

Yale SCHOOL OF MUSIC

*José García-León, Dean*

One Hundred  
Thirty-Third  
Commencement



*Monday, May 18, 2026*

*Morse Recital Hall in Sprague Memorial Hall*

PROGRAM

PRELUDE	Canzona Terzadecima Canzona Terza Canzona Prima	Girolamo Frescobaldi (1583–1643) Gioseffo Guami (1542–1611) Claudio Merulo (1533–1604)
PROCESSIONAL	Polnischer Tanz Deutscher Tanz	Valentin Haussmann (ca. 1560–ca. 1612) Haussmann
	Kevin Cobb, <i>trumpet*</i> Terri Rauschenbach '27MM, <i>trumpet</i> Jon-Michael Taylor '27MMA, <i>trumpet</i> Ethan Wood '27MM, <i>trumpet</i>	William Purvis, <i>horn*</i> Aidan Lewis '27MM, <i>horn</i> Scott Hartman, <i>trombone*</i> Madelyn Stoklosa '27MM, <i>trombone</i>
WELCOME	José García-León, <i>The Henry and Lucy Moses Dean of Music</i>	
PRESENTATION OF AWARDS	<p><b>The Harriet Gibbs Fox Memorial Prize</b>, awarded to a first-year student who has achieved the highest grade-point average.</p> <p><b>The Emily Anne Payne Dean's Prize</b>, the School's highest excellence award, given to a member of the graduating class, selected by the Dean in consultation with the faculty. In honor and memory of Emily Anne Payne (1975–2022), '99MM in cello, member of the Yale Cellos, Yale Camerata, and Student Advisory Council. Emily is the daughter of Serena and Robert Blocker and mother of Grace Elizabeth.</p>	
CHARGE TO THE CLASS	<p><b>"The Humanity in Music"</b> Dean García-León</p>	
AWARDING OF DIPLOMAS	<p>Doctor of Musical Arts Artist Diploma Master of Musical Arts Master of Music Certificate in Performance</p>	
PERFORMANCE	<b>An die Musik</b>	Franz Schubert (1797–1828)
	Katherine Arndt '26DMA, <i>violin</i> Vitalii Starikov '26AD, <i>piano</i> Hyun Ju Yang '26MM, <i>choral conducting</i>	
RECESSIONAL	Volte Galliarda YSM BRASS ENSEMBLE	Michael Praetorius (1571–1621) Melchior Franck (ca. 1579–1639)

*An die Musik*

Franz Schubert (1797–1828)  
Text by Franz von Schober (1796–1882)  
Translation by Richard Cross

Mässig

*p* Oh, gold - en  
When from your

art, how in my dark - est hours  
harp, a breath a - rose, so glo - rious,

When bound by cares of life, with hea - vy heart,  
A sweet and sa - cred tone which flew to my heart

With - in my soul you  
And held me bound in a

lit the flame of love And brought my heart to a  
hea - ven of beau - ty— Oh, gold - en art, my

bet - ter world a - bove, To a bet - ter world a - bove.  
heart is yours a - lone, Oh, gold - en art, my heart is yours.

*fp* *fp*

1.

2.

\*Faculty

A luncheon will be held immediately following at The Elm City Club, 155 Elm St.

## DEGREES CONFERRED

### Doctor of Musical Arts

Andy Sledge, *bassoon*  
Russell Jordan Fisher, *percussion*  
Katherine Arndt, *violin*  
Ye Jin Min, *violin*  
Ehud Amit Perlman, *composition*  
Joel Bentley Thompson, *composition* ♦  
Nathaniel M. Widelitz, *choral conducting*

### Artist Diploma

Vitalii Starikov, *piano*  
Hao Yang, *guitar* ♦

### Master of Musical Arts

Hajung Kim, *oboe*  
Nickolas Joseph Hamblin, *clarinet*  
Gretchen Elaine Berendt, *horn*  
Oved Alejandro Rico, *horn*  
Kathryn Mae Hillstrom, *trumpet*  
Karlee Grace Navarro, *trumpet*  
Jacob Douglas Rose, *trumpet*  
Han Xia, *percussion*  
Juan Pedro García Oliva, *piano*  
Yuxin Yin, *piano*  
Sean Yu, *piano*  
Emmett Tennyson Edwards, *guitar*  
Brandon Kinaga Wong, *guitar*  
Mariajose Aramburu Senno, *voice* ♦  
Charity Anne Cooper, *voice*  
Rosario Hernandez Armas, *voice*  
Shyheim Selvan Hinnant, *voice*  
Junhyuk Jang, *voice*  
Scott Rubén La Marca, *voice*  
Laura Miah Ramos Salinas, *voice*  
Justice Miguel Yates, *voice*  
Jeongmin An, *violin*

