff*

Manly Romero, *Performance Librarian*

Musical Interlude

TAKATSUGU MURAMATSU

(b. 1978)

Land

Glenn Choe (BM '26), marimba

Recognition of Retiring Faculty and Staff

President Gandre

Provost Griggs

Marion Feldman, *Cello faculty*

George Manahan (BM '73, MM '76), *Director of Orchestral Activities
and Chair of Conducting*

Presentation and Conferring of the Degree of Doctor of Musical Arts, honoris causa

President Gandre

Provost Griggs

Recipients

J'Nai Bridges (BM '09), *Mezzo-Soprano*

Misty Copeland, *Former Principal Dancer, American Ballet Theatre; Founder and President, Misty Copeland Foundation*

Jane Chu, *Former Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts*

Donna McKechnie, *Musical Theatre*

Jason Moran (BM '97), *Composer, Jazz Pianist, and Educator*

Musical Interlude

STEPHEN SCHWARTZ

(b. 1948)

“Beautiful City” from *Godspell*

Shane Schag (PS '02), piano

Performers from the BM in Musical Theatre

Class of 2026:

Alaina Arbiso

Eva Bilodeau

Ryan Cain

Lily Daugherty

Nino de la Torre

Gianna DiTucci

Fernando Flores

Lily Flynn

Maithili Ginde

Carlos Goldberg

Callie Henrysen

Alexi L M Horne

Kate Jones

Madeline Kimmel

Ellie Kuhnle

Gabriela Londoño

Gigi Mechetti

Ella Naylor

Moira Kelli O'Connor

Asher Parsons

Elijah Ramos

Isabella Rarick

Sophia Stark

Isabel Wallach

Serena Zhang

Student Speaker

Owne Xayboury (BM '26)

Commencement Address

J'Nai Bridges (BM '09), *Mezzo-Soprano*

Presentation and Conferring of Degrees, Certificates, and Diplomas

President Gandre

Provost Griggs

Reiko Fütting (DMA '00), *Dean of Academic Core,
Contemporary Performance, and Composition*

Liza Gennaro, *Dean of Musical Theatre*

Carleen Graham, *Dean of Vocal Arts and Collaborative Piano*

James Saltzman (DMA '18), *Dean of Jazz Arts*

JT Kane, *Dean of Instrumental Studies and Orchestral Performance*

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

Closing Remarks

President Gandre

Recessional

AUGUSTA MARY ANNE HOLMÈS

(1847–1903)

(Arr. John Sheppard)

Veni Creator

DOROTHY GATES

(b. 1966)

All Glorious

Commencement Brass Ensemble
John Sheppard (BM '86), Conductor

THE PRESIDENT'S MEDAL FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

Inaugurated in 1998, the President's Medal for Distinguished Service is the highest honor bestowed upon current members of the Manhattan School of Music Community by the President of the School. It is given in recognition of extraordinary commitment to the School in two or more of the following areas:

Extraordinary pedagogical, artistic, and leadership influence in the community

Longevity of teaching and administration at the School

Distinguished scholarship, research, and creativity as demonstrated in performance, composition, publication, or outreach

Distinguished service to the institution as demonstrated by humanistic activities outside of the teaching studio, classroom, and office

Past Recipients

- 1991 Stanley Bednar (BM '49, MM '54), *Violin faculty*
- 1993 Nicholas Goluses (BM '81, MM '82, DMA '85), *Guitar Department Chair*
- 1998 Ludmila Ulehla (BM '47, MM '48), *Composition faculty*
- 2001 Lucile Lawrence, *Harp faculty*
- 2003 Richard Elder Adams (MM '61), *Vice President, Dean of Faculty and Performance*
Ursula Mamlok (BM '57, MM '58), *Composition faculty*
- 2004 Leonard Davis, *Viola faculty*
Rosetta Goodkind, *Piano, Preparatory Division*
Nathan Stutch, *Cello faculty*
- 2005 Homer Mensch, *Double Bass faculty*
Joseph Robinson, *Oboe faculty*
- 2006 Constance Colby, *Humanities faculty*
David Noon, *Composition faculty, Dean of Academics and Students*
- 2007 Justin DiCioccio (MM '71), *Conductor, Assistant Dean and Jazz Arts Program Chair*
Sylvia Rosenberg, *Violin faculty*
- 2008 Toby Hanks, *Brass Department Chair*
Solomon Mikowsky, *Piano faculty*
- 2009 Maitland Peters, *Voice Department Chair*
Marc Silverman (MM '77, DMA '83), *Piano Department Chair*
- 2010 Arkady Aronov, *Piano faculty*
Orin O'Brien, *Double Bass faculty*
- 2011 Mignon Dunn, *mezzo-soprano, Voice faculty*
Nils Vigeland, *Composition Department Chair*
- 2012 Linda Chesis (PC '73), *flute, Woodwind Department Chair*
John Pagano, *Humanities Department Chair*
- 2013 David Geber, *Cello faculty, Vice Provost and Dean of Artistic Affairs*
David Gilbert, *Conductor in Residence*
- 2014 Hilda Harris, *mezzo-soprano, Voice faculty*
Chris Rosenberg (MM '85), *guitar, Manager of the Jazz Arts Program*
- 2015 Ted Rosenthal (BM '81, MM '83), *Jazz Piano faculty*
Dona D. Vaughn, *Artistic Director of Opera Programs*
- 2016 Patinka Kopec, *Co-Director of the Pinchas Zukerman Performance Program*
Christianne Orto, *Dean of Distance Learning and Recording Arts*
Kent Trittle, *Director of Choral Activities*
- 2017 Carol Ann Aicher (MM '90), *Graduate Pedagogy faculty*
John Hagen, *Director of English as a Second Language Program*
Joan Patenaude-Yarnell, *soprano, Voice faculty*

- 2018 Amy Anderson, *Dean of Enrollment*
Phillip Kawin (BM '82, MM '85), *Piano faculty*
Lisa Yui (MM '00, DMA '05), *Associate Dean for Assessment and Programs*
- 2019 John K. Blanchard (MM '89), *Institutional Historian and Director of Archives*
Laurie Carney, *Member of the American String Quartet, MSM Artists in Residence, and Violin faculty*
John Forconi (BM '77, MM '79), *Collaborative Piano Department Chair*
- 2021 Michelle Baker, *Brass Department Chair*
Melanie Dorsey, *Director of Student Engagement and Deputy Title IX Coordinator*
Cynthia Hoffmann, *Classical Voice faculty*
Warren Jones, *Collaborative Piano faculty*
Michael Lockhart, *Director of International Student Services and Associate Registrar*
Marlena Malas, *Classical Voice faculty*
- 2022 Monica Coen Christensen, *Dean of Students*
Marion Feldman, *Cello faculty*
David Loud, *Musical Theatre faculty and Music Director*
Carol Matos, *Vice President for Administration and Human Relations*
John Riley (MM '85), *Jazz Drums faculty*
- 2023 Peter Caleb, *Director of Library Services*
Jeffrey Cohen, *Piano faculty*
Lucie Robert, *Violin faculty*
- 2024 Rebecca Charnow, *Dean of Youth Education and Community-Career Connections*
Kim Laskowski, *Bassoon faculty*
George Manahan (BM '73, MM '76), *Director of Orchestral Activities and Conducting Department Chair*
Chris Shade (MM '07), *Assistant Dean for The Orto Center for Distance Learning and Recording Arts*
- 2025 Peter Andreacchi (BM '79, MM '81), *Theory faculty*
Jeffrey Langford, *Associate Dean for Doctoral Studies*
Shane Schag (PS '02), *College Artistic Staff*
Lucy Shelton, *Contemporary and Vocal Performance faculty*

