

2019 TEACHING ASSISTANT PRIZES

Awarded to students who distinguish themselves for teaching excellence.
Michael Joseph Aiello, David Andrew Keep, Joanna Hyun Ji Kim, William Talley, Stephanie Michelle Venturino

EXCELLENCE IN ACCOMPANYING AWARD

Recognizes students who have particularly distinguished themselves through their work as collaborative pianists.
Nathan Heng-chi Cheung, Gloria Engle, Ting Laurina Hong

ROBERT WAYNE BARLOW AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN HARP PERFORMANCE

Named for the son of Eastman faculty composer Wayne Barlow; presented to a student judged for excellence in harp performance.
Anna Marie Maxwell

WAYNE BREWSTER BARLOW PRIZE

Awarded to students who have shown excellence in composition.
Sean William Calhoun, Yi Ning Lo

GERALD BARNES AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PIPE ORGAN

Recognizes exceptionally qualified pipe organ students.
Caroline Judith Robinson, Isaiah Williams

BARR AWARD IN ACCOMPANYING

The Barr Award in Accompanying was established in 2001 through a gift from Jean Barr to enhance the recipient's professional library of musical scores and recordings and/or to provide opportunities for professional enrichment, such as attendance at summer music institutes/festivals.
Gloria Engle, Christopher Lynn Reed, Edward Russell Rothmel, Corey Silberstein

ANDREW J. BOGIAGES MEMORIAL PRIZE IN BASSOON

Established to commemorate the life and musical contributions of a talented young Eastman student; awarded to a deserving undergraduate or graduate bassoon student.
Jonathan Robert Churchett, Kirk Edwin Peterson, Christopher Charles Witt

JOHN CELENTANO AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN CHAMBER MUSIC

Established to celebrate the outstanding contributions of Professor Emeritus John Celentano; honors students who have demonstrated exceptional achievement in the study and performance of chamber music.
Nathan Heng-chi Cheung, Ethan Thomas Durell, Matthew Stephen Figel, Jordan Gunn

HENRY COBOS ENDOWED PIANO PRIZE

Established to commemorate the memory of the life and musical contributions of a talented Eastman graduate and ex-emeritus; honors students who have demonstrated exceptional achievement in the study and performance of piano.
Shichao Zhang

DR. JAMES B. COCHRAN ENDOWED ORGAN PRIZE

The James B. Cochran Organ Prize fund was established to honor the life's work of Eastman graduate James Cochran '80E (MM), '92E (DMA) and given by Dr. Cochran and Mr. & Mrs. Robert W. Martin. Dr. Cochran received Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees in Organ Performance and Literature from the Eastman School of Music. He has been Director of Music and Organist at Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church for more than 25 years.
Chelsea Barton, Ivan Bosnar

ANNE T. CUMMINS PRIZE

Established in memory of a well-loved professor of French who taught at the Eastman School of Music from 1924 to 1966; awarded to graduating seniors who have distinguished him-or herself in humanities classes.
Matthew Stephen Figel

ANTHONY AND CAROLYN DONATO PRIZE

The Anthony and Carolyn Donato prize is awarded biannually for the composition of a sonata for violin and piano.
I Hsiang Chao, Wilhelmina Lynn Esary

EASTMAN DIVERSITY AWARD

First established in 2018, the Eastman Diversity Award recognizes contributions to the principles and practice of diversity and inclusion made by individuals or groups within the Eastman community. Faculty, staff, and students from the collegiate program and the Eastman Community Music School are eligible to be nominated.

Catrina Kim, Alissandra Reed

CHARLES WARREN FOX AWARD

Established in memory of the distinguished musicologist and former Eastman School of Music professor; presented to a graduate musicology student in recognition of a special academic accomplishment.
Alexis Ann VanZalen

FRIENDS OF EASTMAN OPERA VOICE COMPETITION PRIZES

Funded by the Friends of Eastman Opera, an organization which supports students, programs, and productions of the Eastman Opera Theatre.

LYNNE CLARKE VOCAL PRIZE

Established to honor the memory of Lynne Clarke; awarded to recognize a vocalist who shows outstanding talent and musicality through his or her first-prize performance in the Friends of Eastman Opera Voice Competition.
Kelly Marie Whitesell

ANNABEL MUENTER VOCAL PRIZE

Established to honor the memory of Annabel Muentner; awarded to the second-prize performance in the Friends of Eastman Opera Voice Competition.
Nathaniel Allen Catasca

THIRD PLACE VOCAL PRIZE

Veena Woeh Akama-Makia

HONORABLE MENTION VOCAL PRIZE

Kira Ilana Kaplan

FRIENDS OF EASTMAN OPERA STUDENT OPPORTUNITY AWARD

Established by the Friends of Eastman Opera to assist voice students with extra-curricular opportunities that may enhance their development as vocalists.

