

**The University of North Carolina
at Chapel Hill
Department of Music**



**GRADUATION
SUNDAY, MAY 16, 2021
2:00 P.M.
CLASS OF 2021**



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
Music

Musical Prelude

Let the Bright Seraphim from *Samson* by G. F. Handel
Lila Kenny Dunn, '21, *soprano*; Lyuba Egorova, *piano*

Greetings

David Garcia
Professor of Music; Chair, Department of Music

Recognition of Degree Recipients

Jocelyn Neal
Professor of Music; Associate Chair for Academic Studies

Evan Feldman
Professor of Music; Associate Chair for Performance, Composition, and Music Education

Remarks

Jane Zhen Zhao, '21

Musical Interlude

Crown by Paapa-Berchie Kwaku Berko, '20
Paapa-Berchie Kwaku Berko, *recording artist*

Presentation of Awards

Lee Weisert
Associate Professor of Music; Director of Undergraduate Studies

Address

William Henry Curry
Music Director and Conductor, Durham Symphony Orchestra

Musical Interlude

Suite No. 1 for Two Pianos in G minor by Rachmaninoff
IV. Pâques (Easter) Allegro maestoso
Cody Edward Qiu '21 and Jane Zhen Zhao '21, *piano*

Closing Remarks

David Garcia

Musical Postlude

Carolina Stomp! Arranged by Professors Lee Weisert and Evan Feldman
Performed remotely by the students, faculty, and staff of the Department of Music
Edited by Jay Harper and Jesse Moorefield

Celebrating Our Graduates
Zoom Reception

MUSIC DEGREE RECIPIENTS

Bachelor of Arts

Caroline Elizabeth Baker
Kasey Rae Ballou
Paapa-Berchie Kwaku Berko* (December 2020)
Cullom Gregory Blackwell* (December 2020)
Patrick Blaha*
Leah Ruth Brooks*
Dylan Rhead Brown* (August 2020)
Andrew Peter Bryant*
Claire Chang* (December 2020)
Lesley Chi Chao* (August 2020)
Bennett Nicklas Congdon*
Grace Juhong He* (December 2020)
Hannah Elizabeth James*
Emily Gail Kramer (August 2021)
Ashley Ann Lucas
Maya Tobin Montani*
George Franklin Morris
James Ian Payne
Cody Edward Qiu*
Sophia Isabelle Rekeibe-Tomé*
Sheridan Mareen See
Naomi Lorraine Strauther*
Amber Gisela Vigil (August 2021)

Cameron McKenzie Ward*
Rebecca Martha Williams*
Jane Zhen Zhao*

Bachelor of Music

Damon Wallace Blair*
Christian Louis Boletchek+
Alexandra London Dunavant*
Hayes Vaughn Dunlevy+
Lila Kenny Dunn*
Lauren Dominica Holtshouser*
Samuel Cullen Howell+
Gregory Paul Jeffers
Amanda Leigh McAllister*
Nijah Cheyenne Poteat (August 2021)
Benjamin Ryan Robinson
Emma Katherine Schubart*
Naomi Shizuko Sutherland
Emily Joyce Williams
Melody Yanxi Zhuo

**Double major*

+*Music Education licensure*

Master of Arts

Sophia Maria Andricopulos (August 2020)

Thesis: "Rockism in a Poptimist World: *Gilmore Girls* and 'Rock'n'Roll'"

Advisor: Aaron Harcus

Melissa Leigh Camp

Thesis: "'The Revolution Will Not Be Televised ... But It Will Be Streamed': Spotify, Playlist Curation, and Social Justice Movements"

Advisor: Mark Katz

Robert Justin Frankeny (August 2020)

Thesis: "Genre as Distinction: The Mars Volta and the Symbolic Boundaries of Progressive Rock"

Advisor: Aaron Harcus

Tara Leigh Jordan

Thesis: "Mobilizing Mary: Eleonora Gonzaga's Religious and Political Influence as Shown in Two Settings of a Pianto della Madonna"

Advisor: Tim Carter

Doctor of Philosophy

John Shields Caldwell

Dissertation: "Songs from the Other Side: Listening to Pakistani Voices in India"

Advisor: Michael Figueroa

Joanna Evelyn Helms (August 2020)