HONORARY DOCTORATES

Past Recipients

1979–2025

- 1979 Josephine C. Whitford, *long-time MSM dean and administrator*
- 1980 William H. Borden, *philanthropist; former Chair, MSM Board of Trustees*
Martin Feinstein, *first Executive Director, The Kennedy Center*
- 1982 Birgit Nilsson, *soprano*
- 1983 Avery Fisher, *philanthropist*
- 1984 Frank E. Taplin, *lawyer; philanthropist; President, Metropolitan Opera Association*
- 1985 Elmar Oliveira (BM '72), *violinist*
- 1986 Dora Zaslavsky Koch ('22), *long-time MSM Piano faculty member*
- 1987 Gunther Schuller (PC '41), *conductor; composer*
Andrés Segovia, *guitarist*
- 1988 Frances Hall Ballard, *philanthropist; former MSM Piano faculty member*
Alice Tully, *philanthropist*
- 1989 The Honorable Richard Owen ('61), *judge; composer; MSM Trustee*
- 1990 Josef Gingold, *violinist; educator*
Max Roach ('52), *jazz drummer and percussionist*
- 1991 Rose L. Augustine, *philanthropist*
- 1992 John Corigliano ('63), *composer*
- 1993 Harold Prince, *stage director; choreographer*
Pinchas Zukerman, *violinist; violist; conductor*
- 1994 Gordon K. Greenfield, *philanthropist; MSM Trustee*
Kurt Masur, *Music Director, New York Philharmonic; Kapellmeister, Gewandhausorchester Leipzig*
- 1995 Wynton Marsalis, *jazz musician; Artistic Director, Jazz at Lincoln Center*
Susan Wadsworth, *founder, Young Concert Artists*
- 1996 John Lewis (BM '52, MM '53), *jazz pianist; composer; co-founder, Modern Jazz Quartet*
Julius Rudel, *conductor*
- 1997 Mstislav Rostropovich, *cellist; conductor* (via videoconference from France)
Clark Terry, *jazz trumpeter*
- 1998 Ron Carter (MM '61), *jazz bassist*
Dawn Upshaw (MM '85), *soprano*
- 1999 Dianne Danese Flagello (BM '52, MM '52), *long-time Director of Preparatory Division*
Martin E. Segal, *executive; philanthropist; former Chair, Lincoln Center*
- 2000 Ned Rorem, *composer*
- 2001 Adele Addison, *long-time MSM Voice faculty member*
Evgeny Kissin, *pianist*
- 2002 Dolora Zajick (MM '83), *mezzo-soprano*
- 2003 Jon Faddis, *jazz trumpeter*
Paul Gemignani, *Broadway conductor, musical director*
- 2004 Sidney Harth, *violinist; conductor*
Constance Keene, *long-time MSM Piano faculty member*
- 2005 Claude Frank, *pianist*
Marta Istomin, *former MSM president*
- 2006 Marilyn Horne, *mezzo-soprano*
Robert Mann, *violinist; teacher; co-founder, Juilliard String Quartet*
- 2007 Dave Brubeck, *jazz pianist; composer*
David Rahm, *retiring Chair, MSM Board of Trustees*
- 2008 Susan Graham (MM '87), *mezzo-soprano*
Billy Joel, *pianist; composer*
Pete Seeger, *singer-songwriter; activist*

- 2009 JoAnn Falletta, *conductor, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra*
Thomas Hampson, *baritone*
Alex Ross, *writer; music critic*
- 2010 Alan M. Ades, *philanthropist; MSM Trustee*
Anton Coppola (BM '64, MM '65), *conductor; composer*
Angela Lansbury, *singer; actress*
- 2011 William Miller, *philanthropist; MSM Trustee*
Jessye Norman, *soprano*
- 2012 Alec Baldwin, *actor; arts advocate*
Lang Lang, *pianist*
- 2013 Dave Grusin ('59), *jazz pianist; composer*
Menahem Pressler, *pianist*
Larry Rosen (BM '61), *jazz arts executive*
Leonard Slatkin, *Music Director, Detroit Symphony Orchestra; Music Director, Orchestre National de Lyon*
- 2014 Joan Taub Ades, *philanthropist*
Shuler Hensley (BM '90), *actor; singer*
Peter Robbins, *philanthropist; Chair, MSM Board of Trustees*
Matthew VanBesien, *Executive Director, New York Philharmonic*
- 2015 Yefim Bronfman, *pianist*
Howard Herring ('78), *President and CEO, New World Symphony*
Bebe Neuwirth, *actress; singer*
Limor Tomer, *music impresario; General Manager of Concerts and Lectures, Metropolitan Museum*
- 2016 F. Paul Driscoll, *Editor in Chief, Opera News*
Kelly Hall-Tompkins (MM '95), *violinist*
Eric Owens, *bass-baritone*
- 2017 Terence Blanchard, *jazz trumpeter; composer*
Richard Gaddes, *founder, Opera Theatre of Saint Louis; former General Director, Santa Fe Opera*
Michael F. Neidorff, *philanthropist; business leader*
Noémi Karpati Neidorff (BM '70, MM '72), *philanthropist; MSM Trustee*
- 2018 Paquito D'Rivera, *saxophonist; clarinetist; composer*
Plácido Domingo, *opera singer; conductor; General Director, Los Angeles Opera*
Bernard Labadie, *Principal Conductor, Orchestra of St. Luke's*
Robert McDonald (DMA '90), *pianist; educator*
Luis Perez, *founder and former Director, MSM Musical Theatre Program*
- 2019 Peter Gelb, *General Manager, Metropolitan Opera*
Jane Glover, *conductor; educator; author*
Adolphus Hailstork (BM '65, MM '66), *composer; educator*
Barry Harris, *jazz composer; pianist; educator*
- 2020 Martina Arroyo, *soprano, Metropolitan Opera*
Deborah Borda, *President and Chief Executive Officer, New York Philharmonic*
Carla Bossi-Comelli, *arts philanthropist; MSM Trustee; Chair, International Advisory Board*
Terri Lyne Carrington, *jazz artist; founder and Artistic Director, Berklee College of Music Center for Jazz and Gender Justice*
Kelli O'Hara, *Broadway actress; singer*
Susan Stroman, *choreographer; stage director*
- 2021 Anthony Davis, *Pultizer Prize-winning composer*
Kirill Gerstein (BM '99, MM '00), *pianist*
Rupert Holmes ('67), *Tony Award-winning composer*
Isabel Leonard (PC '98), *mezzo-soprano, Metropolitan Opera*
Wayne Shorter, *Grammy Award-winning jazz saxophonist and composer*

- Yoonshin Song (PS '09, AD '10), *concertmaster, Houston Symphony*
 Hao Jiang Tian, *bass, Metropolitan Opera*
- 2022 Anthony Roth Costanzo (MM '08), *countertenor; MSM Trustee*
 Graciela Daniele, *choreographer; stage director*
 Hyung-ki Joo (BM '93, MM '99), *pianist*
- 2023 Wayne S. Brown, *General Director, Detroit Opera*
 Marcia Clay Hamilton, *philanthropist; MSM Trustee*
 Herbie Hancock ('62), *jazz pianist; composer*
 Edward Lowenthal, *philanthropist; MSM Trustee*
 Bing Wang (MM '91), *Associate Concertmaster, Los Angeles Philharmonic*
- 2024 Ted Chapin, *former President, Rodgers & Hammerstein
 Organization; Cofounder, Encores! at New York City Center*
 Anne-Marie McDermott (PC '81, '82), *classical pianist*
 Brian Stokes Mitchell, *Broadway performer; actor; singer*
 Linda Oh (MM '08), *jazz bassist*
 Ann Ziff, *Chairman, Metropolitan Opera; philanthropist*
- 2025 Kathleen Kim (BM '98, MM '00), *soprano*
 Matías Tarnopolsky, *President and CEO of the New York Philharmonic*
 Shaina Taub, *Broadway composer and performer*

HONORARY DOCTORATE RECIPIENTS

J’Nai Bridges (BM ’09), Commencement Speaker

Three-time Grammy Award-winning American mezzo-soprano J’Nai Bridges (BM ’09) is an alumna of Manhattan School of Music where she studied with Joan Patenaude-Yarnell. Praised for her rich expressive voice and commanding stage presence, she has performed on the world’s leading operatic and concert stages, including Arena di Verona, Carnegie Hall, Houston Grand Opera, and The Metropolitan Opera.