Michael Joseph Aiello, Veena Woeh Akama-Makia, Leyly Bagherof, Hannah Gisela Carroll, Nicholas Dankner, Sarah Forestieri, Michael Galvin, Gene Patrick Graham, Hannah Salome Harrow, Kathleen Elizabeth Kane, Rose Lee Kearin, Mason Scott Lambert, Seoyong Lee, Jeremy L. Lopez, Nathaniel D. Malkow, Conner John McWhirter, Murphy Meyn, Jennifer Nee, Gwyneth Paker, Alexis Noelle Peart, Jazmine Christina Saunders, Nathan Savant, Lauren Nash Silberstein, Faith Sarah Snyderman, Sophie Paige Thompson, Ella Irene Koran Torres, Zeynep Ulbegi, Malinda Wagstaff, Travon Dion Walker, McKenzie Warriner, Kelly Marie Whitesell, David Robert Wolfe, Sarah Jane Yaden

BELLE S. GITELMAN AWARD

Established in memory of Belle Gitelman and the contributions she made to the artistic life of Rochester; presented to students whose compositions have been declared worthy of recognition.
Diana Rosenblum, Amy Victoria Thompson

JERALD C. GRAUE FELLOWSHIP

Established in memory of a respected scholar, beloved teacher, and former chair of the Musicology Department; awarded to graduate students in any field for their outstanding work in musicological research.
Anthony Paul LaLena

WALTER HAGEN CONDUCTING PRIZE

Established in 1984 to honor the memory of Walter Hagen; awarded to a student of conducting.
Mark Edward Marion Lassetter Powell

HOWARD HANSON ORCHESTRAL PRIZE

Given in honor of Howard Hanson, distinguished composer, conductor, and Director of the Eastman School of Music from 1924 to 1964; awarded in recognition of a student who composes an original and distinguishable orchestral piece.
Si Hyun Uhm

HOWARD HANSON ENSEMBLE PRIZE

Given in honor of Howard Hanson; awarded to a student who composes an original and distinguishable ensemble piece.
Kitty Au Xiao

GLENN AND FRANCES HARRIS CELLO PRIZE

Established in 2007, the Glenn and Frances Harris Cello Prize recognizes one or more students who have distinguished themselves in cello performance.
Jordan Gunn

ELSA T. JOHNSON FELLOWSHIP

Awarded to a deserving musicology student, in order to make it possible for that student to devote his or her time to the writing of the PhD dissertation.
Alexis Ann VanZalen

JESSIE KNEISEL LIEDER PRIZE

Established in memory of a distinguished Eastman professor of German; awarded to the winners of the annual Jessie Kneisel Competition in German Lieder.
*First Place: Sophie Paige Thompson; Second Place: Sarah Yaden
Third Place: Michael Joseph Aiello;
Honorable Mention: Michael Galvin*

JESSIE KNEISEL LIEDER PRIZE—PIANO

Established to honor the memory of Ann C. Fehn; awarded to an outstanding pianist who has collaborated with a singer in a performance of German Lieder.
*Ann C. Fehn Memorial Award: Corey Silberstein;
Second Place: Gloria Engle; Third Place: Fang-Wei Hsu;
Honorable Mention: William Evan Ritter*

BARBARA M. H. KOENG AWARD

Established to honor the memory of a beloved staff member at the Eastman School of Music; recognizes the achievements of an accompanying major who shares Mrs. Koeng's passion for working with singers.
John Robertson

LOUIS LANE PRIZE

Named for an Eastman composer and alumnus;
awarded to a student who has shown excellence in composition.
Charles Christopher Berofsky

LECTURE RECITAL PRIZE

Recognizes and celebrates DMA/PRL students at the Eastman School of Music
who present exemplary lecture recitals within a given calendar year.
Blaire K.S. Koerner, Caroline Allie Sonett

ALFRED MANN DISSERTATION AWARD

Established in honor of the distinguished musicologist and professor emeritus at
the Eastman School of Music, the Alfred Mann Award recognizes a student in the
department of musicology or theory for a dissertation of unusual distinction.
Anna Jeanne Fulton, James Michael Sullivan