Inhae Cho, *violin*  
Matthew Steven Cone, *violin*  
Nicholas Andrew Hammel, *violin*  
Miray Elena Ito, *violin*  
Maya Ito Johnson, *violin*  
Megan Lin, *violin*  
Chaofan Wang, *violin*  
Dabin Yang, *violin*  
Soyoung Cho, *viola*  
Ayano Alicia Nakamura, *viola*  
Julian John Seney, *viola*  
Austin Barker Fisher, *cello*  
Hyun Ji Kim, *cello*  
Hayoung Moon, *cello*  
Josue Pablo Alfaro Mora, *double bass*  
Joshua Emmanuel Rhodes, *double bass*  
Theodore Joseph Haber, *composition*  
Ezra Ora Calvino, *orchestral conducting* ‡  
Scottie Madeleine Rogers, *early music voice*

### Master of Music

Jolie Emerite Fitch, *flute*  
Rafael Isidro Mendez Rubel, *flute*  
Nadira Novruzov, *flute*  
Benjamin David Smith, *flute*  
Jacob Alexander Duff, *oboe*  
Gabriela Fry, *oboe*  
Madoka Tina Shigeyama, *oboe*  
Anne Winkelman, *oboe*  
Juan Pedro Espinosa Monteros, *clarinet*  
Katelyn Elisabeth Poetker, *clarinet*  
Alexander Evan Swers, *clarinet*  
Emma Lee Fuller, *bassoon*  
David Magnus Hiester, *bassoon*  
Laressa Sophia Winters, *bassoon*  
Samuel Case Hart, *horn*

Lily Emma Judge, *horn*  
Dylan Ruby Kingdom, *horn*  
Cristina Vieyetz, *horn*  
Alexander Charles Felker, *trombone*  
Jeremy Vincent Llanto Mojado, *trombone*  
William Benjamin Roberts, *trombone*  
Griffin Alexander Rupp, *trombone*  
Naomi Keosha Wharry, *trombone* ♦  
Junming Wen, *tuba*  
Matthew Boyle, *percussion*  
Hao Hu, *percussion*  
Kyle Rappe, *percussion*  
Sebastian Mateo Gobbels, *harp*  
Chris Chu, *piano* \*  
Sooyeon Hong, *piano*  
Juyi Kim, *piano*  
Zixu Qin, *piano*  
Yusong Wu, *piano*  
Jiusi Zhang, *piano*  
Lixin Zhang, *piano*  
Henry David Burnam, *harpsichord*  
Melissa Brassard, *organ*  
Clayton Sluyter Farmer, *organ*  
Katrina Sherry Liao, *organ*  
Joseph Andrew O'Brien III, *organ*  
Nicholas Keith Stigall, *organ*  
Oziah B. Wales, *organ*  
John Arlievsky, *voice*  
Julia Anne Ernst, *voice*  
Charles Jonathan Styles, *voice*  
Lingxiao Feng, *violin*  
Gayoung Kim, *violin*  
Naeun Kim, *violin*  
Jimin Lee, *violin*  
Sofia Sae Yung Matthews, *violin*  
Jiyeon Park, *violin*

Nicolas Perkins, *viola*  
Miranda Louise Werner, *viola*  
Dylan Lee Kinneavy, *cello*  
Abigail Rose Leidy, *cello*  
Balder Hella Mikkelsen, *cello*  
Arden Gardinier Ingersoll, *double bass*  
Yihan Wu, *double bass*  
Maya Miro Johnson, *composition*  
Jaebong Noh, *composition*  
Hyun Ju Yang, *choral conducting*  
Isabel Grace Barbato, *early music voice*  
Samuel Aaron Denler, *early music voice*  
Matthew A. Dexter, *early music voice*

