



College of Music Commencement

Spring 2024

3:30 p.m., Thursday, May 9, 2024
Grusin Music Hall
Imig Music Building



College of Music
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

A message from Dean Davis



Graduates,

On behalf of the University of Colorado Boulder College of Music, congratulations to the Class of 2024! Together with our faculty and staff—as well as all parents, partners, spouses, family members and friends gathered here today, both in person and virtually—I’m so proud of all that you have accomplished during your time here. You’ve demonstrated artistic and academic excellence, and you’ve made a significant impact on our community, each of you in your own unique expression.

I am particularly impressed by your ingenuity in fulfilling our college’s mission to develop universal musicians. Many of you have already integrated and applied your hard-earned, transferable skills to other disciplines and causes—from engaged entrepreneurship toward achieving climate sustainability to merging musical pursuits with social activism.

You have shown that the skills and knowledge gained through a music education can have a profound impact beyond the classroom, concert hall or recording studio. You have embraced experimentality, creativity, collaboration and informed advocacy. And you have proven yourselves prepared to be leaders and influencers in a range of established and emerging fields.

I’m confident that you will continue to make an impact beyond these walls. You are well-equipped, talented and passionate—and I know that you will go on to make a meaningful difference in our world.

As you embark on the next phase of your musical journey, I urge you to maintain your connection 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, researchers and trailblazers.

Thank you again for being an important part of our College of Music community. I wish you all the best for your future!

Congratulations,

Handwritten signature of John S. Davis in black ink.

Dean, CU Boulder College of Music

Program

Prelude

BACH: My Spirit be Joyful

BACH: While Sheep May Softly Gaze

CLARKE: Trumpet Voluntary (Prince of Denmark's March)

BACH: Jesu, Delight of my Soul

HANDEL: La Rejouissance (Music for the Royal Fireworks)

Processional

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

Welcome

John Davis

Dean, College of Music

Distinguished Alumnus Award

Joshua Russell (PhD '07)

Introduced by Associate Professor of Music Education Kelly Parkes

Outstanding Graduate Address

Louis Saxton

Bachelor of Music, cello performance

Conferring of Degrees

Margaret Berg

Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Professor of Music Education

Closing Remarks

John Davis

Dean, College of Music

Recessional

BEETHOVEN: Ode to Joy

Music performed by Ensemble Flatirons:

Cameron Holt, tuba · Riley Bahin, trombone · Susannah Greenslit, French horn ·

Adam Warnke, trumpet · Michael Brotherton, trumpet

Distinguished Alumnus Award



The University of Colorado Boulder College of Music is thrilled to announce esteemed music educator Joshua Russell (PhD '07) as the recipient of our 2024 Distinguished Alumnus Award!

Russell currently serves as professor of music education at The Hartt School of the University of Hartford where he teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in music ed and string pedagogy, and directs the Hartt String Project.

With degrees from Indiana, Shepherd and Northwestern universities—before earning a doctorate at our College of Music—Russell exemplifies what it means to be a universal musician: Beyond his earned expertise in classical, jazz and contemporary musical styles, his research interests include musician health, teacher education, string education and psycho-social/cognitive development in musical learning and teaching.

Reflecting on his College of Music experience, Russell recalls the significant impact of his mentors and peers in shaping his career trajectory: “I was lucky to have some great opportunities to work with professors of music education Jim Austin and Margaret Berg—and halfway through my time, Associate Professor of Music Education Martina Miranda came to Colorado. The faculty were amazing to me.”

He adds, “My fellow students also contributed to my positive experience at the College of Music—I’m still great friends with many of them. People make an institution and they taught me the value of being able to ‘fail’ and still be treated with dignity and kindness.”

Russell further emphasizes the importance of resilience as instilled by his mentors and colleagues, calling it “approximations of success”—that is, pursuing incremental goals that ultimately lead to a larger goal.

