



Congratulations CLASS OF 2025

Epicenter For Growing Artists

UCLA Herb Alpert
School of Music

COMMENCEMENT 2025



OUR MISSION

Esteeming all musical traditions as vital cultural expressions of our evolving global society, the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music cultivates models for musical studies that integrate exemplary scholarship and practices, and engage through music with diverse communities on campus, throughout Los Angeles, and beyond.

OUR VISION

We envision a school of music that welcomes students from all backgrounds, and provides individual mentorship to ensure their well-being and prepare them to flourish in an evolving musical landscape. We strive to fulfill the promise of our position at the nexus of practice and scholarship by engaging diverse musical traditions within a city of exceptional cultural vibrancy.

OUR VALUES

VOICE: Through our voices we express our thoughts, passions, and stories in the most immediate way. **VOICE** has come to represent that expressive capability more generally; we voice ourselves through musical performance, composition, scholarship, and teaching, and strive in our teaching to cultivate the individual voice of each student.

COUNTERPOINT: Individual voices have the greatest impact when they engage others in dialogue, discussion, and debate — in a word, **COUNTERPOINT**—whereby they establish the basis for musical and intellectual communities capable of activating the generative power of diversity.

RESONANCE: Resonance provides the space for harmony and rhythm to magnify the impact of the individual. **RESONANCE** starts with people listening to each other as the first step toward community, which enables them to engage the world beyond more powerfully.

VIRTUOSITY: By cultivating voice, counterpoint, and resonance, we allow **VIRTUOSITY**—in its dual sense of virtue and skill—to flourish, with each performer, composer, scholar, and educator striving for the highest level of ethical excellence, responsible stewardship, and commitment.

Message from UCLA Chancellor
Julio Frenk

Congratulations to the Class of 2025!

Today, we celebrate your hard work, your perseverance, and the journey that has brought you to this special moment. I hope you are proud of how far you have come.



Graduation marks both a culmination and a new beginning. It is a chance to look back on your time at UCLA and all of the ways that you have grown and changed. It is also an opportunity to look ahead — with hope and purpose — to all that lies ahead.

To be sure: Your graduation coincides with a complex moment in human history, when the ground appears to be shifting under our feet and we may feel a desire to lower our sights rather than raise them. My challenge to you: Resist that. I can assure you that your UCLA education has prepared you to meet this moment.

The values you have cultivated at our university — kindness, integrity, curiosity, a commitment to service, and a respect for diverse perspectives — will serve as your foundation as you become leaders in your communities and industries. You are now part of a global network of more than 670,000 Bruins who are shaping the future in bold and meaningful ways. Stay connected to your classmates, your mentors, and this university, which will always be your home.

On behalf of the entire UCLA community, I extend my deepest congratulations to you. We can't wait to see all that you will accomplish.

Go Bruins!



Julio Frenk
Chancellor



Message from Acting Dean
Robert Fink

Welcome to the 2025 commencement ceremony for
The UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music.

I am pleased to extend our warmest greetings to the extraordinary students, families, and friends who are joining us today. Our graduating students have challenged us, excited us, and set new standards during their time at UCLA. Their dedication and creativity have left a lasting mark on our community. We are thrilled to be gathered to honor and celebrate them today.

Education is more than just time spent in classrooms or the library or the practice rooms—it is also a powerful means of transformation. Education is personal self-development: honing a craft, developing skills, and learning about the world and the cultures that connect us all. But education is also a collective experience. The class of 2025 has experienced profound — sometimes disruptive — change on this campus, in the UC system and the world outside our gates. Turning to face this change, our graduates have shown discipline, focus, collaboration and compassion—qualities that we are proud to celebrate today.

Music itself is an art of transitions, whether from note to note, chord to chord, or opening gesture to final cadence. In music, we can learn to cope with the changes that unsettle us, to value the cut and thrust of tonal conflict, and to construct visionary models of harmonious resolution. Connecting us to something larger than ourselves, music provides a setting for each artist to shape a unique voice. Our students are composers, performers, scholars, and entrepreneurs, often inhabiting several of these roles at once. What unites their work is a shared, steadfast love of the changes that make the music matter.