A native of Tacoma, Washington, J’Nai earned a Bachelor of Music at MSM and a Master of Music at the Curtis Institute of Music. She further honed her craft through a three-year residency at the Ryan Opera Center at the Lyric Opera of Chicago, which served as a springboard for her now-celebrated international career as a mezzo-soprano.

J’Nai made her Met Opera debut as Queen Nefertiti in the 2019–20 production of Philip Glass’s *Akhnaten*. In the 2025–26 season, she performed Maddalena in *Rigoletto* at the Metropolitan Opera and made her house debut in the title role of *Carmen* at Teatro Real in Madrid, reprising the role at Seattle Opera and Cincinnati Opera. She returned to Washington National Opera as Elizabeth Proctor in *The Crucible*. Her upcoming engagements include *Carmen* with Seattle Opera and Cincinnati Opera, *Rigoletto* with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, and an opening night appearance with the Philadelphia Orchestra at Marian Anderson Hall, as well as Berlioz’s *Roméo et Juliette* with the Seattle Symphony and *Diamond Jubilee: 60 Years at Lincoln Center* at the Met Opera.

Ms. Bridges has emerged as a leading figure in classical music’s shift toward conversations of inclusion and racial justice in the performing arts. In 2022 she was announced as one of the Kennedy Center’s NEXT50 cultural leaders, and appeared with The National Philharmonic in the world premiere of MSM alumnus Adolphus Hailstork’s *A Knee on the Neck* that same year. Ms. Bridges led a highly successful panel on race and inequality in opera with the Los Angeles Opera that drew international acclaim for being a “conversation of striking scope and candor” (*The New York Times*). Ms. Bridges was also featured in the Converse shoe brand’s All Stars Campaign for its Breaking Down Barriers collection, and performed with the Los Angeles Philharmonic under the baton of Gustavo Dudamel for two episodes of the digital SOUND/STAGE series. She was also a part of the Global Citizen movement’s Global Goal campaign, a program which also included Coldplay, Shakira, Usher, and more, and was featured as a “DVF” Woman, a campaign started by clothing designer Diane Von Furstenberg recognizing leading women who also love fashion.

Ms. Bridges is a recipient of the prestigious 2018 Sphinx Medal of Excellence Award, a 2016 Richard Tucker Career Grant, first prize winner at the 2016 Francisco Viñas International Competition, first prize winner at the 2015 Gerda Lissner Competition, a recipient of the 2013 Sullivan Foundation Award, a 2012 Marian Anderson award winner, the recipient of the 2011 Sara Tucker Study Grant, the recipient of the 2009 Richard F. Gold Grant from The Shoshana Foundation, and the winner of the 2008 Leontyne Price Foundation Competition.

Remarks

It is a profound honor to be recognized by Manhattan School of Music as one of the recipients of an honorary doctorate in 2026. Receiving this distinction from the institution that so deeply shaped my artistry and personal journey is both humbling and

emotional. MSM saw potential in me long before I fully understood the scope of what my future could hold, and for that belief, I will be forever grateful.

When I moved across the country from Washington State to New York City at just 18 years old, I stepped into an entirely new world. It was an exciting transition but also an overwhelming one. I arrived with dreams, determination, and a love for music, yet it was Manhattan School of Music that nurtured those gifts and helped transform them into a foundation for a lifelong career. The faculty, mentors, and peers I encountered there challenged me to grow not only as a vocalist but as a musician, collaborator, and person.

The education and experiences I gained at MSM prepared me for the global stages I would one day stand upon. The confidence instilled in me during my years there became essential throughout my journey as an international Grammy Award-winning opera singer. Beyond technique and artistry, MSM taught me discipline, resilience, curiosity, and the importance of authenticity in storytelling through music. The lessons I learned within those halls continue to guide me every time I walk onto a stage.

Equally meaningful are the lifelong friendships and bonds that were formed during my time at the school. MSM became more than a conservatory; it became family. The community fostered an environment where young artists could dream boldly while supporting one another through every challenge and triumph. Those relationships remain among the greatest gifts of my education.

To now be cemented within the legacy of this extraordinary institution is something I hold with deep gratitude and pride. I share this honor with every teacher, mentor, classmate, family member, and supporter who believed in me along the way. Manhattan School of Music helped shape the woman and artist I am today, and I will always carry its spirit with me.

Jane Chu

Jane Chu combines her academic research and professional practice in the arts, philanthropy, and business administration. In 2014, she was appointed to serve as the eleventh chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts, completing her term in June 2018.

During Ms. Chu's four-year tenure at the National Endowment for the Arts, she traveled to 50 US states and four countries; 200 communities; and made more than 400 site visits to meet with artists and arts leaders, government and civic leaders, philanthropists, and the general public. The NEA awarded \$430 million over those four years to support the arts in 16,000 communities across 50 states, US jurisdictions, and every Congressional District. In 2016, the NEA was ranked number one in the Best Places to Work in the Federal Government for small agencies.

Jane Chu straddles multiple cultures, having been born in Shawnee, Oklahoma, and raised in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, the daughter of Chinese immigrants. She received bachelor's degrees in piano performance and music education from Ouachita Baptist University, as well as a master's degree in piano pedagogy from Southern Methodist University. Additionally, Ms. Chu holds an associate degree in visual arts from Nebraska Wesleyan University, an MBA from Rockhurst University, a Ph.D. in philanthropic studies from Indiana University, and six honorary doctorate degrees.

A practicing visual artist and writer, Ms. Chu lives in New York. Her artwork can be found at <https://janechuart.com>

Remarks

It is a profound honor to receive an Honorary Doctorate from Manhattan School of Music, and I want to thank President Gandre and the trustees, leadership, faculty, and students for giving this degree true meaning. Decades ago, as a music major in Arkansas, I would hear from many about Manhattan School of Music's stellar reputation, a name spoken with genuine admiration. Thank you for your tireless commitment to ensuring that Manhattan School of Music prepares students not only for excellence, but to become purposeful contributors to the arts and society wherever they venture. You have achieved this through your teaching, programs, your own remarkable accomplishments, and especially your rare gift for inspiring and empowering others to reach their fullest potential.

Misty Copeland

Misty Copeland is a former principal dancer with American Ballet Theatre who made history in 2015 as the first Black woman promoted to that role in the company's 75-year history. After a 25-year career with ABT, she officially retired from the company in 2025.

She is a *New York Times* bestselling author and founder of the Misty Copeland Foundation, which focuses on advancing diversity and inclusion in dance. Through the Foundation's signature BE BOLD program, Manhattan School of Music students play an integral role as one of three teaching artists in each introductory ballet class for children ages 5–12, supporting a model that keeps ballet free, accessible, and fun for communities in the Bronx and Harlem. Ms. Copeland also runs Life in Motion Productions, producing acclaimed short films including *Flower*, which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival, and *Match in a Haystack*. She has been recognized as one of *Time* magazine's 100 Most Influential People and *Glamour*'s Women of the Year.

Remarks

Thank you to President Gandre, the Board of Trustees, the faculty, and the entire Manhattan School of Music community for this incredible honor. Receiving this honorary doctorate from an institution that has shaped so many artists means so much to me.

And to the graduating class, congratulations. What you've done to get here isn't always visible. It lives in the hours alone, in repetition, in pushing through doubt, and in choosing to come back to the work again and again.

When I first found ballet, it felt like freedom right away. It was a space where I could express myself without having all the words, where I felt seen, and where I could imagine something bigger for my life. What I came to understand over time is that the discipline, the daily practice, the structure, and the consistency were what allowed that feeling of freedom to grow and stay with me.

There will be moments when your path feels unclear or when progress feels slow—that's part of it. Growth doesn't happen in straight lines. What matters is that you stay with it.

And hold onto each other. The people beside you today may become your collaborators and your support system for years to come. This work is hard to sustain alone.

Thank you again to Manhattan School of Music for this recognition. And to the graduates, I hope you carry forward not just your talent, but the discipline that will continue to open doors for you.

Congratulations.

Donna McKechnie

Donna McKechnie, who was inducted into the American Theatre Hall of Fame in 2019, was last seen on Broadway playing the role of Madame Morrible in *Wicked* in 2024. Ms. McKechnie received a Tony Award for her performance as Cassie in *A Chorus Line*.

