



“As you join past and current generations of musicians in reimagining the world of music, I want to ask you to go down deep into the roots of your musical souls and take very, very good care of your joy. As a musician, joy is your currency. There is no greater responsibility than to tend to it, taste it, and listen to it.”

—Claire Chase, flutist and founder,  
International Contemporary Ensemble

PHOTOS BY DAVID SWANSON



## AWARDS AND PRIZES

### LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Mikael Eliassen, in recognition of his visionary leadership of the Curtis Opera Theatre and vocal studies department, and of his extraordinary impact on the lives and careers of countless singers

### DOCTOR OF MUSIC (HONORIS CAUSA)

Claire Chase  
Aaron Rosand (Violin '48)  
Mark Rubenstein  
Elizabeth B. Warshawer

### JOAN HUTTON LANDIS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN ACADEMICS

Grace Clifford (Violin)

### EDWARD ALDWELL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN MUSICAL STUDIES

William Langlie-Miletich (Double Bass)

CHARLES MILLER PRIZE:  
THE ALBERTO CASELLA AWARD  
Adé Williams (Violin)

MILKA VIOLIN ARTIST PRIZE  
Adé Williams (Violin)

ANGELO SYLVESTRO  
FESTORAZZI SCHOLARSHIP  
Tiffany Townsend (Opera)

PAUL G. MEHLIN SCHOLARSHIP  
Daniel Hsu (Piano)

THE PRESSER FOUNDATION  
UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLAR AWARD  
Andrew Moses (Composition) ♦

## DEGREES AND DIPLOMAS

1 | CERTIFICATE

14 | POST-BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA

24 | BACHELOR OF MUSIC

3 | MASTER OF MUSIC IN OPERA

3 | CERTIFICATE OF  
PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

4 | HONORARY DOCTORATE

# COMMENCEMENT

MAY 11, 2019



Opposite: Commencement speaker Claire Chase involved the graduates and guests in a collective performance of spontaneous sounds; graduates Andrea Obiso and Erika Gray posed for snapshots. Above (clockwise from upper left): gathering outside the main building; Adé Williams; Tania Villaluso, Marlène Ngalissamy, and Maggie O'Leary; Alexander Lane and Amit Melzer

## CLASS OF 2019 NOTATIONS

**YUE BAO** (Conducting) is working this fall as a conducting assistant and cover conductor with the Houston Symphony Orchestra, and will lead young people's concerts with the Minnesota Orchestra in the spring.

In May **AMANDA LYNN BOTTOMS** (Opera) was awarded fourth prize at the Loren L. Zachary Society's National Vocal Competition in Los Angeles. Over the summer she sang in *Candide* with the Philadelphia Orchestra and appeared as Mercedes in *Carmen* with the Buffalo Philharmonic. She joins Washington National Opera's Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program for the 2019-20 season.

**BOLAI CAO** (Piano) is studying toward a master's degree at the Juilliard School.

**JUNHUI CHEN** (Piano) performed in the opening concert of the Beijing Modern Music Festival in May, and then attended the summer session in Fontainebleau, France. He is pursuing a master's degree at the Juilliard School.

**DENNIS CHMELENSKY** (Opera) attended the International Meistersinger Academy in Germany over the summer. He travels to Greece with Curtis on Tour this fall.

**GRACE CLIFFORD**'s (Violin) solo engagements over the summer included a debut with the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra and performances with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra. She is pursuing a master's degree at New England Conservatory, studying with Miriam Fried.

**VIET CUONG** (Composition) attended the Orchestra of St. Luke's DeGaetano Composition Institute in July. Starting in January, he will be an early-career musician in residence at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, D.C.

**MONICA CZAUSZ** (Organ) is performing in the U.S. and abroad, under management with Karen McFarlane Artists.

**DAI WEI** (Composition) recently performed in the premiere of her new work by the Bang on a Can All-Stars during their summer festival in Massachusetts. Wei will begin studies toward a Ph.D. in Music Composition at Princeton University as a Naumburg Doctoral Fellow.

**MICHAEL DAVIDMAN** (Piano) is pursuing a master's degree at the Juilliard School.

**NICK DiBERARDINO** (Composition '18, Community Artist Fellow) is pursuing a doctorate at Princeton University and has joined the musical studies faculty at Curtis.

**ANDREW DOUB** (Tuba) has joined the Louisville Orchestra as principal tuba.

**ALISON DRESSER** (Horn) recently completed a year playing in the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra.

**JORGE ESPINO** (Opera) has joined the ensemble of the Deutsche Oper am Rhein. This season he is cast in Tchaikovsky's *Pique Dame*, Bellini's *I puritani*, Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette*, and Verdi's *Falstaff*. He was a finalist in the Cardiff Singer of the World Competition in June.

**GUANGWEI FAN** (Trombone) participated in the National Repertory





Orchestra over the summer, and performed as principal trombone with the Macao Orchestra in May. He is a member of the New World Symphony.