This year we celebrate almost two hundred graduates who proudly represent our school's world-class academic programs in Ethnomusicology, Global Jazz Studies, Music, Musicology, and Music Industry. On behalf of the entire faculty and staff of The UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music, I extend heartfelt congratulations to every single one of you.

To our 2025 graduates, let us all remain connected. Your artistic, scholarly, and entrepreneurial journeys will transform still, taking you in often unexpected directions. Share those stories with us. We are excited to learn about the paths you take, and the changes you make.

With Appreciation & Congratulations,



Robert Fink
Acting Dean

Commencement Keynote Speaker

Denyce Graves



American mezzo-soprano Denyce Graves has captivated audiences across the globe for over four decades, gracing the world’s most esteemed opera houses and concert halls. A consummate artist with an extensive discography, she has been prominently featured on national public television, appearing in celebrated programs ranging from Great Performances to Sesame Street.

Beyond her illustrious performing career, Ms. Graves is an Emmy and GRAMMY Award-winning artist, and holds the distinguished title of Global Music Ambassador for the United States. Her enduring legacy is further enshrined in the Smithsonian Institution, where

her portrait is part of the National Portrait Gallery’s permanent collection, and her image is commemorated in the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

While Ms. Graves remains an active performer and sought-after stage director, she envisions her greatest legacy extending beyond the stage. Through The Denyce Graves Foundation, she is shaping the future of vocal artistry, empowering the next generation of extraordinary singers, and illuminating the narratives of pivotal yet underrecognized musical pioneers.

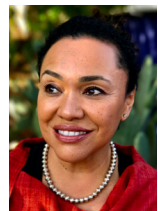
Past Keynote Speakers



2024
Jake Heggie
Award-winning
composer



2023
Martha Gonzalez
Chicana activist,
musician, & educator



2022
Dr. Maria Jackson
Chair, National
Endowment for the Arts



2021
Regina Carter
Award-winning jazz
violinist



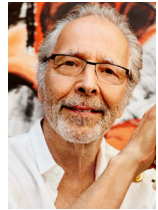
2020
Carlos Santana
Grammy-winning
songwriter & guitarist



2019
Jacqueline Cogdell DjeDje
Ethnomusicologist
& author



2018
Judith Finell
Musicologist &
UCLA alumna



2017
Herb Alpert
Trumpeter, songwriter,
GRAMMY Award-winner,
& philanthropist



Student Speakers



GRADUATE COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER
Wade Dean

Wade Fulton Dean (Musicology Ph.D.) is a passionate educator, scholar and community advocate whose work lives at the intersection of music, Black vernacular culture, and socio-political life. Currently, he serves as a lecturer at Spelman College and co-director of Noire, the college’s popular music ensemble. At Spelman, Dean has led initiatives that increased student engagement and expanded community partnerships.

Dean has demonstrated a deep commitment to marginalized communities through nonprofit leadership roles, including as education chair of the West Adams Neighborhood Council and a mentor with Minds Matter Los Angeles. Dean is a New Leaders Council Fellow and a recipient of the Mellon EPIC Fellowship. A frequent public speaker and on-air contributor, he has appeared in TV ONE’s *Unsung* and consulted on projects that elevate underrepresented voices. Whether in the classroom, on stage, or in the community, Dean is driven by an uncompromising belief in education’s role in catalyzing social and intellectual transformation within and beyond the classroom.



UNDERGRADUATE COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER
Mia Ruhman

Mia Ruhman (BA, Music Composition) is a Los Angeles based composer, soprano, and actress. In 2019-21, Ruhman was a fellow in the LA Phil’s composer fellowship program, and in 2020 was an LA Phil YOLA Sue Tsao composer fellow. Her compositions have been performed by the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the National Children’s Chorus, Seraphour, Hub New Music and the Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles.