She is regarded internationally as one of Broadway's foremost singing and dancing leading ladies, having starred in and choreographed productions in London's West End as well as major productions in Paris and Tokyo.

Some of her Broadway credits include *How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying*, *The Education of Hyman Kaplan*, *Sondheim: A Musical Tribute* (as both performer and choreographer), *Promises, Promises*, *Company*, *On the Town*, *State Fair* (Fred Astaire Award Winner), and *The Visit*.

Donna has starred in regional plays and musicals, symphony concerts, and television specials, as well as TV series such as *Fame*, *Cheers*, and *Dark Shadows*. Film credits include playing the Rose in *The Little Prince* and *Every Little Step*.

Her memoir, *Time Steps—My Musical Comedy Life*, was published by Simon & Schuster.

Remarks

I wish to thank Manhattan School of Music for this special acknowledgement and great honor.

I have always held Manhattan School of Music and its teaching staff in high regard, and my admiration has grown with each musical performance I have attended.

Thanks to my friend, David Loud, I was invited, on occasion, to speak with his students. Their passion, dedication, and talent were clearly evident, and I came away with a true sense of hope for the future—for all of us. The performing arts are essential to all of our lives and are needed more now than at any other time that I can remember.

In 1961, I was hired as a dancer to perform in my first Broadway show, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. I was a ballet-trained dancer newly arrived from the suburbs of Detroit. This was my first time to be in the "room where it happens," and I was swept away by the nature of "putting it together." To see this collaboration of telling a story with text, music, and dance had a powerful effect on me, and I fell in love. It was very early in rehearsals that I had a sort of epiphany that would change the direction of my life.

I thought...if I save my money to study and learn how to act and sing, perhaps I can have a career in the theatre longer than a dancer's life. That's when I became a professional student—and I haven't stopped working, and I haven't stopped studying.

When students or young professionals ask me for advice about how to handle the struggles that one goes through in a career in the arts, I usually return to a fundamental idea and tell them to never give up. It can be a very insecure life as well as a very gratifying one; however, it is daunting at times to face rejection on a daily basis. I have come to know that this will never change. That's when we delve into the work and find confidence through finding our true and unique voice. The art is in the effort, I believe, and one can create the demand with their commitment to keep improving. There can be so much to say about this. I try to encourage students not to be afraid to ask for help.

I will leave you with the story of how Bob Fosse passed on his views to his company of actors in what would become his last production, the National tour of *Sweet Charity*. He sat us down and said, more like a father than a director, "Save your money! When you have a conflict, simply ask yourself, 'What is the important thing here?' When you get up in the morning, ask yourself how you can become a better person as well as a better artist. Do not compete with anyone, only yourself. Identify your weak areas as well as your strengths and then go to work." I will never forget the loving way he shared his wisdom with us in trying to help us move forward in our lives. I return to the adage, if you love what you do, never give up. Keep learning, keep growing, and keep sharing. Never doubt that what you do as performing artists has great value and importance in this world.

Jason Moran (BM '97)

Houston-born pianist, composer, educator, and visual artist Jason Moran earned a bachelor's degree from Manhattan School of Music, where he studied with Jaki Byard. Moran has recorded 20 critically acclaimed solo recordings for Blue Note Records and his label Yes Records. He was named a MacArthur Fellow in 2010 and was recently inducted into the Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has composed scores for Alonzo King's Lines Ballet, Ronald K. Brown's Evidence Dance Company, and the Martha Graham Dance Company. He has collaborated with artists Joan Jonas, Kara Walker, Adrian Piper, Lorna Simpson, Julie Mehretu, and Glenn Ligon.

He has had solo art exhibitions at the Whitney Museum, MCA Denver, the Walker Art Museum, and Mass Moca. He scored the films *Selma* and *13th* by Ava DuVernay and is currently working on her latest film about the 14th Amendment. He and his wife, Alicia Hall Moran, were named artists in the Whitney Biennial, the Venice Biennale, and created the touring concert *Two Wings: The Music of Black America in Migration* for Carnegie Hall.

Working broadly, Moran aims for the intersections between music and the world. This has led to collaborations with an array of people, including novelists Haruki Murakami, skateboarder Mark Gonzales, poet Elizabeth Alexander, fashion brand sacai, and others. He was the Artistic Director for Jazz at The Kennedy Center from 2011-2025 and currently curates the Artist Studio series at the Park Avenue Armory. As a curator, Moran created the permanent exhibition *Here to Stay* for the newly opened Louis Armstrong Museum in Queens and co-curated the exhibition *I've Seen the Wall: Louis Armstrong on Tour in the GDR 1965* at DAS MINSK Kunsthau in Potsdam. He currently teaches at the New England Conservatory.

Remarks

I congratulate all of you on your next steps. To stand in your love of music is a bold stance. And like any stance, every once in a while, you'll want to check your form. Take the moment to reflect on where you are and how you got there. Maybe you revisit a practice session you posted on Instagram, or listen to an old jam session you have in your voice memos, or watch your Manhattan School of Music acceptance video. In between all of these moments is your life as an artist.

MSM was such an important step in my life. Any ideas I arrived with from Houston in 1993 were amplified by my teacher, Jaki Byard. Four years with Byard on the 6th floor overlooking Sakura Park were life-changing. He confirmed that history should be considered thoroughly. Most importantly, I should go make history. It may seem like a grand gesture, but it is a personal matter. Make music that can hold your story.

The family I made at MSM was crucial. During my sophomore year, I was uncertain if I should continue with music. America puts countless hurdles in the artist's path, and I had doubts about whether I could sustain a life as a musician. It was my friends who urged me to continue. I thank them, as I would not be here without them. In my junior year, I met soprano Alicia Hall Moran here. We built our world with music. We would improvise together at two pianos, go see concerts by Milton Babbitt, perform with the Black Student Union, have lessons at Harlem School of the Arts with Betty Allen, and fall in love while listening to this incredible city. We live in this neighborhood, raised our children here, and cherish our time as artists in New York.

We make worlds with music. The world is yours.

RECIPIENTS OF THE PRESIDENT'S MEDAL FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

Susan Botti (MM '90)

Composer/performer Susan Botti's "striking, emotional music" (*Opera Magazine*) encompasses traditional, improvisational, and non-classical composition and singing styles, with theater and the visual arts playing a formative role in the practice and aesthetic of her work. Ms. Botti is the recipient of numerous awards, including: a Guggenheim Fellowship, The Rome Prize, and the Goddard Lieberon Fellowship from the American Academy of Arts and Letters; grants and commissions from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Aaron Copland Fund, the Fromm Foundation, the Foundation for Contemporary Performance Arts, Chamber Music America, NY Foundation for the Arts, NY State Council on the Arts, and ASCAP. She was the third Daniel R. Lewis Young Composer Fellow with the Cleveland Orchestra. In many cases, she is the vocal soloist as well as composer of her works. Ms. Botti's commissions include *EchoTempo* for Soprano, Percussion & Orchestra from the New York Philharmonic (Kurt Masur, conductor/Botti and Christopher Lamb, soloists), and *Within Darkness* from the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra (Martha Caplin, violin soloist).

In addition to performing her own vocal works, Botti specializes in the performance of contemporary music of diverse styles. She has worked directly with many composers and continues to commission new works for her voice and violin duo, Duo della Luna (with violinist Airi Yoshioka). For over a decade, composer/conductor Tan Dun created major works highlighting her vocal and theatrical talents, including the role of "Water" in his opera, *Marco Polo* (recorded on Sony Classical), and the vocal solo in his multimedia work for soprano and orchestra, *Orchestral Theatre III: Red Forecast*—both of which she performed worldwide, including at New York City Opera and Carnegie Hall.

Susan Botti is a member of the Composition Faculty at Manhattan School of Music.

Lorraine Gallard (PC '66)

Lorraine Gallard (PC '66), an alumna of Manhattan School of Music's acclaimed Precollege division, joined the School's Board of Trustees in 2009 and was elected Chair in 2014. A steadfast and deeply dedicated champion of music education, over the past 12 years, she has guided the School with creative, thoughtful, warm, and judicious leadership.