SIDNEY MEAR TRUMPET PRIZE

Given in honor of Sidney Mear; awarded to outstanding senior trumpet students
in addition to honoring all who teach, play and study trumpet.
David Hiram Puchkoff

LINDA MUISE STUDENT LIFE AWARD

Established in honor of Eastman's former Assistant Dean for
Residential Life; presented to a graduating senior who has shown dedication,
enthusiasm, collaboration, and leadership traits that promote and
maintain a strong quality of life for all.
Benton James Gordon

ROBERT L. OPPELT VIOLA PRIZE

Named for the first recipient of the DMA in Performance and Pedagogy at
the Eastman School of Music; awarded annually to an outstanding viola student.
Ethan Thomas Durell, Tik Yan Joyce Tseng

ORNEST AWARD

Established by Dorothy Ornest '42E and Naomi Ornest '46E in honor of their
parents; presented to undergraduate students, enrolled in any program at the
Eastman School of Music for at least one year, who have shown excellence in
academic and musical study and whose performing instrument is voice.
Rachel Leigh Kobernick, James McCarthy, Gwyneth Anne Paker, Alexis Noelle Peart

TAL PERKES FLUTE PRIZE FUND

Established in memory of Tallon Sterling Perkes '84E; awarded to students who
have demonstrated exceptional achievement in the study of flute.
Yi Xiang

WILLOW HALL PRESS AWARD FOR HARP

Established in memory of Jane B. Weidensaul, PhD, harpist, scholar and teacher;
awarded to a harp performance major entering today's music profession.
Elizabeth Morgan Ojeda

THE PRESSER MUSIC AWARD (GRADUATE STUDENT)

Funded by a grant from the Presser Foundation;
presented to a graduate student demonstrating excellence and outstanding
promise for a distinguished career in the field of music.
Jane M. Sylvester

THE PRESSER FOUNDATION UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

Funded by a grant from the Presser Foundation; awarded to an undergraduate
music student in recognition of outstanding achievement.
Jenna Elizabeth Kent

BERNARD ROGERS MEMORIAL PRIZE

Established in memory of the renowned Eastman faculty composer;
awarded to worthy composition students selected by the faculty.
Nicolas Basim Chuaqui, Haotian Yu, Yan Yue

PETER SALAFF PRIZE

Established to honor the Eastman alumnus, faculty violinist,
and founding member of the Cleveland Quartet; awarded to a graduating senior
violinist, violist, cellist, or pianist who exemplifies the beloved and
rare combination of outstanding artist, collaborator, and passionate
humanitarian that characterizes Peter Salaff.
Julia Helen Churchill, Haley LeAnne Schricker

RAYMOND AND MAXINE SCHIRMER PRIZE IN JAZZ COMPOSITION

Awarded to a student in the Department of Jazz and Contemporary Media
for jazz composition.
Jonathan Bumpus

RAYMOND AND MAXINE SCHIRMER PRIZE IN JAZZ PERFORMANCE

Awarded to a student in the Department of Jazz and Contemporary Media
for jazz performance.
Jacob Brody Svendsen

MILTON SCHLESINGER PERCUSSION PRIZE

Established to honor the legacy and remarkable career of Milton Schlesinger, a
percussionist pioneer of early radio, theatre, and television; awarded to students
who have demonstrated exceptional achievement in the study of percussion.
Emma Catherine Gierszal

BARBARA B. SMITH GAMELAN PRIZE

Established by Barbara B. Smith '43E (MM), this prize is awarded for the best
new composition written for Balinese Angklung and for its performance.
Lena Christine Nietfeld

GLENN WATKINS TRAVELING FELLOWSHIP

Established by a distinguished Eastman alumnus '53E (PhD); awarded to support
dissertation research travel for a doctoral student in musicology.
Trevor Nelson

STEVE WITSER MEMORIAL PRIZE

Established by friends and family to honor the memory of trombonist
Steve Witser '81E; awarded to one or more outstanding trombone students
Jackson Alexander Courtright

RAY WRIGHT PRIZE

Established by alumni to honor the legacy of their teacher and mentor,
Rayburn Wright, legendary composer, arranger, conductor, and professor of
Jazz Studies and Contemporary Media at the Eastman School of Music (1970 to
1990), the Ray Wright Prize is awarded to students in the Eastman jazz program
who embody Ray's spirit of artistry, dedication, versatility, and entrepreneurship.
Ethan Robert Cypress



HONORS and AWARDS

Eastman School of Music
94th Commencement
Sunday, May 19, 2019, 11:15 a.m.