Ruhman sang on the GRAMMY Award-winning recording of Mahler’s *Symphony No. 8, “Symphony of a Thousand,”* performed by the Los Angeles Philharmonic conducted by Gustavo Dudamel. She also works for the National Children’s Chorus as a musicianship instructor and for the Palisades Methodist Church as soprano section leader. Ruhman’s original opera *Nannerl* tells the story of Wolfgang Mozart’s older sister, considered a brilliant composer in her own right. A performance is slated for 2025, consisting of a 20-person cast with Ruhman playing the title role.

Awards

Latin Honors

SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Mikey Aboutboul
Daisy Faragher
Celina Anna Kintscher
Marin Rain Schneider
Madison Starr

MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Trinity Rose Drummond
Sydney Grace Reimer
Owen J Richards

CUM LAUDE

Rubani Chugh
Nicholas Kim
Kate Hastings Kresser
Chloe Marie Ling
William Michael McNamara
Cole Wingfield McQuinn
Jonathan Recomanta
Estrella Michelle Rico
Jeffrey Lewis Smith
Sophie Rose Weinstein

Dean's Medal Recipients

ETHNOMUSICOLOGY

Mikey Aboutboul, Undergraduate
Daisy Faragher, Undergraduate
Armen Adamian, Graduate

GLOBAL JAZZ STUDIES

Micah Phillip Johnson, Undergraduate
Elliot Jiwon Gorham, Undergraduate

MUSIC

Celina Anna Kintscher, Undergraduate
Kobe Matthew Sanders, Undergraduate
Kevin Cornwell II, Graduate
Daniel Reyes-Velarde, Graduate

MUSIC INDUSTRY

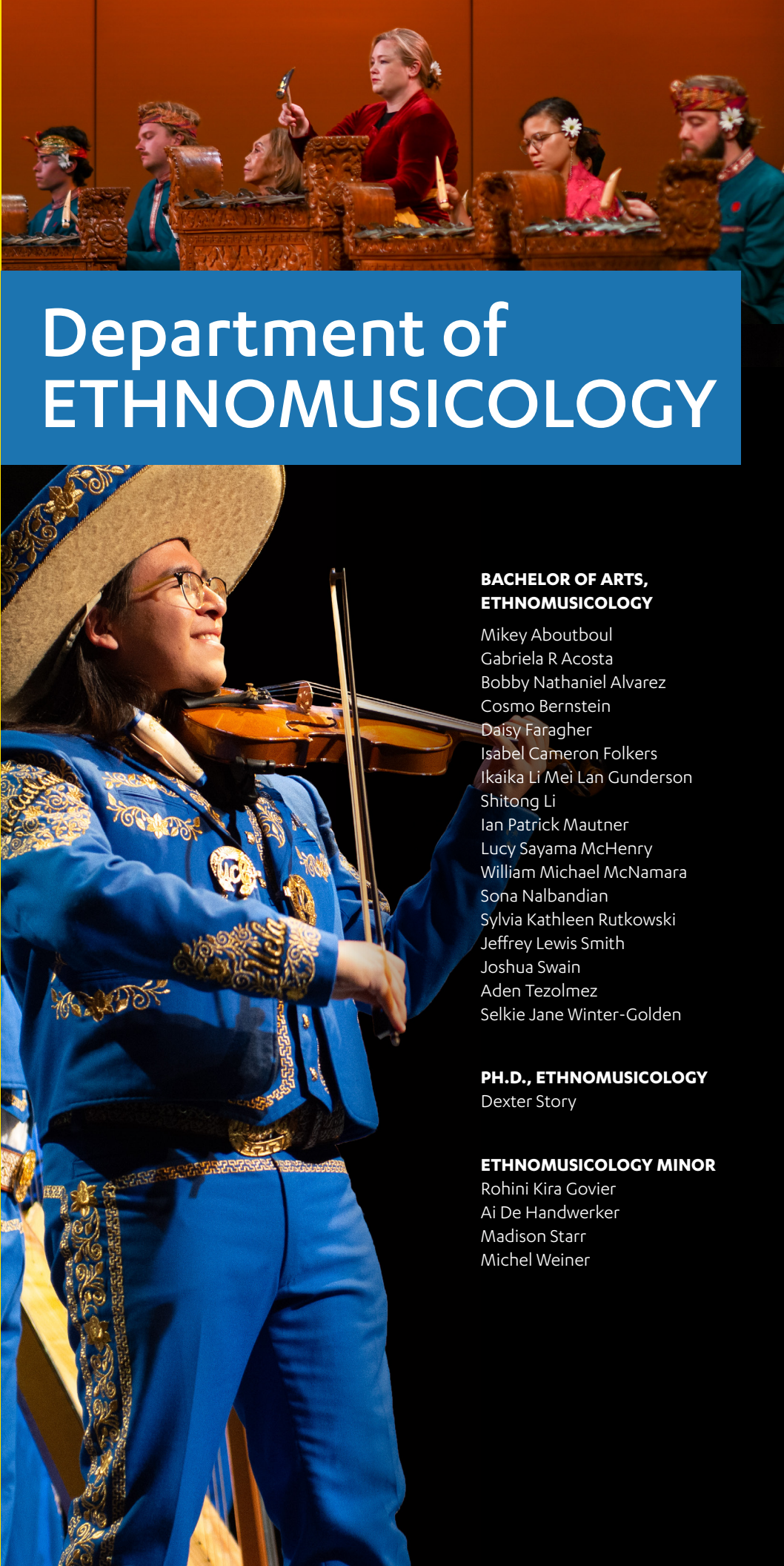
Kate Greeley, Undergraduate
Desmond Wong, Undergraduate