Lorraine co-chaired the search committee which brought James Gandre back to MSM in 2013 to serve as the School's ninth President. As Lorraine has often said: "The success of my tenure as chair is irrevocably connected to the wonderful partnership forged between Jim and me. Jim arrived with visionary ideas of what we could accomplish, and I have had the pleasure of helping them be realized, which is a measure of the commitment and determination of all of us: trustees, administration, and faculty."

Lorraine studied voice at Eastman School of Music and continued post-college privately with the renowned Marlena Malas (late MSM faculty), Renata Babak, principal singer with the Bolshoi Opera, and MSM's Andrea Green. She has released two cabaret recordings with music director David Loud and has given five concerts in the Park Avenue Armory's Board of Officers Room, most recently in November 2025, accompanied by Shane Schag (PS '02). Lorraine holds a B.A. in French Literature from the University of Rochester, an M.A. in

Language and Communications from New York University, and a Diplôme approfondi de langue française from the French Ministry of Education. She has also earned the Chartered Financial Analyst designation and is a CPA. Lorraine is President and CEO of Bonness Enterprises, an investment advisory firm which she joined in 1985.

MSM is honored to salute Lorraine Gallard for her extraordinary 12 years of dedicated service as Board Chair. The School is deeply grateful for her visionary leadership which has enabled this institution to achieve new levels of distinction and success.

Duncan Patton

Duncan Patton was a Principal Timpanist of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra for 33 years. With the Met, he performed at Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall in New York, as well as on tour in the U.S, Europe, and Japan. He was heard countless times on live HD movie performances, *Live from Lincoln Center* television programs, broadcast and satellite radio, as well as CD recordings on major labels. He has appeared as a guest timpanist with the New York Philharmonic and the Chicago Symphony; and performed chamber music with the Met Chamber Ensemble, the Percussionists of the Met Opera, the Metropolitan Opera Brass, Canadian Brass, Empire Brass, and pianists Kirill Gerstein (BM '99, MM '00, HonDMA '21) and Ingrid Fliter.

As an educator, Mr. Patton has been the primary timpani instructor at Manhattan School of Music since 1989. Many of his students have gone on to careers with major orchestras in North America, as well as Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. He is the author of the acclaimed technique and etude book *The Artist Timpanist*, and has also published solo pieces and collections. He has presented master classes at universities around the world, and at percussion events including the Percussive Arts Society International Convention. His articles on timpani performance have been published in *Percussive Notes* magazine.

He is also a composer, having written numerous works for chamber ensembles, and voice, in addition to pieces for timpani and percussion. His work is published by Bachovich Music Publications.

Prior to joining the Met, Mr. Patton served as Principal Timpanist of the Honolulu Symphony and for two summers with the National Repertory Orchestra in Colorado.

A native of the Albany, New York, area, he is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music.

Felix Rodriguez

Felix Rodriguez has dedicated more than three decades of service to the MSM Community. He began his career in 1993 working in the school cafeteria, where he quickly became known for his strong work ethic, reliability, and commitment to supporting students and staff.

Following the transition of cafeteria operations to Chartwells, Felix advanced into a supervisory role, taking on additional leadership responsibilities and helping oversee daily operations. His ability to lead teams and maintain a positive working environment earned him continued respect throughout the organization.

In 2007, Felix transitioned into the Facilities Department at MSM, where he continued to contribute his experience, professionalism, and dedication to the School. Throughout his career, he has demonstrated loyalty, adaptability, and a consistent commitment to serving the institution and the people within it.

With over 30 years of service, Felix Rodriguez remains a valued member of the MSM Community and an example of long-term dedication and hard work.

Manly Romero

Manly Romero's career in performance librarianship began in 1988 when, at age 22, he was hired by the award-winning San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra as its first orchestra librarian. He has since held positions with orchestras and festivals across the United States. He is currently librarian for MSM and The New York Pops.

In his work supporting orchestral performances in New York and around the world, he has collaborated with a wide range of artists across genres. Among those he counts most memorable are Kurt Masur, Michael Tilson Thomas, Renée Fleming, Midori, Bobby Sanabria, Jim McNeely, Sutton Foster, and Stephen Schwartz, along with many esteemed conductors, faculty, and guest artists at MSM. He has served on the board of MOLA, the international organization of music performance librarians, and is a moderator for the College & Conservatory Performance Librarians' Group.

As a professional music engraver, he has received two Paul Revere Awards for Graphic Excellence from the Music Publishers' Association. He has prepared scores and parts for major publishing houses and performing organizations, including Boosey & Hawkes and The Metropolitan Opera. He currently serves as Editor for American Composers Orchestra's publishing arm, where he works with early-career composers on best practices in music notation and layout.

He holds master's and doctoral degrees in composition from the University of Michigan. He was awarded the Helen F. Whitaker Commission, leading to the Carnegie Hall premiere of his symphony, *Blanco, Azul, Rojo*. The processional for today's ceremony began with the premiere performance of a new version of his *Energy Transfer* commencement fanfare.

IN MEMORIAM

Arkady Aronov (1929–2025)
Piano Faculty

Thomas Grubb (MM '66) (1940–2025)
Collaborative Piano Faculty

Michael Harrison (1958–2026)
Composition Faculty

Rhoda Levine (1932–2026)
Opera Faculty

Barbara McCrane (1964–2025)
Alexander Technique

Jim McNeely (1949–2025)
Jazz Arts Faculty

Francis Patrelle (1947–2025)
Related Voice Studies Faculty

Karen Ritscher (1952–2025)
Viola Faculty

STUDENT SPEAKER

Owne Xayboury (BM '26)

Owne Xayboury is a Hmong-American violist graduating with his Bachelor's in Viola Performance under the tutelage of Cong Wu. He began playing viola in 2018, and since then, he's been grateful for a number of opportunities that have shaped his path, including winning the New York Young Virtuoso Music Competition, which led to a performance at Carnegie Hall, as well as first prize in the Walter A. and Dorothy J. Oestreich Concerto Competition. Owne has been supported by the Ruggeri Scholarship for Young Violists and received the Wilshire Quinn Musical Arts Scholarship. Owne was also the 2025-26 recipient of both the Frank and Lydia Bergen Classical Music Scholarship and the Lado Scholarship.

Along the way, he's had the chance to be part of projects with NPR Music and Grammy Award-winning artist Common, and to attend prestigious summer institutions such as Kneisel Hall. Being the first Hmong student at Manhattan School of Music has been particularly meaningful to him, and he is deeply passionate about fostering accessibility in Classical music for those from underrepresented backgrounds. Outside of music, Owne likes hiking, trying new foods, and just exploring new places and experiences.

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

Trey Stricklin

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

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.

Helen Cohn Award

Serena Hsu

These awards, created by friends of Mrs. Cohn, honor her memory and her devotion to the piano. The awards are given to 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 Airoll-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

Abhyun 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.

This award recognizes a student who has achieved a high level of musical and academic excellence, demonstrated leadership and impact, and has advanced the values of equity and inclusion.

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.

Segovia Award/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 students graduating from MSM's Graduate Program in Voice who possess 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.