Dissertation: "Electronic Music History Through the Everyday: The RAI Studio di Fonologia (1954–83)"

Advisor: Andrea Bohlman

HONORS

Graduation with Distinction

Damon Wallace Blair
Leah Ruth Brooks
Andrew Peter Bryant
Hayes Vaughn Dunlevy
Lauren Dominica Holtshouser
Samuel Cullen Howell

Gregory Paul Jeffers
Amanda Leigh McAllister
Maya Tobin Montani
Cody Edward Qiu
Emma Katherine Schubart
Emily Joyce Williams

Graduation with Highest Distinction

Caroline Elizabeth Baker
Patrick Blaha
Christian Louis Boletchek
Alexandra London Dunavant

Lila Kenny Dunn
James Ian Payne
Rebecca Martha Williams
Jane Zhen Zhao

Graduation with Honors

Leah Ruth Brooks

Thesis: "From Beyoncé to Hamilton: Music, the Arts, and the Black Lives Matter Movement"
Advisor: David Garcia

Melody Yanxi Zhuo

Thesis: "The Reception of Cécile Chaminade's Music and the Idea of the Woman Composer"
Advisor: Andrea Bohlman

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC AWARDS

David Arons Award for Excellence in Musical Performance

This award was established in 1998 by the wife and family of the late Mr. Arons, a longtime supporter of music in the Chapel Hill area. The award is determined by the Music Scholarship Committee, based on the student's overall artistic contribution to the performance program for four years.

Lauren Dominica Holtshouser

Music Department Award for Academic Excellence

This award was established in 1998 by the Music Department. The recipient is the graduating music student with the highest grade point average for four years.

Rebecca Martha Williams

Chamber Music Award

This award is in recognition of outstanding achievement in chamber music performance. The director of the University Chamber Players determines the recipients of this award.

Alexandra London Dunavant

Choral Music Award

The UNC Choral Music Award recognizes a graduating senior whose musical excellence and dedication have been outstanding for four years. The award is determined by the Director of Choral Activities.

Samuel Cullen Howell

Outstanding Performance Award in Piano

This award, established in 2019 by Dr. Joel Harrison (BMus '73, President/CEO of the American Pianists Association) is presented to a graduating senior chosen by the head of the Piano Area, and deemed to be a superlative piano student.

Jane Zhen Zhao

Jonathan Gregory Rohr Award

The Jonathan Gregory Rohr Scholarship/Award is gifted by former UNC-Chapel Hill voice faculty Barbara Ann Peters in memory and in honor of her brilliant voice student Jonathan Gregory Rohr, who excelled at Carolina, and who embraced a successful and all-too-brief career as a professional baritone and lawyer. The award is offered annually for four consecutive years to support a deserving baritone voice major who maintains excellence in both vocal and academic studies until the completion of his undergraduate career at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Phillip Jackson Moseley

Benjamin Swalin Orchestra Award

This award was established in 2000 in honor of Maestro Swalin, former conductor of the UNC Symphony Orchestra and subsequently Music Director of the North Carolina Symphony for 33 years. The award is given to graduating seniors who have made significant contributions in artistry and leadership to the UNC orchestra program during their undergraduate years. The recipients are determined by the orchestra director.

Andrew Peter Bryant

Bennett Nicklas Congdon

Thelma Thompson Composition Award

This award, established in 1984 by friends of Thelma Thompson, is given annually to the student who during the academic year has created the strongest original musical composition(s). The award is determined by the composition faculty.

James Robert Larkins

UNC Opera Award

The UNC Opera Award is given to a graduating senior who has demonstrated outstanding performance in UNC Opera productions and who has made a significant contribution to the opera program throughout his/her undergraduate career. The opera director determines the recipient of the award.

Alexandra London Dunavant

Lila Kenny Dunn

UNC Opera Design and Production Award

The UNC Opera Design and Production Award is presented to a student who has demonstrated exceptional work on productions from behind the scenes. This honor is bestowed upon those who have shown excellence in the areas of stage management, arts administration, assistant directing, and lighting, costume, prop, and set design.

Aimee Comanici

Viol Consort Award

The Viol Consort Award is for outstanding contributions and commitment to this period instrument ensemble.