MUSIC HISTORY & INDUSTRY

Trinity Drummond, Undergraduate

MUSICOLOGY

Sydney Reimer, Undergraduate
Matthew Blackmar, Graduate
Ramona Gonzalez, Graduate



Department of ETHNOMUSICOLOGY

BACHELOR OF ARTS, ETHNOMUSICOLOGY

Mikey Aboutboul
Gabriela R Acosta
Bobby Nathaniel Alvarez
Cosmo Bernstein
Daisy Faragher
Isabel Cameron Folkers
Ikaika Li Mei Lan Gunderson
Shitong Li
Ian Patrick Mautner
Lucy Sayama McHenry
William Michael McNamara
Sona Nalbandian
Sylvia Kathleen Rutkowski
Jeffrey Lewis Smith
Joshua Swain
Aden Tezolmez
Selkie Jane Winter-Golden

PH.D., ETHNOMUSICOLOGY

Dexter Story

ETHNOMUSICOLOGY MINOR

Rohini Kira Govier
Ai De Handwerker
Madison Starr
Michel Weiner

GLOBAL JAZZ STUDIES

BACHELOR OF ARTS, GLOBAL JAZZ STUDIES

Keshav Gopal Balaji
Henry Leopold Baskin
Amir K Elahi
Connor Ryan Gilbert
Elliot Jiwon Gorham
Arya Vir Hora
Micah Phillip Johnson
David Alonzo Marsh II
Cole Wingfield McQuinn
Dalton Marcellus Mumphrey
Sydney Mele Owens
Ellie Rice
Christian Rodriguez
Kennedy Maria Shelby
Caleb Treuting Sokolowski
Ella Louise Tarara
William Morris Werthimer