2026 CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF MUSICAL ARTS

Giuseppe Buscemi, *guitar*

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

Advisor: Reiko Fütting; Second Reader: Mark Delpriora

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

Christa Marie Dalmazio, *soprano*

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

Advisor: Dr. J. Mark Stambaugh; Second Reader: Dr. Timothy McDonnell

Colts Neck, New Jersey

MM Manhattan School of Music

BM Manhattan School of Music

Serena Hsu, *viola*

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

Advisor: James Massol

Dublin, Ohio

MMA Yale University

MM The Juilliard School

BM Conservatoire de Paris

BM Cleveland Institute of Music

Laura del Sol Jiménez, *flute*

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

Advisor: Linda Chesis

Calarcá, Colombia

MM Manhattan School of Music

BM Pontificia Universidad Javeriana

William Bixby Kennedy III, *clarinet*

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

Advisor: David MacDonald

Maryville, Tennessee

MM Yale School of Music

BM Indiana University

Charlotte Merz, *mezzo-soprano*

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

Advisor: Nils Neubert; Second Reader: Dr. Carleen Graham

Sydney, Australia

GD Sydney Conservatorium of Music

MM Manhattan School of Music

BM Sydney Conservatorium of Music

Trey Stricklin, *composition*

Historical Absence: Luigi Nono in America

Advisor: Reiko Fütting; Second Reader: Ashkan Behzadi

Dallas, Texas

MM Manhattan School of Music

BM Southern Methodist University

Shiyu Tan, *vocal accompanying*

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

Advisor: Nils Neubert

Hunan, China

MM Manhattan School of Music

BM Shanghai Conservatory of Music

Karen Tay, *harp*

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

Composers

Advisor: Peter Andreacchi; Second Reader: Lisa Yui

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

Advisor: Peter Andreacchi; Second Reader: Margaret Kampmeier

Fuzhou, China

MM Manhattan School of Music

BM Manhattan School of Music

2026 CANDIDATE FOR THE ARTIST DIPLOMA

Classical

Chase Park, *cello*
Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey
MM The Juilliard School
BM Curtis Institute of Music

2026 CANDIDATES FOR THE PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCE DIPLOMA

Classical – Instrumental

Yung-Yi Chen, *piano*

Taipei, Taiwan

MM Mannes School of Music,

The New School

BM Mannes School of Music,

The New School

Gaston Frydman, *piano*

La Plata, Argentina

AD OAcademy Music Conservatory

AD OAcademy Music Conservatory

MM Cleveland Institute of Music

BM Cleveland Institute of Music

Han-Yi Huang, *bassoon*

Changhua City, Taiwan

MM Bard College

BM New England Conservatory

Yuyu Ikeda, *violin*

Chiba, Japan

MM The Juilliard School

BA Oberlin Conservatory of Music

Hannah Kim, *cello*

Palo Alto, California

MM Royal Academy of Music

BM The Juilliard School

Muriel Oberhofer, *violin*

Schaffhausen, Switzerland

MA Royal Academy of Music

BM Royal Academy of Music

Julie Jiwoo Park, *flute*

Seoul, South Korea

MM Manhattan School of Music

BM Boston Conservatory at Berklee

Vladimir Petrov, *piano*

San Luis Potosí, Mexico

MM Tchaikovsky Moscow State Conservatory

MM Hochschule für Musik Franz Liszt

Hannah Rosen, *piano*

Dallas, Texas

MM Mannes School of Music,

The New School

BM Eastman School of Music

Diana Skobina, *piano*

Tashkent, Uzbekistan

MM Lynn Conservatory of Music

MM The State Conservatory of Uzbekistan

BM The State Conservatory of Uzbekistan

Kyle Victor, *cello*

Houston, Texas

MM Eastman School of Music

BM Peabody Institute of the

Johns Hopkins University

Qing Zhao, *piano*

Beijing, China

MM Manhattan School of Music

BM Eastman School of Music

Vocal Arts

Wonjin Choi, *tenor*

Seoul, South Korea

MM Texas Christian University

BM Korea National University of Arts

Yiqian Heng, *mezzo-soprano*

Anhui, China

MM Xinghai Conservatory

BM Wuhan Conservatory of Music

Brian Linares, *bass*

Sherman, Texas

MM Manhattan School of Music

BM Austin College

Su Hyeon Park, *soprano*

Jeonju, South Korea

MM University of Cincinnati College-

Conservatory of Music

BM Sejong University

Sung Hyun Park, *tenor*
Seoul, South Korea
MM Manhattan School of Music
BM Korea National University of Arts

Collaborative Piano

Hong Ziyi, *vocal accompanying*
Zhejiang, China
MM Manhattan School of Music
BM Shanghai Conservatory of Music

Yuejiamin Ying, *instrumental accompanying*
Hangzhou, China
MM Manhattan School of Music
MM Mannes School of Music,
The New School
BM Mannes School of Music,
The New School

Orchestral Performance

Hajung Cho, *violin*
Seoul, South Korea
MM The Juilliard School
BM Manhattan School of Music

Chase Miller Domke, *trumpet*
Dallas, Texas
MM Michigan State University
BM Peabody Institute of the
Johns Hopkins University

Kyungmin Gammi Eom, *flute*
Busan, South Korea
MM The Juilliard School
BM Inje University

Minseo Kim, *flute*
Daejeon, South Korea
MM University of Michigan
BM Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music

Jielin Lei, *double bass*
Xiamen, China
MM Manhattan School of Music
BM Shanghai Conservatory of Music

2026 CANDIDATES FOR THE PROFESSIONAL STUDIES CERTIFICATE

Classical – Instrumental

Eunkyeong Chun, *cello*
Cheonan, South Korea
BM CUNY Queens College
BM Mahanaim Institution

Miles Goosby, *cello*
Memphis, Tennessee
MM The Juilliard School
BM Manhattan School of Music

Ruben Høgh, *piano*
Aarhus, Denmark
MM Manhattan School of Music
MM The Royal Danish Academy of Music
BM The Royal Danish Academy of Music

Yingcun Jin, *clarinet*
Xi'an, China
MM The Juilliard School
BM The Juilliard School

Seonju Kim, *piano*
Busan, South Korea
MM Manhattan School of Music
BM Sookmyung Women's University

Gayeon Lee, *violin*
Seoul, South Korea
MM Manhattan School of Music
MM Hochschule für Musik Theater
und Media Hannover
BM Hochschule für Musik Theater
und Media Hannover

Alessio Masi, *piano*
Palermo, Italy
MM Florence, Conservatorio "L. Cherubini"
BM Palermo, Conservatorio "A. Scarlatti"

Hyewon Nam, *viola*
Seoul, South Korea
MA Sookmyung Women's University
BM Sookmyung Women's University

Eric Vasquez, *cello*
Reno, Nevada
MM Eastman School of Music
BM University of Colorado

Collaborative Piano

Jiyeon Kim, *vocal accompanying*
Seoul, South Korea
MM Manhattan School of Music
BM Sookhyung Women's University

Dohee Yoon, *instrumental accompanying*
Seoul, South Korea
MM Manhattan School of Music
BM Hanyang University

Vocal Arts

Juan Angel Johnston-Chavez, *baritone*
San Jose, California
MM Manhattan School of Music
BM San José State University

Irene Hyun Young Shin, *soprano*
Seoul, South Korea
MM Manhattan School of Music
BM Manhattan School of Music

Orchestral Performance

Ion Caval, *clarinet*
Bucharest, Romania
AD The Juilliard School
MM The Juilliard School
BM Royal College of Music

Chaoyang Jing, *bassoon*
Taiyuan, China
MM Manhattan School of Music
BM New England Conservatory

Sarah Rathbun, *tenor trombone*
Auckland, New Zealand
MM Manhattan School of Music
BM New Zealand School of Music

Classical – Conducting

Timothy Morrow, *orchestral conducting*
Basking Ridge, New Jersey
MM Bard College
BM Westminster Choir College

Classical – Composition

Shrish A. Jawadiwar, *composition*
Kendall Park, New Jersey
MM Temple University
BA The College of New Jersey

Stephen Tamas, *composition*
Pleasanton, California
MM Manhattan School of Music
BM Boston Conservatory at Berklee

Philip Tappan, *composition*
Saratoga Springs, New York
EMBA Quantic School of Business
and Technology
MM SUNY Fredonia
BA Messiah University
BM SUNY Fredonia

