

Recognition Ceremony

CU Boulder College of Music Spring 2026

Saturday, May 2, 2026, 3:30 p.m.
Grusin Music Hall
Imig Music Building



College of Music
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**



A Message from the Dean

Graduates,

On behalf of the University of Colorado Boulder College of Music, congratulations to the Class of 2026!

Together with our faculty and staff—as well as all family and friends gathered here today, both in person and virtually—I’m immensely proud of every one of you for your unique, creative contributions to our college community, and beyond.

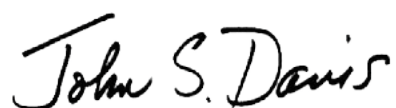
I’m particularly impressed by your artistic and academic excellence, demonstrating the college’s universal musician approach to achieving our mission: You’ve shown that the skills, knowledge and perspectives gained through a music education can have a profound impact beyond the classroom, concert hall or recording studio. You’ve embraced creative collaboration, interdisciplinary innovation and informed advocacy.

Despite the many uncertainties in the world around us, you’re living proof that music transforms lives. All that you’ve accomplished in completing your music education—and the commitment, curiosity and compassion you’ve demonstrated along the way—will no doubt continue to serve you well.

As you embark on your next chapter, I encourage you to stay connected with your alma mater and your fellow Music Buffs. We're always eager to collaborate with our exceptional alumni network and we look forward to learning about your future achievements and experiences as teachers, performers, composers and researchers—and as trailblazers, influencers and leaders across a range of established and emerging fields.

You're a valued part of our College of Music community and we can't wait to discover how your path unfolds.

With best wishes,



John S. Davis
Dean, University of Colorado Boulder
College of Music



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Ceremony Program

Prelude

My Spirit Be Joyful

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

While Sheep May Softly Graze

Johann Sebastian Bach

Trumpet Voluntary (Prince of Denmark's March)

Jeremiah Clarke (1674-1707)

Jesu, Delight of my Soul

Johann Sebastian Bach

La Rejouissance (Music for the Royal Fireworks)

George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

Brass Quintet

Jan Koetsier (1911-2006)

Processional

Fanfare for the King's Supper (Rondeau Theme from *Masterpiece Theater*)

Jean Joseph Mouret (1682-1738)

Welcome

John Davis

Dean, College of Music

Distinguished Alumnus Award

Wei Wu

(MM '13)

Outstanding Graduate Address

Luka Vezmar
Composition + Oboe Performance

Conferring of Degrees

Matthew Roeder
Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies + Enrollment Management

Margaret Berg
Associate Dean for Graduate Studies

Closing Remarks

John Davis
Dean, College of Music

Recessional

Ode to Joy
Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

Music performed by the Flatirons Brass Quintet

Adam Warnke, trumpet
Connor Johnson, trumpet
Daniel Skib, horn
Mark Bennett, trombone
Jared Hartl, tuba

2026 Distinguished Alumnus: Wei Wu

Contributed by MarieFaith Lane



The CU Boulder College of Music is thrilled to announce that Wei Wu (MM '13) has been named our 2026 Distinguished Alumnus in recognition of his international career and contributions to the art of opera. For the Grammy Award-winning bass, his path to success includes embracing new music and a willingness to say yes to the unfamiliar.

New operas: A collaborative approach

Two moments define Wu's career: The first is his participation in the CU Boulder New Opera Workshop (CU NOW)—the College of Music's extended summer workshop, the first of its kind in a U.S. academic institution

where graduate voice students have direct interaction with living composers and librettists to develop and perform their music. The second was *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs*—a contemporary opera written by composer Mason Bates and librettist Mark Campbell (Thtr '75): Wu performed the role of Kōbun Chino Otogawa in the world premiere at Santa Fe Opera; the recording won a 2019 Grammy Award.

Wu's ability to learn quickly and contribute to evolving works helped him stand out in young artist programs and build lasting relationships with creators. "CU NOW is where I started and I'm really grateful for the opportunity," says Wu. "And singing in *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs* premiere—and creating that role collaboratively—was the turning point in my career.

"I was surprised when we won the Grammy—but looking back, it makes sense. There's growing recognition of the importance of new works in American opera."

For Wu, who came to the United States from China in 2007, that recognition carried particular weight and the moment resonated far beyond the award itself. "You could count on one hand the number of Chinese artists who have won a Grammy—now I'm one of them," he says. "It felt surreal—and also meaningful—to represent where I come from on an international stage."



Learn more about Wei Wu's career journey and his advice to young artists.