Corbin Todd Bryan

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Nelson Delgado Latin Jazz Student Award

Named for Nelson Delgado, a founding member of Charanga Carolina, this award recognizes student excellence in the study and performance of Latin music.

Grant Charles Abrams

Fred and Gail Fearing Jazz Award

The Fred and Gail Fearing Jazz Awards were created to honor students who have distinguished themselves in the Jazz Studies program at UNC both on stage and in the classroom. Each recipient receives a monetary award. The awards are given in recognition of the students' current accomplishments and to help them reach their full creative potential.

Damon Wallace Blair

Jason Alexander Blondell

Jazz Studies Award

The Jazz Studies Award is made possible by an anonymous donor gift presented to the Jazz Studies area of the Department of Music. Students submit a proposal for a research project to a faculty committee for review. The projects may vary widely in scope, embracing academic research, composition, performance, or other topics related to the broad field of jazz studies.

Christopher J. Law

David Alexander Upton

Jeffrey Eckels and Betty Ketch Jazz Award

This award is made possible by an anonymous donation in memory of Jeffrey Eckels (d. July 3, 2020) and Betty Ketch (d. October 22, 2020), who were both great friends of the Jazz Studies area of the Department of Music. The recipient receives a monetary award for excellence.

Kaitlyn Marie Pedde

Danielle Elizabeth Liotta Award

This award honors and celebrates the life of Danielle Elizabeth Liotta, a member of the 2006–2007 Marching Tar Heels. It is presented annually to a second-year member of the Marching Tar Heels who exudes the same extraordinary characteristics, values, morals, and beliefs as Danielle: a good campus citizen who was ambitious, compassionate, dependable, enthusiastic, loyal, and spirited, with a commitment to musical and academic excellence.

Ryan Franklin Hughes

The Joanne and Victor Marshall Bluegrass Award

This award is presented to a graduating member of the Carolina Bluegrass Band who has demonstrated excellence in performance and leadership with the band.

Anne Sophie Nachman

Mildred Brown Mayo Undergraduate Research Fund Awards

The Department of Music helps to fund independent research projects through the Mildred Brown Mayo Undergraduate Research Fund in Music. For the purposes of these awards, research is defined broadly to include scholarship in music history, music theory, ethnomusicology, performance-based projects, and composition.

Caroline Elizabeth Collins

James Robert Larkins

The Seamster-Sheinhaus Public Service Award

Austin Seamster ('18) and Adam Sheinhaus ('18) founded MTHVolunteers in 2017 to offer members of the Marching Tar Heels the opportunity to provide distinct direct public service to local organizations which support others in the community. The Seamster-Sheinhaus Public Service Award is given annually to the graduating members of the Marching Tar Heels who make substantial contributions to the community through participation in the MTHVolunteers program.

Camryn Elizabeth Hales Kepley

Jamison Brinkley Willis

Earl Slocum Band Award

This award, honoring Earl Slocum, Director of Bands from 1935–1956, is given annually to the senior member of the University Bands who has demonstrated meritorious achievement with regard to musicianship, leadership, and academic excellence, and who also has made a significant contribution to the growth and success of the UNC Bands. The band faculty determines the recipient and the award is formally presented at the Chancellor's Award Ceremony.

Lauren Dominica Holtshouser

UNC Band Directors' Award

The UNC Band Directors' Award recognizes the member(s) of UNC Bands who made the most significant contributions to the program during their years of involvement.

Katy Elisabeth Bridgers

Ryan Franklin Hughes

Elizabeth Kay Ranatza

Mary Grace Wardrop

UNC Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition Winners

The winners of UNC's annual Concerto Competition, selected by a panel of outside professional judges, are given the opportunity to appear in concert with the UNC Symphony Orchestra in the spring semester.

Amy L. Zhang

Jane Zhen Zhao

Major John Yesulaitis Award

This award is presented to a graduating member of the Marching Tar Heels who best embodies Carolina spirit through dedication, participation, motivation, and support of the missions of the UNC Athletic Bands.