MUSIC INDUSTRY PROGRAM

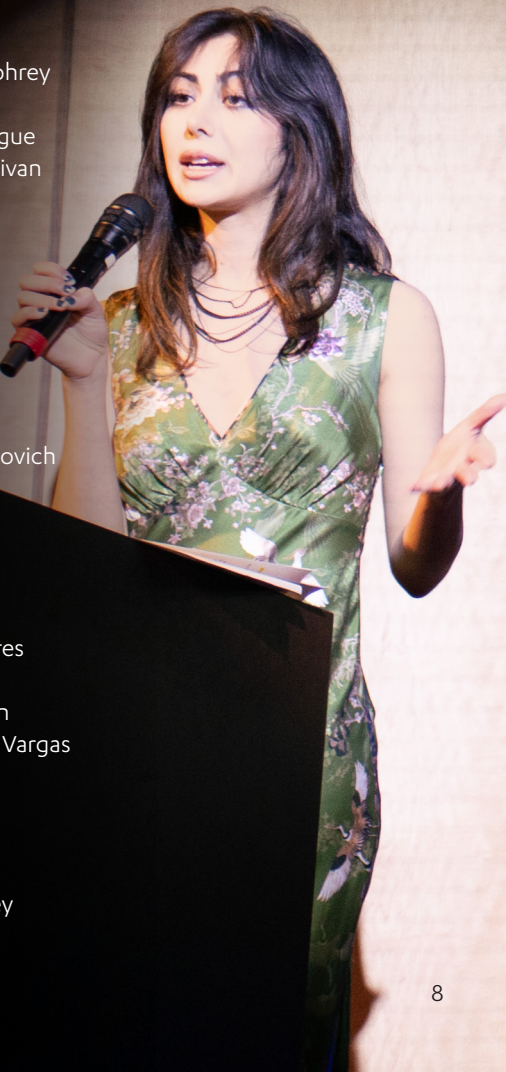
BACHELOR OF ARTS, MUSIC INDUSTRY

Sheng Sirikit Chang
Elena Gabrielle Flauto
Isabella Maryam Ghassemi
Hahhah Priya Gill
Kate Elizabeth Greeley
Hasitha Guhan
Kate Hastings Kresser
Cathryn Kuczynski
Esme Siobhan Lee
Colin Love
Brianna Frances Manning
Grace Emily Masura
Alison Mariflor Mendoza Grantcharova
Isabela Rose Presti
Eytan Rosenman
Madison May Yee Starr
Augustus Suchecki
Greyson Suchecki
Sophie Rose Weinstein
Desmond Carter Wong

MUSIC INDUSTRY MINOR

Ali Hussain Alqatari
Pitcha Amphan
Nikki Claire Aviv
Mike Barkasy
Raquel Estefana Barron
Megan Jean Bober
Jaden Amir Boggs
Ella Margaret Boring
Aysu Banniga Buldac
Mithil Chakraborty
Ava Ruby Charles
Alyssa Cheung
James Dominick Cobb
Shamiya Monnet Collins
Benicio Santiago Corona de Flores
Alyssa Katherine Cosico
Nicholas Flynn Costantini
Annalise Courtines
Aidan Nicolas Cox
Rebecca Suzanne Depina
Omid Anthony Dibaei
Isabella Marie Durand
Rianna Emily Dy
Juliana Alexandra Edelnant
Amir K Elahi
Savannah Olivia Ellerson
Christian Antonio Green
Kelsey Shei Greenberg
Jordan Cierra Hanzy
Brooks Cameron Hitomi
Tai Hong
Arya Vir Hora
Cassandra Llaguno Jingco
Samantha Vivian Kao
Sean Tyler Kawanami
Josephine Karis Yireh Kim
James Markus Lebenthal
Jacob Joseph Lee
Jinkyung Lim
Chloe Marie Ling
Logan James Longmuir
Andre Duc-Huan Mai

Nicholas Chance Martinez
Maya Rose McGowan
Lucy Sayama McHenry
Benjamin Moore
Dalton Marcellus Mumphrey
Luke William Nichols
Sofia Paufrion Nonga Ngue
Ryan Greenwood O'Sullivan
Victoria Hope Oliphant
Jack Edward Pawlakos
Kaitlyn Noel Pham
Jenia Shiann Robinson
Ben Rosen
Santiago Sanchez
Marcel Sekesan
Luna Seng-Lay
Elizabeth Victoria Shlimovich
Brenda Iris Sifontes
Katie Lynn Simpson
Jillian Joyce Snyder
Crystal Su
Aden Tezolmez
Asiah Raine Kosaka Torres
Joelle Tran
Rene Marie Van Uchelen
Joaquin-Tonalli Acatzin Vargas
Leondardo Vargas
Jeslyn Wang
Michel Weiner
Samantha F Weisman
Benjamin Robert Whitley
Stephen Moshe Wise
Alexa Shirel Zysman