2026 Outstanding Graduating Senior: Luka Vezmar

Contributed by Katherine Bistodeau



Luka Vezmar experienced the CU Boulder College of Music to the fullest and advises incoming freshmen to “say yes, especially at the beginning, because that could set you up to be saying a lot of yeses to opportunities later, too.”

By faculty vote, Vezmar was named the college’s 2026 Outstanding Graduating Senior based on his strong record of scholarship, musicianship and an emerging record of service and/or leadership. Majoring in both composition and oboe performance, Vezmar was doubly engaged.

Since his freshman year, he’s been part of the Bar Before Quintet, a wind ensemble also including Corva Graham (flute), Nikhila Narayana (clarinet), Nathan Bonin (horn) and David Guy (bassoon). “We got into two national competitions this year—the Coltman Chamber Competition and the Music Teachers National Association [MTNA] Competition—winning third place at MTNA which was really awesome,” he says.

Through the college’s Chamber Music Program, he also met Associate Professor of Violin Harumi Rhodes and eventually composed a piece for her Faculty Tuesdays concert in September 2025, with Rhodes on violin and himself on accordion. “That was probably my favorite commission because we got to have so much fun and we incorporated staging which made the music come alive,” Vezmar says. He further composed pieces for the College of Music Chamber Winds as well as commissions for Chase the Music, bringing inspiration to children battling critical illnesses with music written and performed just for them.

In addition to giving a speech at the College of Music’s recognition ceremony on May 2, Vezmar is performing in the Colorado Symphony’s “The Rite of Spring” concerts, May 1-3. “It’s crazy, but very wonderful.”

“I’m very thankful for all of the experiences I’ve had here and for all of my professors, getting me to where I am today,” he adds. “Being named Outstanding Senior is a wonderful end to my time at CU Boulder—it’s nice to know that what I did is appreciated and that I made an impact.”

This fall, Vezmar will continue his studies at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, pursuing a master’s in composition.

The Graduates

* Honors | ** High Honors | *** Highest Honors
◇ December 2025 graduate | † August 2026 graduate