2026 CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF MUSIC

Classical – Instrumental

Adeline Baban, *violin*

McLean, Virginia

BM Mannes School of Music,

The New School

Sarah Bell, *french horn*

Winnipeg, Canada

BM The Glenn Gould School,

The Royal Conservatory

Yiyun Cao, *viola*

Shanghai, China

BFA Shanghai Conservatory of Music

Lingxuan Cheng, *saxophone*

Xiangtan, China

BFA Sichuan Conservatory of Music

Loa Cho, *cello*

Bowling Green, Ohio

BA Columbia University

Eunhye Chun, *violin*

Cheonan, South Korea

BM Seoul Cyber University

BM Mahanaim Institution

Ekaterina Eibozhenko, *viola*

Moscow, Russia

BM Manhattan School of Music

Owen Graham, *cello*

Hopewell, New Jersey

BM Royal Academy of Music

Bryce James Grier, *trumpet*

Vernon Township, New Jersey

BM Montclair State University

Lourd Hadweh, *clarinet*

Bethlehem, Palestine

BM Barenboim–Said Akademie

Benjamin Hambro, *trumpet*

Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey

BM Manhattan School of Music

Alina Raye Hernandez, *violin*

Temecula, California

BM Manhattan School of Music

Risa Hokamura, *violin*

Kodaira, Japan

BM Manhattan School of Music

Nadia Noguchi Azuki Ingalls, *bassoon*

Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada

GD University of Ottawa

BM University of Ottawa

BS University of Ottawa

Seoyoung Jang, *violin*

Jeju Island, South Korea

BM Kyung Hee University

Haotian Jiang, *cello*

Shanghai, China

BM Shanghai Conservatory of Music

Yeonsoo Jung, *violin*

Seoul, South Korea

BM Manhattan School of Music

Yoon Ha Kim, *violin*

Manhasset, New York

BM Indiana University

Yunji Kim, *violin*

Seoul, South Korea

BM Mannes School of Music,

The New School

Chaehwan Lee, *cello*

Gyeonggi-do, South Korea

BM Kyung Hee University

Man Chun Li, *viola*

Hong Kong, China

BM Manhattan School of Music

Siyi Li, *violin*

Beijing, China

BM Central Conservatory of Music

Marina Alba López, *violin*
Madrid, Spain
BM Indiana University

Caitlin Marshall, *violin*
Cheltenham, England
BM Manhattan School of Music

Fumiya Miyata, *tuba*
Osaka, Japan
BM Manhattan School of Music

Olympia Nelson, *viola*
Las Vegas, Nevada
BM New York University

Nicholas Ochoa, *french horn*
Brownsville, Texas
BM Boston Conservatory at Berklee

Matteo Paoli, *tenor trombone*
Livorno, Italy
BM Mannes School of Music,
The New School

Maria Paparoni, *viola*
Mérida, Venezuela
BM Manhattan School of Music

Xinnan Qu, *flute*
Dalian, China
BM Central Conservatory of Music

Wan-Ting Wendy Shieh, *cello*
Taipei, Taiwan
BM Manhattan School of Music

Matthew So, *bassoon*
Toronto, Canada
BM McGill University

Shengbo Tu, *violin*
Shanghai, China
BM Shanghai Conservatory of Music

Maja Uzarska, *violin*
Warsaw, Poland
BM Guildhall School of Music & Drama

Xiaoyang Wan, *trumpet*
Beijing, China
BA Minzu University of China

Huiyang Xie, *violin*
Yinchuan, China
BM Cleveland Institute of Music

Can Xu, *flute*
Nanjing, China
BM Manhattan School of Music

Peiwen Zeng, *cello*
Shanghai, China
BM Zhejiang Conservatory of Music

Han Zhao, *cello*
Hangzhou, China
BA Zhejiang Conservatory of Music

Orchestral Performance

Timothy Grabow, *bass trombone*
Walnut Creek, California
BM Northwestern University

Linya Qiao, *harp*
Beijing, China
BM Minzu University of China

Ashton Sady, *french horn*
Reno, Nevada
BM Peabody Institute of the
Johns Hopkins University

Lauren Elizabeth Seery, *double bass*
Bethpage, New York
BM Manhattan School of Music

Kyuwon Yoo, *viola*
Seoul, South Korea
BM Manhattan School of Music

Kristine Ayvazyan, *piano*
Prague, Czech Republic
BM Academy of Performing Arts in Prague

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Pleasant Grove, Utah
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Taipei, Taiwan
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Nanjing, China
BM University of Toronto

Dayeon Jin, *piano*
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BM Manhattan School of Music

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Chongqing, China
BM Manhattan School of Music

Zhuolin Li, *piano*
Chongqing, China
BM Manhattan School of Music

Nanga Lin, *piano*
Shantou, China
BA Millersville University of Pennsylvania

Wenzhuo Ma, *piano*
Hangzhou, China
BM China Conservatory of Music

Di Mu, *piano*
Qingyang, China
BM China Conservatory of Music

Uyen Nguyen, *piano*
Hanoi, Vietnam
BM Mannes School of Music,
The New School

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Surabaya, Indonesia
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Shaoxing, China
BM Manhattan School of Music

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The New School

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Ürümqi, China
BM China Conservatory of Music

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BM Tainan National University of the Arts

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Hangzhou, China
BM Zhejiang Conservatory of Music

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Chengdu, China
BM Manhattan School of Music

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The Royal Conservatory
BM The Royal Conservatory of Music

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Chengdu, China
MM University of Florida
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Chengdu, China
BM Sichuan Conservatory of Music

Wenhan Yang, *piano*
Zhuzhou, China
BM Manhattan School of Music

Sally Yapto, *piano*
Surabaya, Indonesia
BM Manhattan School of Music

Keer Zhang, *piano*
Shijiazhuang, China
BM Tianjin Conservatory of Music

Yanling Zhang, *piano*
Changde, China
BA China Conservatory of Music

Zhouyiwen Zhang, *piano*
Chengdu, China
BM Sichuan Conservatory of Music

He Zhao, *piano*
Beijing, China
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Contemporary Performance

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Popayán, Colombia
BM Facultad de Artes ASAB,
Universidad Distrital Francisco José de Caldas

Mofan Dai, *french horn*
Beijing, China
MM Boston Conservatory at Berklee

Joe DeAngelo, *violin*
Carlisle, Pennsylvania
BM Roosevelt University

Lauren Galarraga, *tenor trombone*
Virginia Beach, Virginia
BM Boston Conservatory at Berklee

Grace Goss, *percussion*
New York, New York
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Las Vegas, Nevada
BM Roosevelt University

Ariana Varvaro, *oboe*
Lake Worth Beach, Florida
BM University of Miami

Piper Weldon, *soprano*
State College, Pennsylvania
BME The Pennsylvania State University

Composition

Jordan Abramson, *composition*
Toronto, Canada
BM University of Toronto

Jonathan Gold, *composition*
Mountain Lakes, New Jersey
BM Boston Conservatory at Berklee

Chongguang Guan, *composition*
Shanghai, China
BM Manhattan School of Music

Jingyu Jin, *composition*
Wuhan, China
BM Wuhan Conservatory of Music

Noah Johnson, *composition*
Amarillo, Texas
BM West Texas A&M University

Martín La Rotta Natale, *composition*
Bogotá, Colombia
BM Pontificia Universidad Javeriana

Yuval Medina, *composition*
Ramat Hasharon, Israel
BS Duke University

Zeke Morgan, *composition*
Jackson, Mississippi
BA Bard College
BM Bard College Conservatory of Music

Guiomar Ortiz García, *composition*
Madrid, Spain
BM Centro Superior Katarina Gurska

Daniel Powers, *composition*
Manchester, New Hampshire
BM University of Hartford

Cengxing Shi, *composition*
Shanghai, China
BM Manhattan School of Music

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Nanjing, China
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Jazz Arts

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Staten Island, New York
BM Montclair State University

Carter Eng, *trumpet*
Seattle, Washington
BM San Francisco Conservatory of Music

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Fuzhou, China
BM Berklee College of Music

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Navarre, Ohio
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BA The Ohio State University

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BM Nanjing Normal University

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BM Boston University

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BM University of Cincinnati College-
Conservatory of Music

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Sankt-Vith, Belgium
BM Manhattan School of Music

Aria Jo, *soprano*
Seoul, South Korea
BM Chung-Ang University

Jordan Jones, *countertenor*
St. Louis, Missouri
BM University of Southern California

Baylee Kilgore, *soprano*
Houston, Texas
BM University of North Texas

Skyler La Nier, *baritone*
Queens, New York
BM University of Nebraska - Omaha

Conghui Li, *soprano*
Beijing, China
BA Minzu University of China

Siyuan Li, *mezzo-soprano*
Shandong, China
BM China Conservatory of Music

Shengyang Lin, *baritone*
Wenzhou, China
BM Nanjing University of the Arts

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BM China Conservatory of Music