In a field where specialization may seem the epitome of success, Russell’s success proves that being versatile and flexible is both professionally advantageous and personally fulfilling.

“The world needs universal musicians,” he says.

“Professionally—for performers, teachers, scholars—that means thinking broadly when you set goals for yourself. As one of my mentors said, ‘If you’re overly focused on one goal, you’re going to miss all the shiny stuff on the side ... and there’s a lot of shiny stuff off to the side.’”



Learn more about Joshua Russell at this QR code.

The list of past Distinguished Alumni honorees is available online.

Outstanding Graduate



Louis Saxton (BM, cello performance) attributes his decision to attend the CU Boulder College of Music to his first interaction with Associate Professor of Cello David Requiro.

Saxton was still testing the waters at different schools, evaluating where to expand and refine his role as a cellist—a status that began with music lessons at age 4 in his small northern Minnesota hometown. At his first trial lesson with Requiro, the prospective student and the professor made an instant connection. “I knew within minutes of meeting him that I had to go to this school,” Saxton recalls, citing the positive feedback, easy rapport and immediate sense of inspiration he experienced in that initial meeting.

Saxton’s commitment to our college is also rooted in more intangible factors that stood out during his visits to the only non-conservatory option he considered in deciding where to pursue his passions. His choice boiled down to the mood, the culture and the welcome he received immediately before meeting Requiro as he was sitting with his father outside the professor’s door, awaiting that first trial lesson.

“It was pretty evident that I was a high schooler with my dad and several people asked me if I needed help,” Saxton remembers. “I felt a sense of welcome, along with a sense of dedication.”

It was hardly a typical four years for Saxton as an undergraduate: His freshman year was 2020, coinciding with the most intense stretches of pandemic lockdowns. And in 2021, Saxton was on site when shots broke out at the Table Mesa King Soopers; he fled from the tragic violence, only to return the next day to play Bach’s Cello Suite 1 in G Major to offer a degree of healing.

Through all of the challenges, Saxton relied on the spirit of solidarity, strength and kindness that he first experienced here—to great success. Earlier this year, he won the college’s Concerto Competition and was announced as the recipient of the 2024 Presser Undergraduate Scholar Award.



**Learn more about Louis Saxton
at this QR code.**

The Graduates

* Honors

◊ Dec. 2023 graduate

** High honors

† Aug. 2024 graduate

*** Highest honors

Bachelor of Arts in Music

Max Balasubramaniam
Percussion

Olivia Breen †
Violin

Amruta Divekar
Trumpet

Lisa Gautreaux
Voice

Sarita Narayanswamy
Voice
*Certificates in Music Entrepreneurship
and Music Technology*