### Certificate in Performance

Arturo Abellan Sanchez, *piano* ♦

---

‡ Banner Bearer      ♦ Marshal

\* Degree conferred earlier in the 2025–2026 academic year

## STUDENT PRIZES

Awarded at the Yale School of Music Honors Banquet, May 3, 2026

BRASS AND WOODWINDS	<p><b>The Musica Solis Prize</b>, to a student who has demonstrated the highest standard of excellence in woodwind playing.</p> <p>» JUAN PEDRO ESPINOSA MONTEROS</p> <p><b>The John Swallow Prize</b>, to an outstanding brass player whose artistry and dedication have contributed to the department.</p> <p>» GRIFFIN ALEXANDER RUPP</p>	PERCUSSION	<p><b>The Cecile and Robert van Sice Prize</b>, to an outstanding percussionist in the School of Music.</p> <p>» HAO HU</p> <p>» KYLE RAPPE</p>
CHORAL CONDUCTING	<p><b>The Robert Shaw Prize</b>, given in honor of the renowned American choral conductor, is awarded to a choral conducting major in the School of Music chosen for distinguished achievement by the choral conducting faculty.</p> <p>» KEVIN VONDRAK</p>	PIANO	<p><b>The Charles S. Miller Prize</b>, to a gifted pianist who has done outstanding work during the first year of study.</p> <p>» JOHNSON LI</p> <p>» RYAN ZHU</p>
COMPOSITION	<p><b>The Woods Chandler Memorial Prize</b>, for the best composition in a larger form written during the year.</p> <p>» JAEBONG NOH</p> <p><b>The Rena Greenwald Memorial Prize</b>, for the best piano composition written during the year.</p> <p>» FORREST EIMOLD</p> <p><b>The John Day Jackson Prize</b>, for an outstanding chamber music composition written for strings, with or without other instruments.</p> <p>» THEODORE JOSEPH HABER</p> <p><b>The Frances E. Osborne Kellogg Memorial Prize</b>, for the best composition written in a contrapuntal style.</p> <p>» BEN RIEKE</p> <p><b>The Ezra Laderman Prize</b>, for the best composition written for musical theater or voice.</p> <p>» MAYA MIRO JOHNSON</p>	STRING QUARTET/ CHAMBER MUSIC	<p><b>The Elizabeth Parisot Prize</b>, to outstanding pianists in the School of Music.</p> <p>» JIUSI ZHANG</p> <p>» YUSONG WU</p> <p><b>The Broadus Erle Prize</b>, to the members of an outstanding string quartet in the School of Music.</p> <p>» JIWON CHOI, <i>violin</i></p> <p>» JOEY LAU, <i>violin</i></p> <p>» MIRANDA LOUISE WERNER, <i>viola</i></p> <p>» DYLAN LEE KINNEAVY, <i>cello</i></p>
GUITAR	<p><b>The Benjamin Verdery Guitar Prize</b>, to an outstanding guitarist in the School of Music.</p> <p>» EMMETT TENNYSON EDWARDS</p>	STRINGS	<p><b>The Aldo Parisot Prize</b>, to gifted cellists who show promise for a concert career.</p> <p>» ABIGAIL ROSE LEIDY</p> <p>» HAYOUNG MOON</p> <p><b>The Kavafian Violin Prize</b>, established together by the 2026 Violin Faculty of the Yale School of Music, the Kavafian Violin Prize honors a graduating violin student who has demonstrated excellence in musicianship and has contributed meaningfully to the life of the School through exemplary work in orchestra, chamber music, and their individual studio.</p> <p>» NICHOLAS ANDREW HAMMEL</p>
ORGAN	<p><b>The Charles Ives Prize</b>, to an outstanding organ major.</p> <p>» KATHERINE JOHNSON</p> <p><b>The Julia R. Sherman Memorial Prize</b>, for excellence in organ playing.</p> <p>» OZIAH B. WALES</p>	VOICE	<p><b>The Simon Carrington Prize in Concert Voice</b>, named in honor of the founding director of the Yale Schola Cantorum, goes to a singer, who, through their excellence both as a soloist and as an ensemble member, best demonstrates the artistry and professionalism required to have a successful career as a concert singer.</p> <p>» SAMUEL AARON DENLER</p> <p><b>The David L. Kasdon Memorial Prize</b>, to an outstanding singer in the School of Music.</p> <p>» JUSTICE MIGUEL YATES</p> <p><b>The Smriti Deb Memorial Prize</b>, to an outstanding graduating singer who best reflects and exemplifies the ideal and values of Smriti Deb and her commitment to teaching low-income and under-represented children.</p> <p>» ROSARIO HERNANDEZ ARMAS</p>

## STUDENT PRIZES CONT.

**The Phyllis Curtin Career Entry Prize**, to assist in launching the career of a graduating voice student who demonstrates exceptional talent as an artist and promise for a professional career.

» LAURA MIAH RAMOS SALINAS

DOCTOR OF  
MUSICAL ARTS

**The Friedmann Thesis Prize**, for a DMA thesis notable for its distinguished research, original perspective, in-depth engagement with its subject, and well-crafted presentation.

» KEVIN VONDRAK

SCHOOL

**The Malcolm L. Mitchell and Donald M. Roberts, Class of 1957 Prize**, to an outstanding graduating teaching artist in the Music in Schools program.

» JUAN PEDRO ESPINOSA MONTEROS

**The Philip F. Nelson Prize**, awarded to a graduating student whose musicianship is outstanding and who demonstrates curiosity, talent, and the entrepreneurial spirit in the many dimensions of the music profession.

» SEBASTIAN MATEO GOBBELS

**The Plank Music Residency**, established by the estate of Raymond Plank '44BA, is awarded to two students for distinguished achievement in their major. Each will complete a two-week residency of independent work in the extraordinary setting of the Ucross Foundation in Wyoming.

» KACPER MADEJEK

» LEANNE JIN

**The Yale School of Music Alumni Association Prize**, awarded to students who have not only excelled in their respective fields but have also made important contributions to the general life of the School.

» CHAOFAN WANG

» HAO YANG

» JEONGMIN AN

» LARESSA SOPHIA WINTERS

» MARIAJOSE ARAMBURU SENNO

» NADIRA NOVRUZOV

» HAJUNG KIM

» JUAN PEDRO GARCIA OLIVA

» JOSUE PABLO ALFARO MORA

» RAFAEL ISIDRO MENDEZ RUBEL

» JOLIE EMERITE FITCH

» EZRA ORA CALVINO

» VITALII STARIKOV

---

*Yale University acknowledges that indigenous peoples and nations, including Mohegan, Mashantucket Pequot, Eastern Pequot, Schaghticoke, Golden Hill Paugussett, Niantic, and the Quinnipiac and other Algonquian speaking peoples, have stewarded through generations the lands and waterways of what is now the state of Connecticut. We honor and respect the enduring relationship that exists between these peoples and nations and this land.*