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BM Xi'an Conservatory of Music

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Xinjiang, China
BM Sichuan Conservatory of Music

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Redlands, California
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Long Beach

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Fort Bragg, California
BS Southern Oregon University

Samantha Paredes, *soprano*
Provo, Utah
BA Westminster University

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Busan, South Korea
BM Manhattan School of Music

Si Won Park, *soprano*
Seoul, South Korea
BM Sangmyung University

Eleanor Rees, *soprano*
Huntington, New York
BM Westminster Choir College

Daniela Reyes, *soprano*
Chicago, Illinois
BM Eastman School of Music

Alexandra Roges, *soprano*
Trabuco Canyon, California
BM Boston Conservatory at Berklee

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Bundang, South Korea
BM Ewha Womans University

Mary Katherine Stewart, *soprano*
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BME Belmont University

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BME Central Conservatory of Music

Xuru Wang, *soprano*
Hangzhou, China
BM Shanghai Conservatory of Music

Yilin Wang, *mezzo-soprano*
Beijing, China
BM Central Conservatory of Music

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Seoul, South Korea
BM Myongji University

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Fuzhou, China
BM Xiamen University

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Memphis, Tennessee
BM University of Tennessee, Knoxville

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Beijing, China
BS Zhejiang University
MF Zhejiang University

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Changsha, China
BM Wuhan Conservatory of Music

Collaborative Piano

Sakurako Jayne Abe, *vocal accompanying*
Hakodate, Japan
BM University of Toronto

Chiu In Tsang, *instrumental accompanying*
Hong Kong, China
BM Hong Kong Baptist University

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Taipei, Taiwan

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Beijing, China

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Hsinchu, Taiwan

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Busan, South Korea

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Phoenix, Arizona

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Geneva, Illinois

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Lilburn, Georgia

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Hanoi, Vietnam

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Livermore, California

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Cape Town, South Africa

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St. Petersburg, Russia

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Palo Alto, California

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Shenzhen, China

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Shenzhen, China

Songlin Zhong, *piano*
Guangzhou, China

Ying Zhou, *piano*
Jiangmen, China

Composition

Álvaro Amat Góngora, *composition*
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Princeton, New Jersey

Marco Catella, *composition*
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Alex Howard, *composition*
Gilbert, Arizona

Tongyu Lu, *composition*
Qingdao, China

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Brianna Almonte, *soprano*
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Rutherford, New Jersey

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Beijing, China

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Fort Lauderdale, Florida

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Dalian, China

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Berkeley, California

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Culpeper, Virginia

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Weifang, China

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Commack, New York

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Elmont, New York

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St. Marys, Georgia

Adaiah Naji Ogletree, *soprano*
Houston, Texas

Madeline Pope, *soprano*
Marriottsville, Maryland

Luke Randazzo, *baritone*
Cincinnati, Ohio

Quinlan Sellars, *bass*
Huntington, New York

Daisy Dalit Sigal, *soprano*
Montreal, Canada

Mayu Sierra Tayama, *mezzo-soprano*
San Jose, California

Echo Wang, *mezzo-soprano*
Mianyang, China

Dylan Wilson, *soprano*
Houston, Texas

Ruochen Yang, *mezzo-soprano*
Guangzhou, China

Jazz Arts

Carlos Barreto, *double bass*
Fort Myers, Florida

Daniel Basilio-Fernández, *double bass*
Somerset, New Jersey

Chase Bautista, *bass trombone*
San Jose, California

Dexter Birkenbeuel, *piano*
Chicago, Illinois

Caylie Davis, *trumpet*
Eugene, Oregon

Shogo Yamagishi-Ellefson, *double bass*
Long Beach, California

Matthew Fu, *percussion*
Houston, Texas

Lawson Gardner, *tenor trombone*
Asheville, North Carolina

Brenda Patricia Greggio, *piano*
San Diego, California

Jackson Hanks, *vibraphone*
Hoover, Alabama

Jonah Hieb, *trumpet*
Seattle, Washington

William Hill, *piano*
Detroit, Michigan

Drew Hoschar, *percussion*
Cleveland, Ohio

Yeji Jung, *piano*
Anyang, South Korea

Mingyu Kim, *percussion*
Seoul, South Korea

Astrid Krallisch, *piano*
Toronto, Canada

Pavlos Daniel Loucaides, *piano*
Nicosia, Cyprus

JJ Mazza, *percussion*
Broomfield, Colorado

Daphnis Moglia, *trumpet*
Paris, France

Scott Lane Robert Jr., *piano*
Ridgefield, Connecticut

Brahm Sasner, *piano*
Lafayette, California

Cameron Shave, *trumpet*
Bridgewater, Massachusetts

Ido Sussman, *percussion*
Jerusalem, Israel

Evan Taylor, *guitar*
Cincinnati, Ohio

Bruno Tzinas, *tenor trombone*
Miami, Florida

Lorenzo Wolczko, *double bass*
San Carlos, California

Musical Theatre

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Washington, District of Columbia

Alaina Arbiso
Orange County, CA

Eva Bilodeau
Southington, Connecticut

Danyel Brewer
Perth Amboy, New Jersey

Ryan James Cain
Reading, Massachusetts

Lily Daugherty
Los Angeles, California

Nino de la Torre
Rockwall, Texas

Gianna DiTucci
Wayne, New Jersey

Fernando Flores
Caracas, Venezuela

Maithili Ginde
Basking Ridge, New Jersey

Carlos Goldberg
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Callie Henrysen
Southampton, Pennsylvania

Alexi L M Horne
Jersey City, New Jersey

Kate Lindsey Jones
Lambertville, New Jersey

Madeline Faye Kimmel
Los Angeles, California

Ellie Kuhnle
Doylestown, Pennsylvania

Gabriela Londoño
Caguas, Puerto Rico

Gigi Mechetti
Massapequa, New York

Ella Naylor
Florence, South Carolina

Moira Kelli O'Connor
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Victoria Walker
Honolulu, Hawaii

Isabel Wallach
Mill Neck, New York

Serena Zhang
Beijing, China

Key:

AA = Associate of Arts

AD = Artist Diploma

BA = Bachelor of Arts

BFA = Bachelor of Fine Arts

BM = Bachelor of Music

BME = Bachelor of Music Education

BS = Bachelor of Science

DMA = Doctor of Musical Arts

EMBA = Executive Master of Business Administration

GD = Graduate Diploma

MA = Master of Arts

MAEd = Master of Arts in Education

MM = Master of Music

MMA = Master of Musical Arts

MME = Master of Music Education

PPD = Professional Performance Diploma

PS = Professional Studies Certificate

PC = Precollege Alumnus

**Names listed in the program do not represent official degree conferral.*

ACADEMIC REGALIA

The pageantry of academic costume derives from medieval university practices, and each element symbolizes the wearer's academic achievement. Bachelor's gowns are plain with long, pointed sleeves, while master's robes feature closed slit sleeves; doctoral gowns are distinguished by double-belled sleeves and velvet bar trimmings. The hood is lined with the official color or colors of the granting university and is bordered in a color indicating the subject in which the degree was earned. Disciplines represented in today's procession include:

<i>Arts, Letters, Humanities</i>	White
<i>Business, Finance, Management</i>	Drab
<i>Education</i>	Light Blue
<i>Fine Arts</i>	Brown
<i>Journalism, Communication</i>	Crimson
<i>Library Science</i>	Lemon
<i>Music</i>	Pink
<i>Philosophy</i>	Dark Blue
<i>Science</i>	Gold

In the Middle Ages, as today, the academic color associated with the study of theology was scarlet, a representation of religious fervor. When doctorates were first awarded in music, they were awarded in liturgical music: the academic scarlet of theology was transformed to a lighter shade, pink, for music. This color designation has remained constant throughout the centuries.

Some faculty, staff, or students may wear honor cords awarded from their alma mater indicating exceptional achievement in their major area of study.

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The President and members of the Board of Trustees wear special robes in the colors of Manhattan School of Music (maroon and off-white) to symbolize shedding their individual academic identities and taking on the School's leadership and governance responsibilities as a collective group.

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