Arjun Novotny-Shandas
Piano

Adam Richling
Trumpet

Joshua Sweeney
Saxophone

Jonathan Marshall Uchida ◊
Trumpet

Lingyi (Eric) Wang †
Voice

Bachelor of Music

Sean Applebee
Jazz Studies

Enrique Arellano
Oboe Performance

Jorin Benson
Euphonium Performance

Clarrisse Bosman *
Bassoon Performance

Calen Brudos-Nockels
Voice Performance

Anne G Carpenter ◊
Musical Theatre

Isabella Daily
Jazz Studies

Caroline Dewell
Musical Theatre

Alex Engelhardt
Cello Performance

William Foster
*Saxophone Performance with
secondary emphasis in Jazz Studies*

Corbin Glover
Violin Performance

Isabel Burgos Goodwin *** ◊
Composition and Bassoon Performance

Madeline Guyer
Viola Performance

Emelie Hartrampf
Jazz Studies

Elizabeth Harvey
Musical Theatre

Bailey Holman
Bassoon Performance
Certificate in Music Entrepreneurship

Samuel Jarvis
Violin Performance

Alisa Sophie Johnson ◊
Violin Performance

Ellie Karp
Musical Theatre

Jacob Kayler
Trombone Performance

Ayla Lantz
Flute Performance
Certificate in Music Technology

Fuweiyu Li
Piano Performance

Alexandra Loran
Jazz Studies

Ross Maxwell Lowrey ** ◊
Bassoon Performance

Maxwell McCord
Voice Performance

Rain Michael
Composition

Lexi Nigro
Flute Performance

Reilly O'Neill
Musical Theatre

William Pavilonis
Jazz Studies

Ian Peratt
Jazz Studies

Kaori Quan
Voice Performance

Colin Ring
Musical Theatre

Shelby Roberts
Harp Performance

Lucy Rogers
Tuba Performance

Louis Saxton
Cello Performance

Robert Scherer
Bassoon Performance

Mitchell Segura
Jazz Studies

Keegan Shaw
Voice Performance

Noah Solomon
Trumpet Performance

Grayson Stewart
Jazz Studies

Sophia Stout
Jazz Studies

Jonah Sutinen
Jazz Studies

Carlos Taal Jimenez
Jazz Studies

Madison Tallman
Flute Performance
Certificate in Music Entrepreneurship

Colin Terk
Trumpet Performance

Lillian Valdez
Musical Theatre

Joshua Vance
Saxophone Performance

Bachelor of Music Education

Eponine Bell
Choral

Ashley L Civelli *** ◊
Instrumental

Maggie Freking
Choral
Certificate in Singing Health Specialist

Annalise Goetz
Instrumental

Benjamin Golden
Instrumental

Ethan Mead
Instrumental

Jack Tyler Merrill ◊
Instrumental

Shelby Roberts
Instrumental

Gena Rumsey ** ◊
Instrumental

Alexandra Sbarra
Instrumental

Max Tuning
Instrumental

OiLing Wong *** ◊
Instrumental

Artist Diploma

Chas Barnard

*String Quartet Performance
Arts Administration Certificate*

Maggie Bardy

String Quartet Performance

Eric Brennan

Trombone Orchestral Performance

Jenna Clark

Opera and Solo Vocal Performance

Ben Goldstein

String Quartet Performance

MarieFaith Lane

Solo Violin Performance

Yuri Santos

String Quartet Performance

Allyson Stibbards

Solo Viola Performance

Adam Wells

Opera and Solo Vocal Performance

Master of Music

Andrew Beiter

Trumpet Performance

Charlie Bistodeau

*Violin Performance
Arts Administration Certificate*

Hannah Bradshaw

Viola Performance

Max Braun †

Horn Performance and Pedagogy

William Brown

Trumpet Performance and Pedagogy

Yi Dong

Clarinet Performance and Pedagogy

Avedis Escandon

Viola Performance and Pedagogy

Julia Gill

Trumpet Performance and Pedagogy

Jamieon Jamison-Gilmore

Tuba Performance and Pedagogy

Hai-Ryung Jang

Violin Performance

Jacob Kaminski †

Orchestra Conducting

Abigail Kellems

Composition

Gavin Kitchen

Percussion Performance

Allyson Kreider

Flute Performance

Aaron Lockhart

*Viola Performance and Pedagogy
Arts Administration Certificate*

Ethen Marrs †

Music Theory

Kailyn Martino

Voice Performance and Pedagogy

Lauren R. Milbourn

Wind Band Conducting

Sophia Johanna Maeda

Oboe Performance

Jeremiah Otto

Harpsichord Performance

Zane Pergram

Voice Performance and Pedagogy

Kimia Peykarzadeh

Piano Performance and Pedagogy

Derrick Rassinier †

Horn Performance and Pedagogy

Emma Reynolds

Viola Performance

Sofia Rivera †

Piano Performance and Pedagogy

Joeli Schilling

Flute Performance and Pedagogy

Angelique Scully

Piano Performance

Julia Sills

Music Theory

Abigail Terrill †

Piano Performance and Pedagogy