Bachelor of Arts in Music

Tenzin Dorje
Tuba

Carl Enger
Trombone

Zane Holland
Oboe

Zoe Johnson
Voice

Jennifer Kaphammer * ◇
Percussion
Emphasis in Music Technology
+ Media Studies

Lydia Krason
Harp

Alyssa Ledford
Voice

Regina Lei ***
Violin

Aidan Lindstrom
Piano

Jesus Najera
Jazz Trumpet

Elena Noguera
Voice

Sarah Payton †
Violin

Avanka Perera
Piano

Anthony Petrocco
Saxophone
Emphasis in Music Technology
+ Media Studies

Camila Rodriguez Yanez
Voice

Joseph Rupprecht †
Horn

Greta Smith
Piano
Certificate in Music Technology

Elsbeth Wooldridge
Voice

Jacie Zou
Viola

Bachelor of Music

Jada Abbott **
Musical Theatre

Ruby Anderson **
Musical Theatre

Eirian Austeorrian ***
Oboe Performance

Lydia Blaisdell
Musical Theatre

Asher Dobrin
Composition

Jude Dow-Hygelund †
Piano Performance
Certificate in Music Technology

Alexander Earle †
Violin Performance

Emilie Feve
Oboe Performance

Sophie Green
Musical Theatre

Kevin Halsey
Clarinet Performance

Aria Henson
Flute Performance

Judith Hill
Musical Theatre

Quint Hill
Musical Theatre

Benjamin Kohav **
Piano Performance

Cian Krueger ***
Jazz Studies

Logan Kuhlman **
Cello Performance

Laura Lambrech
Oboe Performance

Andrew Mandabach
Jazz Studies

Lily Manzanares
Percussion Performance

Alysse McDowell-Deffes
Classical Guitar Performance

Holly McMahan ***
Composition
Certificate in Music Technology

Grace Moon
Bassoon Performance

Thomas Nance
Jazz Studies

Everlin Roark **
Cello Performance

Ian Spachman
Voice Performance

Jonah Stern ***
Composition

Angelisse Torres
Musical Theatre

Magdalene Triplett
Voice Performance

Scott Underwood
Trombone Performance

Luka Vezmar ***
Composition
Oboe Performance

Julia Warnock ***
Piano Performance

Dean Weatherbie
Bassoon Performance
Certificate in Music Technology

Adam Weller ***
Violin Performance

Yi Zhou *
Piano Performance

Bachelor of Music Education

Anton Akse ***
Instrumental

Mackenzie Baca **
Instrumental

Toby Buss *
Instrumental

Melvin Casillas Munoz ◊
Instrumental

Adriana Cipponeri ***
Choral

Becky Donoho
Instrumental

Elise Ehlert ***

Instrumental

Annabell Grba ***

Instrumental

Logan Indge *** ◇

Instrumental

Violin Performance

Liam Kiernan

Instrumental

Eunjeong Lee *** ◇

Instrumental

Euphonium Performance

Meini Lepore *** ◇

Instrumental

Cello Performance

Lau Marial *

Choral

Certificate in Music Entrepreneurship

Alayna Metsker *** ◇

Instrumental

Bassoon Performance

Isabelle O'Neill

Instrumental

Anna Worlund *** ◇

Choral

Artist Diploma

Hannah Benson

Opera + Solo Voice Performance

Heewon Lee

String Quartet Performance

Aaron Lockhart

Solo Instrumental Performance

Leah Pernick

String Quartet Performance

Kisa Uradomo

String Quartet Performance

Master of Music

Mark Bennett

Trombone Performance

Blake Clawson

Choral Conducting

Composition

Indigo Farmer

Composition

Alejandro Gallagher

Viola Performance

Jaik Hakkarinen

Jazz Drums

Jared Hartl

Tuba Performance

Sydney Hoehl

Trumpet Performance

Juhyun Hwang

Piano Performance

Dylan King

Saxophone Performance + Pedagogy

Andrew Konopak

Voice Performance + Pedagogy

John Laszakovits

Trumpet Performance

Runze Li

Collaborative Piano

Gabrielle Lowman

Collaborative Piano

Carrina Macaluso

Voice Performance + Pedagogy

Gavin Martelloti

Saxophone Performance

Paige Michaud

Flute Performance

Corey Nance
Trombone Performance + Pedagogy

Davian Raggio
Voice Performance + Pedagogy

Catherine Ryan
Saxophone Performance

Wyatt Smith
Choral Conducting

Zachariah Smith
Choral Conducting

Jordan Spivack
Horn Performance + Pedagogy

Leilani Spurlock
Trumpet Performance

Leah Porter Tracy
Composition

Emilie Tupper
Violin Performance

Aric Vyhmeister
Composition

Alex Yang
Percussion Performance

Master of Music Education

Madison Joy
Music Education
Cognate: Ethnomusicology

Zachariah Smith
Music Education
Cognate: Choral Conducting

Doctor of Musical Arts

Greg Abrell
Violin Performance

Julian Bennett
Cello Performance

Stacey DeGarmo
Horn Performance + Pedagogy

Alice Del Simone
Voice Performance + Pedagogy

Nicholas Felder
Composition

Joel Ferst
Saxophone Performance + Pedagogy

Zach Howarth
Jazz Performance—Drums

Alan Mackwell
Composition

James Morris
Piano Performance

Wesley Shores
Trombone Performance + Pedagogy

Daniel Skib
Horn Performance + Pedagogy

Adam Warnke
Trumpet Performance + Pedagogy

Neilo Zamorano
Orchestral Conducting

Doctor of Philosophy

Issac Johnson
Historical Musicology
Dissertation title: Gregorian Chant in Nineteenth-Century Québec: Innovation, Conservation, and Theory
Certificate in Music Theory
Certificate in Native + Indigenous Studies

Charles Amos Wofford
Historical Musicology
Dissertation title: Now We Are All Conquerors: Led Zeppelin's Imperialist Consciousness and the Regime of Nostalgia
Certificate in Critical Theory



About the College of Music

At the University of Colorado Boulder College of Music, our mission is to inspire artistry and discovery, together. Our students earn more than a music degree in the foothills of the Rockies: We develop multiskilled, multifaceted universal musicians who are well-equipped to participate in the 21st century as artists, educators and scholars; as broadly based professionals with flexible career options; and as passionate, compassionate world citizens.

Our faculty are deeply dedicated pedagogues, award-winning performers, scholars and composers who are standing by to support our students' success and flourishing—whether their passion is to teach, perform, compose, research or rethink music entirely.

Since 1920, the CU Boulder College of Music offers a wide range of programs for undergraduate and graduate study, integrating advanced musical and interdisciplinary training with professional-level experiences. One of the top comprehensive music schools in the country, the College of Music is a fully accredited member of the National Association of Schools of Music since 1941.

Home to the American Music Research Center, the first university-level music entrepreneurship center in the country and a musicians' wellness program, the College of Music offers seven degrees in 24 fields of study.

Learn more at colorado.edu/music