Haley Kate Murdock

OTHER AWARDS

William R. Kenan, Jr. Music Scholars

Emma Katherine Schubart
Naomi Shizuko Sutherland

Rebecca Martha Williams
Jane Zhen Zhao

Phi Beta Kappa

Alexandra London Dunavant
Lila Kenny Dunn
David Sarber Green
Hunter Wilson Hoyle
Emily Gail Kramer
Janegrace Guichan Lowther
Kennedy Blair Miller

Maya Tobin Montani
Phillip Jackson Moseley
Lauren Elizabeth Ragsdale
Emma Katherine Schubart
Sydney Thai
Rebecca Martha Williams
Jane Zhen Zhao

UNC Music Ambassadors

Leah Ruth Brooks
Alexandra London Dunavant
Ashley Ann Lucas

Amanda Leigh McAllister
Sophia Isabelle Rekeibe-Tomé
Emily Joyce Williams

ENKOR International Chamber Music Competition

Cody Edward Qiu and Jane Zhen Zhao, Second Place

MTNA Stecher and Horowitz National Two-Piano Competition

Cody Edward Qiu and Jane Zhen Zhao, First Place

National Association of Teachers of Singing North Carolina State Auditions

Leah Ruth Brooks, First Place, Musical Theatre
Kathryn Brown, Honorable Mention, Musical Theatre
Clay Cooper, Second Place, Musical Theatre
Alexandra London Dunavant, First Place, Classical
Lila Kenny Dunn, First Place, Classical
Matthew Keith, Honorable Mention, Musical Theatre
Amanda Leigh McAllister, Second Place, Classical
Nijah Cheyenne Poteat, First Place, Musical Theatre
Cameron McKenzie Ward, Honorable Mention, Classical

National Association of Teachers of Singing Mid-Atlantic Regional Auditions

Alexandra London Dunavant, First Place, Classical

ABOUT OUR COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER



William Henry Curry was appointed Music Director and Conductor of the Durham Symphony Orchestra on May 7, 2009. For twenty years Maestro Curry was the Resident Conductor and Summerfest Artistic Director of the North Carolina Symphony in Raleigh. He came to the North Carolina Symphony by way of New Orleans, where he had served as Resident Conductor of the New Orleans Symphony.

A native of Pittsburgh, Curry started conducting and composing music at age 14. His first major appointment was at age 21, when he was named Assistant Conductor of the Richmond Chamber Orchestra. On the same day, he was called in to replace a conductor who suddenly became ill for a performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. Maestro Curry's unexpected debut was hailed by the critics and audience alike. He went on to serve as Resident Conductor with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra for six years (1978-1983) and with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra for two years (1983-1985).

Maestro Curry was appointed Associate Conductor of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra in 1983, a post he held until 1988, the same year he was named winner of the Leopold Stokowski Conducting Competition and performed in Carnegie Hall. He was featured conductor for the tour and recording of Anthony Davis' Grammy-nominated opera *X*. He has also conducted opera productions with the New York City Opera, the Houston Grand Opera, and the Chicago Opera Theater.

William Henry Curry has conducted over 40 orchestras, including appearances with the Chicago, Cleveland, Houston, National, Detroit, Atlanta, Denver, American, and San Diego symphony orchestras and the Los Angeles Philharmonic. In November of 1997 he made his debut in Israel with the Israel Camerata Jerusalem, and he has also conducted orchestras in Bangkok and Taiwan. In the 2002-03 season he made appearances as guest conductor with the Indianapolis and New Jersey symphony orchestras. He made his conducting debut with the New York City Ballet in December 2002 in their famed Balanchine production of *The Nutcracker*. Guest conducting reengagements included a return to the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra and the New York City Ballet, as well as debut performances with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

As a composer, Maestro Curry has had his works played by many of America's finest orchestras. On June 13, 1999, the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra premiered his *Eulogy for a Dream*. This work, based on the speeches and writings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was a tremendous success and received a standing ovation. The piece was broadcast nationally in January 2000 on the National Public Radio program "Performance Today."

Maestro Curry is also committed to new music and has conducted premières by, among others, Joseph Schwantner, William Bolcom, Lukas Foss, and Adolphus Hailstork. The range of artists he has worked with in his career runs the gamut from Zubin Mehta and Aaron Copland to John Williams and Ella Fitzgerald. In addition, he has been a beacon for promising young musicians, both as an instructor at the Peabody Conservatory and the Baltimore School for the Arts, and as a mentor to many young conductors.