Emily West

*Harp Performance
Arts Administration Certificate*

Sam Wetzel †

Voice Performance

Baylee Womack

Trumpet Performance

Preston Yamasaki

Viola Performance

Master of Music

Education

Olivia Huizar Conner ◊

Cognate: Instrumental Conducting

Grant Hollis

Cognate: Instrumental Conducting

Richi Hsieh ◊

Cognate: Instrumental Conducting

Christina Munguia

*Cognate: Instrumental Conducting
Arts Administration Certificate*

Abby Thompson

Cognate: Ethnomusicology

Samantha Torres

Cognate: Music Technology

Doctor of Musical Arts

Riley Bahin †

Trombone Performance and Pedagogy

Logan Banister ◊

*Saxophone Performance and Pedagogy
Certificate in Music Theory*

Ben Boskoff †

Voice Performance and Pedagogy

Sarah Cain ◊

Voice Performance and Pedagogy

Chen-Fang Hsu

Collaborative Piano

O'Neil Jones

Choral Conducting and Literature

Grace Law

Flute Performance and Pedagogy

Er-Hsuan Li

Piano

Melissa Lubecke †

Voice Performance and Pedagogy

Jiaze Ma

Piano

Noah Mennenga

Trumpet Performance and Pedagogy

Daniel Moore †

Viola Performance

Jun Young Na

Choral Conducting and Literature

Rebecca Ortiz †

Trumpet Performance and Pedagogy

Gleyton Pinto

Clarinet Performance and Pedagogy

Brian Sugrue

Tuba Performance and Pedagogy

Julia Taylor †

String Performance and Pedagogy

Jonathon Winter †

Violin Performance

Maria Wietrzynska

Piano

Joy Yamaguchi

*Violin Performance
Certificate in Music Theory*

Doctor of Philosophy

Brandon Stover

*Ethnomusicology
Dissertation title: Digital Bodies and
Digital Pedagogies: The Embodied
Digitization of the Japanese
Shakuhachi Honkyoku Tradition and the
Transmission of Neuro Online*

New takes on a traditional tune:

Jazz program arranges, records 3 styles of *Pomp & Circumstance*

The College of Music's Thompson Jazz Studies Program is providing this year's graduates with new takes on the timeless rendition of Sir Edward Elgar's *Pomp & Circumstance* theme. The traditional graduation march has been reimagined in three distinct, captivating styles: Latin jazz, New Orleans funk and big band swing.

Alongside alumni and faculty, jazz students performed and professionally recorded the three styles of the tune at Mighty Fine Productions in Denver, which are slated to make their debut during the university's 2024 commencement ceremony.

"The Chancellor's Office invited us to update the original version of *Pomp and Circumstance* into something that would be more exciting for audiences and that acknowledges the diversity not only within CU Boulder, but also American music and culture today," says College of Music Dean John Davis.

Dean Davis immediately reached out to John Gunther, director of the Thompson Jazz Studies Program, who in turn connected the office with Paul McKee, an associate professor of jazz studies whose arrangements and compositions have been performed and recorded by professional and academic jazz ensembles worldwide.

"I've always loved a challenge," says McKee. "It was a lot of fun trying to figure out how to take this fairly conservative piece, 'hip it up' a little and turn it into something that students and families might better connect with."

In just three weeks, McKee arranged all three styles. He aimed to pay respect to the original tune by making the melody recognizable, while also creating distinct variations based on musical styles that have shaped the sound of American music.

McKee's Latin jazz arrangement draws from Cuban and Afro-Cuban styles like mambo and rumba; the New Orleans funk version gives audiences a street-beat, marching-band feel; and the final big band swing style features varying rhythms and solo sections for players to improvise.

"This is one of those traditions that we've done the same way forever; but as musicians, we never want to get stuck regurgitating the same old stuff," McKee says. "This project teaches our students how to make music in their own way, while also giving audiences in Folsom a little more fun."



**Learn more at
this QR code.**