**VARTAN GABRIELIAN** (Opera) is a member of the Canadian Opera Company's Ensemble Studio.

**MATTHEW GAJDA** (Trumpet) is pursuing graduate studies at the Schola Cantorum in Basel.



Over the summer **CLARA GERDES** (Organ) attended the Uncommon Music Festival in Alaska and the Church Music Association of America's Sacred Music Colloquium. She is pursuing a master's degree at the Yale School of Music.

**ERIKA GRAY** (Viola) participated in Music from Angel Fire over the summer.

Over the summer **JOSHUA HALPERN** (Cello) performed as guest principal with the Rotterdam Philharmonic on tour in Asia and attended the Krzyzowa Music Festival in Poland.

**ZUBIN HATHI** (Timpani and Percussion) is studying toward a master's degree at the Cleveland Institute of Music.

Over the summer **OLIVER HERBERT** (Cello) participated in ChamberFest Cleveland, Music in the Vineyards (Calif.), and the Krzyzowa Music Festival in Poland; and appeared as soloist in Elgar's Cello Concerto at the Britt Festival. This fall he participates in the Caramoor Festival and makes his subscription debut as a soloist with the San Francisco Symphony under Michael Tilson Thomas, performing Haydn's Cello Concerto No. 1.

**DANIEL HSU** (Piano) performed with Curtis on Tour in Europe and



appeared at the Strings Music Festival over the summer.

**SOPHIA HUNT** (Voice) attended the Aspen Music Festival during the summer and returns to Curtis this fall to pursue a master's degree in opera.

**NOZOMI IMAMURA** (Trumpet '15, Community Artist Fellow) is freelancing in Philadelphia and is a teaching artist for Project 440.

**ALEXANDER LANE** (Horn) worked as the assistant personnel manager at the Brevard Music Center over the summer. This fall he joins the Florida Orchestra as assistant principal horn.

**WILLIAM LANGLEIE-MILETICH** (Double Bass) has joined the bass section of the Seattle Symphony.

**SEULA LEE** (Violin '18, Community Artist Fellow) is playing with the Pittsburgh Symphony.

**YING LI** (Piano) attended the Verbier Festival during the summer and is pursuing a master's degree at the Juilliard School.

**ADDISON MAYE-SAXON** (Trombone) attended the Aspen Music Festival over the summer and is pursuing a master's degree at the Juilliard School.

**CHELSEA MCFARLAND** (Horn) is performing with the Atlanta Symphony. She is a coach for the Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra and is teaching in the Atlanta area.

Over the summer **AMIT MELZER** (Horn) attended the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria, and Music from Angel Fire. He returns to Philadelphia this fall to pursue a career in arts administration.

**SIENA LICHT MILLER** (Opera) performed over the summer with the Grant Park Orchestra and the Steans Institute at Ravinia. She is a finalist in the Neue Stimmen Competition in Germany and will create a role in a new opera premiering at Opera Philadelphia's O19 Festival this fall.

**ZACHARY MOWITZ** (Cello) recently completed a year playing in the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. Over the summer he performed at the Chesapeake and Colorado music

festivals, the Gstaad Menuhin Festival, and Music from Angel Fire. Beginning in October he is artist in residence at the Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel in Belgium, studying with Gary Hoffman.

**YOUNG IN NA** (Cello) attended the Tanglewood Music Festival over the summer and is pursuing a master's degree at the New England Conservatory.

**MARLENE NGALISSAMY** (Bassoon) attended the Marlboro Music Festival over the summer and returns to Curtis this fall as a Community Artist Fellow.

Over the summer **ANDREA OBISO** (Violin) competed in the Sendai International Music Competition in Japan, winning an audience prize in the semifinal round. He is performing in the U.S. and abroad.

**MAGGIE O'LEARY** (Bassoon) attended the Verbier Festival over the summer. She is pursuing a master's degree at Rice University.

**TIANYI SHEN** (Clarinet) is attending Temple University.

**ANASTASIIA SIDOROVA** (Voice) performed with Wolf Trap Opera over the summer, and returns to Curtis this fall to pursue a master's degree in opera.

**KEIGO SUZUKI** (Viola) is performing in Japan.

**TIFFANY TOWNSEND** (Opera) was an apprentice artist at Des Moines Metro Opera over the summer. This fall she makes her mainstage debut with Opera Philadelphia as Ninette in Prokofiev's *Love for Three Oranges*. She is a member of the Domingo-Colburn-Stein Young Artist Program at LA Opera for the 2019-20 season.

**TANIA VILLASUSO** (Clarinet) performed with Curtis on Tour in Latin America over the summer. She is studying toward a master's degree at Rice University.

**ADÉ WILLIAMS** (Violin) is taking a year of rest and study before solo engagements next year.

**KUNBO XU** (Viola) is pursuing a master's degree at the Manhattan School of Music. ✧

Left: Retiring chair of vocal studies Mikael Eliassen; student speaker Zubin Hathi; Roberto Díaz with retiring violin faculty Aaron Rosand, who passed away in July after receiving an honorary doctorate at Commencement; Anastasiia Sidorova and her mother

## MORE ONLINE

See more Commencement photos at [Curtis.edu/Overtones](https://Curtis.edu/Overtones)