



SCHOOL OF  
ARTS &  
SCIENCES

UNIVERSITY *of* ROCHESTER

ARTHUR SATZ  
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

*Graduation*  
*Ceremony*  
Class of 2024

May 18, 2024

9:00AM

Sloan Performing Arts Center

# Program

Welcome and Introduction of Faculty

Matt BaileyShea

Reflections from the Class of 2024

Elizabeth Garijo-Garde

Announcement of Special Prizes and Awards

Bruce Frank

Ward Woodbury Award

Kim Kowalke Academic Achievement Award

Awarding of Diplomas

Mark Powell

Jennifer Kyker

Valediction

Jacquelyn Sholes

Closing Remarks

Matt BaileyShea

*Please join us for a reception immediately following  
our ceremony on the Wilson Quadrangle.*

# ELIZABETH GARIJO-GARDE

**BA MUSIC  
BS PUBLIC HEALTH  
TAKE 5 SCHOLAR  
(RELIGION AND SOCIAL CHANGE FOCUS)**



**Hometown:** Darien, CT

**Future Plans:** I'll be joining the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra's development team!

**Why Music?:** I have always loved music and playing the cello. Engaging with music, whether it be playing in an ensemble or taking a class, has always been one of my deepest passions and never feels like "work." I love how music connects communities and expresses emotion, and I can't imagine my academic or extracurricular experience without the music department!

**Favorite Courses:** Music, Ethnography, and HIV/AIDS with Professor Kyker, Introduction to Conducting, and the music theory sequence with Professor BaileyShea and Professor Frank!

**Study Abroad:** I studied abroad in Vienna, Austria! My favorite memory was visiting the Alps. I got to see the lake where Mahler vacationed and the hut where he wrote a lot of his music. When I returned to Vienna, I attended a performance of his third symphony (which he wrote in the Alps) at the Musikverein. It was the most magical performance I have been to!

**Involvement on Campus:** Symphony Orchestra, Student Alumni Ambassadors, Gamma Phi Beta, Writing Fellows, Meridian Society, Residential Advisor, and Panhellenic Executive Council

**Thanks to:** My family, professors, teachers, and friends-- I am eternally grateful for their support and encouragement. I would not be who I am today without them.

**Also:** I loved the trips to New York City! I'm so grateful to the department for celebrating us with that trip!

# HONGJIA (PETER) LIN

**BA MUSIC  
BS APPLIED MATH**



**Hometown:** Shenzhen, China

**Future Plans:** I was admitted to NYU Steinhardt Music Business Master's Program. After Masters, I am thinking working in NYU or other big cities in the US to work in the music industry.

**Why Music?:** I enjoyed listening to music since very young, so when I had this chance in the college to learn more about music theory, history, performance, etc., I immediately choose to learn music as a major during my undergraduate.

**Favorite Courses:** Theory III & IV, Music History I & Keyboard Skills II

**Involvement on Campus:** I am in the Gospel Choir and I enjoyed every song I've sung. I was also having fun during very performance, it will be an unforgettable experience in my life.

**Thanks to:** I would like to thank Dr. Bruce Frank who taught me so many courses and introduced me so many important music theory and skills that I will remember for life. I would also like to thank Professor BaileyShea brought me into the interesting music theory world that made me decide to learn more about music theory and decide music as a major.

**Well wishes for the Class of 2024:** I wish all of them find their ideal musical path and continue to develop their talents in the field of music.

**Advice for future music students:** Don't hesitate to show your love and passion in music!



# VAREN KUMAR MANIKTALA

**BA MUSIC  
BS COMPUTER SCIENCE**



**Hometown: Raleigh, NC**

**Future Plans: Masters in Computer Science or job in software development**

**Why Music?: I have played guitar for over half my life and wanted to really increase my skills in both instrument and theory work.**

**Favorite Courses: Theory II with Prof Covach, Keyboard Skills I with Prof Frank, Beatles with Prof Covach, MUSC 193 with Prof Lavaque**

**Involvement on Campus: Jazz Ensemble (both big band and small combo), GDSC (Google Developers Students Club), UoR AIR Lab**

# VAHNI TAGIRISA



## BA MUSIC BS BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING

**Hometown:** Cupertino, CA

**Future Plans:** While I don't have anything set in stone yet, I will be exploring Voice Medicine research as an avenue to develop more accessible and holistic vocal pedagogy for those with various medical conditions.

**Why Music?:** Throughout my life, the musical communities I have been a part of have brought me so much joy and connection, and I chose Music because I wanted to be able to build more communities for those who don't have easy access music education.

**Favorite Courses:** MUSC 121 - World Music in Context

**Involvement on Campus:** Off Broadway on Campus, UR Gospel Choir, SoNIC Lab

**Thanks to:** I would like to thank every teacher I have had along the way that has encouraged me to follow my path.

**Well wishes for the Class of 2024:** I can't wait to see all the amazing things you all do!!

**Advice for future music students:** Take advantage of the community of talented musicians around you and make as much music as you can!! A great place to start (outside of the music department ensembles) is music student organizations.

# CHUMING XIANG

**BA MUSIC**  
**BA PSYCHOLOGY**



**Hometown: Beijing, China**

**Future Plans: Graduate School**

**Why Music?: It is my passion!**

**Favorite Courses: Every course I took in the music department!**

# 2023-2024 Faculty

**Matt BaileyShea**, *Professor of Music and Chair*  
*Associate Professor of Music Theory, Eastman School of Music*

**Doris Aman**, *Director of Carillon Activities*

**Kerfala Bangoura**, *Director, West African Drumming Ensemble*

**John Covach**, *Professor of Music*  
*Professor of Music Theory, Eastman School of Music*  
*Director, Institute for Popular Music*

**Julie Covach**, *Director, Chamber Singers and Concert Choir*

**Julius Dicks**, *Director, Gospel Choir*

**Bruce Frank**, *Senior Lecturer*

**Naomi Gregory**, *Instructor*

**Ji Young Kim**, *Instructor*

**Jennifer Kyker**, *Professor of Music*  
*Associate Professor of Ethnomusicology, Eastman School of Music*

**Honey Meconi**, *Arthur Satz Professor of Music*  
*Professor of Musicology, Eastman School of Music*

**Christopher Meeker**, *Instructor*

**Bruce Pilato**, *Instructor*

**Mark Powell**, *Lecturer and Director of Orchestral Activities*

**Jacquelyn Sholes**, *Visiting Assistant Professor of Music*

**Philip Silvey**, *Director, Treble Chorus*  
*Associate Professor of Music Education, Eastman School of Music*

**William Tiberio**, *Director, Wind Symphony, Jazz Ensemble, and Brass Choir*

**Jason Titus**, *Senior Lecturer*