Department of MUSIC

BACHELOR OF MUSIC, MUSIC PERFORMANCE

Cyrus Alva
Daler Babaev
Jason Tyler Bernhard
Seamus Michael Byrne
Daniela Camille Chavez
Grace Chen
Shiun Kim Choi
Yeonwoo Chu
Rubani Chugh
Kevin Ryan Corrigan
Andres Delgado
Oren Menashe Dror
Terry Hsu
Janice Gao Hu
Ryan Jia
Nicholas Kim
Reina Kim
Mia Kuo
Jasmine Lam
Leigha Anne Linder
Yekaterina Dorothy Lynch
Vasili Magaziotis
Krystal Mao
Aria Hanne McCauley
Adam Solomon Winn Moss
Remy Ohara
Xavier Andrew Paul
Kaya Brixius Ralls
Jonathan Recomanta
Layla Shapouri
Andrew Graham Smith
Leland Alexander Smith
Viraj Mehul Sonawala
Alaina Stark
Aiden Hou Tang
Kevin Tran
Hannah Victoria Verduzco
Michelle Jing Yang

BACHELOR OF ARTS, MUSIC COMPOSITION

Sean Tyler Kawanami
Celina Anna Kintscher
Naveed Perkins
Mia Isabella Ruhman
Aidan Vass
Sydney Wang

BACHELOR OF ARTS, MUSIC EDUCATION

Christian Ivan Cruz Morales
Matthew Aurelius Chavez
Ana Lucia Martinez
Angel Jesus Mendez Mendoza
Owen J Richards
Kobe Matthew Sanders
Viraj Mehul Sonawala
Emily Yumi Taylor
Hannah Victoria Verduzco
Ariel Peter G Villaroya

BACHELOR OF ARTS, MUSIC

Jahan Orion Raymond

MASTER OF MUSIC, MUSIC

Amanda Ballinger
Ally Cho
Samuel Chung
Kevin Cornwell II
Virginia Douglas
I-Chin Feinblatt
Saul Guttierrez
Ryan Heisinger
Katlyn Lang
Davis Lerner
Edward Li
Filippo Lugnan
Kevin Needham
Yulki (Emily) Park
Alexander Parlee
Frank Peacock
Azriel Ressler
Daniel Reyes-Velarde
Adelle Rodkey
James Scott
Kelly Tsai
Isaac Visoutsy
Devin Walsh
Emma Yim

MASTER OF MUSIC, JAZZ

Ebunoluwa Daramola
Destiny Diggs-Pinto
Alden Hellmuth
Miles Lennox
Alexander Ripley
Takiv Tsvietinskyi

MASTER OF ARTS, MUSIC

Joaquin Lichtle-Prieto

MASTER OF ARTS, MUSIC, VISUAL MEDIA

Kevin Bodhipaksha

DOCTOR OF MUSICAL ARTS, MUSIC

James Barrera
Michael James
Yijin Wang
Rachel Wolz

PH. D., MUSIC

Elliona Li
Vasken Ohanian

PH. D., MUSIC

Shirunyu Li

BACHELOR OF ARTS, MUSICOLOGY

Benicio Santiago Corona de Flores
Juliana Alexandra Edelnant
Chloe Marie Ling
Becca Marcelo
Mateo Lee Murphy
Sydney Grace Reimer
Haru Sakurai
Brenda Iris Sifonte
Bryan Charles Vazquez
Jayde Capryce Wash

PH.D., MUSICOLOGY

Matthew Blackmar
Wade Dean
Erin Fitzpatrick
Ramona Gonzalez
Candace Hansen

MUSICOLOGY MINOR

Jessie Joy Benson
Johnny Bhaskar
Hamish Christopher Buran
Kate Maya De Guillenchmidt
Lilian Abigail Dewey
Filip Georgopoulos
Damien Mai Ha
Fiona Ling Harley
Morgan Olivia Hawes
Linnea Janine Jackson
Rhea Jain
Selina Juang
Katie MacDonald
Jonathan Recomanta
Paola Janeth Rodriguez
Renee Michelle Rubanowitz
Austin Gray Schwartz
Jahnnavi Ulka Srinivas
Lauren Abbey Varela
Philip Ivo Venkov
Ryan James Whalen

BACHELOR OF ARTS, MUSIC HISTORY & INDUSTRY

Scott Rowland Chapman
Trinity Rose Drummond
Ashley Nicole Greene
Maya P Mougey
Grace Anne Nguyen
Kamari Rain Parham-Ivra
Estrella Michelle Rico
Marin Rain Schneider
Rocco Agostino Spano
Sophia Ann Stamus
Rosemarie Cecilia Trujillo Tejada

Department of MUSICOLOGY



PROCESSIONAL MUSIC

UCLA Commencement Brass Ensemble | West African Drum Ensemble

FACULTY DIRECTORS: Travis J. Cross | Francis Kofi Akotuah **COMPOSERS:** Francis Awe and Steve Loza
PARTICIPATING MUSICIANS: Samuel Adam, Elana Akotuah, Francis Akotuah, [Jason Bernhard](#),* Emma Breen,
Kelese Bryant, Saúl Gutierrez, Ryan Heisinger, Nathan Jones, Sam Kredich, Catie Kucynski, Sebastian Martinez,
[Remy Ohara](#),* Aziel Ressler, [Haru Sakurai](#),* [Andrew Smith](#)*

ONE BY ONE

African American Music Ensemble

FACULTY DIRECTOR: Diane White Clayton
PARTICIPATING MUSICIANS: Cooper Burdick, Salvatore Cayabyab, Sean Cronin, Arielle Cunanan, Trinity Dela Cruz,
[Juliana Edelnant](#),* Jonah Gathright, Delaney Hutchinson, [Chloe Ling](#),* Athaliah Mackewicz, [Becca Marcelo](#),*
Ana Martinez, [Grace Masura](#),* Cody Moser, Garrett Moser, [Kaya Ralls](#),* Jacob Rewa, Alex Richmond, Oliver Strachan,
Jay Taimish, Penny Thompson, Justin Xu

ALMA MATER

FACULTY DIRECTOR: Michael Dean
PARTICIPATING MUSICIANS: [Amanda Ballinger](#),* Kevin Ryan Corrigan, [Andres Delgado](#),*
Yekaterina Dorothy Lynch,* [Virginia Douglas](#),* I-Chin (Betty) Feinblatt,* [Krystal Mao](#),* [Leland Alexander Smith](#),*
[Ana Lucia Martinez](#),* [Hannah Victoria Verduzco](#),* Natalia May Rael

RECESSIONAL MUSIC

Mariachi de Uclatlán

FACULTY DIRECTOR: Jesús “Chuy” Guzmán
PARTICIPATING MUSICIANS: [Bobby Álvarez](#),* Gabriella Cardona, Andrew Dela Peña, Enrique Rodriguez Gonzalez,
Brandon Hernandez, Dolores Loaeza, Saúl Gutierrez-Sandoval, Angel Ramirez, [Sylvia Rutkowski](#),* [Ariel Villaroya](#)*

RECEPTION MIXTAPE

PARTICIPATING MUSICIANS: Gigi Goldberg, Bella Marcy and [Isabella Ghassemi](#),* Coco Mori,
Greyson and Augustus Suchecki,* [Brianna Manning](#),* [Eytan Rosenman](#),* Katie Simpson, [Hasitha Guhan](#),* Aysu Buldaç

*SCHOOL OF MUSIC 2025 GRADUATE

