2019 TEACHING ASSISTANT PRIZES

Awards to students who distinguish themselves for teaching excellence.

Michael Joseph Aiello, David Andrew Keep, Joana Hynn & Kim, William Talley, Stephanie McDonald-Veituna

EXCELLENCE IN ACCOMPANYING AWARD

Recognizes students who have particularly distinguished themselves through their work as collaborative pianists.

Nathan Heng-chi Cheung, Gloria Engle, Ying-Larina 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 Cohn, Siang Xing Lee

GERALD BARNES AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PIPE ORGAN

Recognizes exceptionally qualified pipe organ students.

Caroline Judith Robinson, Isabell Williams

BARR AWARD IN ACCOMPANYING

The Barr Award in Accompanying was established in 2009 through a gift from Jean Barr to enhance the recipient’s professional library of musical scores and recordings and to provide opportunities for professional enrichment, such as attendance at summer music institutions/festivals.

Gloria Engle, Christopher Lynn Reed, Edward Russell Redmill, Corey Silberstein

ANDREW J. BOGIAGES MEMORIAL PRIZE IN BASSOON

Established to commemorate the life and musical contributions of a talented Eastman student; awarded to a deserving undergraduate or graduate bassoon student.

Jonathan Robert Chickworth, 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.

Chelsea Barton, Ivan Bosnar

HENRY COBOS ENDOWED PIANO PRIZE

Established to commemorate the memory of a talented Eastman student and ex-instructor; honors students who have demonstrated exceptional achievement in the study and performance of piano music.

Shichao Zhang

DR. JAMES B. COCHRAN ENDOWED ORGAN PRIZE

Established in memory of Dr. James B. Cochran, a long-time colleague of the Eastman School of Music from 1924 to 1966; awarded to graduating seniors who have distinguished themselves in organ performance.

Alexis Noelle Peart, Jazmine Christina Saunders, Nathan Savant, Lauren Nash, Erin Dunlop, Mark Edward Marion Lassetter Powell

FRIENDS OF EASTMAN OPERA VOICE COMPETITION PRIZES

Funded by the Friends of Eastman Opera, an organization which supports groups within the Eastman community. Faculty, staff, and students from the collegiate program and the Eastman Community Music School are eligible to be nominated.

Friends of Eastman Opera

LYNNE CLARKE VOCAL PRIZE

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

Kelli Marie Whitfield

ANNABEL MUENTER VOCAL PRIZE

Established to honor the memory of Ann C. Muenter; awarded to the second-prize performance in the Friends of Eastman Opera Voice Competition.

Natalie Ann Cassara

THIRD PLACE VOCAL PRIZE

Verna Wei-Wei Akama-Makita

HONORABLE MENTION VOCAL COMPETITION

Honorable Mention: Anthony Paul LaLena

JESSIE KNEISL LIEDER PRIZE

Established in memory of a distinguished Eastman professor of German; awarded to the winner of the annual Jessie Kneisl Competition in German Lieder.

Second Place: Gloria Engle; Third Place: Fang-Wei Hsu; Honorable Mention: William Evan Ritter

BELLE S. GITELMAN AWARD

Established in memory of Belle Gitelman and the contributions she made to the artful life of Rochester; presented to students whose compositions have been declared whole or himself in composition.

Diana Rouhollah, Amy Victoria Thompson

JERALD C. GRAU FELLOWSHIP

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

Anthony Paul LaLena

WALTER HAGEN CONDUCTING PRIZE

Established in memory of a well-known composer, teacher, and conductor, and Director of the Eastman School of Music from 1941 to 1964; awarded to recognize a student who composes an original and distinguishable orchestral piece.

Si Hyun Uhm

HOWARD HANSON ORCHESTRAL PRIZE

Established in memory of Howard Hanson, distinguished composer, conductor, and Director of the Eastman School of Music from 1941 to 1964; awarded to recognize a student who composes an original and distinguishable orchestral piece.

Kitty An 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 Vazlen

ANNE T. CUMMINS PRIZE

Established in memory of a distinguished Eastman professor of German; awarded to the student to devote his or her time to the writing of the PhD dissertation.

Mark Edward Marion Lassetter Powell

ANTHONY AND CAROLYN DONATO PRIZE

The Anthony and Carolyn Donato prize is awarded biannually for the performance in the Friends of Eastman Opera Voice Competition.

I Hsiao Chan, Wilhelmina Lyon Evey

EASTMAN DIVERSITY AWARD

First established in 1976, 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.

Caitrina Kim, Alexandria Reed

CHARLES WARREN FOX AWARD

Established in memory of the distinguished musicologist and former Eastman Professor Emeritus Charles Warren Fox; presented to a graduate musicology student in recognition of a special academic accomplishment.

Alexis Ann Vazlen

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.

Friends of Eastman Opera

Kira Ilana Kaplan

WALTER HAGEN CONDUCTING PRIZE

Established in memory of a well-known composer, teacher, and conductor, and Director of the Eastman School of Music from 1941 to 1964; awarded to recognize a student who composes a deserving musicological study.

Mark Edward Marion Lassetter Powell

HOWARD HANSON ORCHESTRAL PRIZE

Established in memory of Howard Hanson, distinguished composer, conductor, and Director of the Eastman School of Music from 1941 to 1964; awarded to recognize a student who composes a deserving orchestral piece.

Si Hyun Uhm

GEORGE GORDON BROWN PRIZE

Established in memory of George Gordon Brown, a long-time colleague of the Eastman School of Music; recognizes the achievements of an accompanying major who shares Mrs. Koenig’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 Bennet

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.
Blaine K. S. Koonce, Caroline Allie Stein

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 students 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

ERNEST 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

ORNEST 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

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 by a grant from the Presser Foundation; awarded to a worthy composition student selected by the faculty.
Nicolás Raúl Chiuangi, Hanlin Yu, Yan Yue

PETER SALAFF PRIZE
Established to honor the Eastman alumni, faculty violinist, and founding member of the Cleveland Quartet; awarded to a graduating senior violinist, violist, or pianist who exemplifies the beloved and rare combination of outstanding artist, collaborator, and passionate humanitarian that characterized Peter Salaff.
Julia Helen Churchill, Haley LeAnn Scheckers

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 Royd Rueden

MILTON SCHLESINGER PERCUSSION PRIZE
Established to honor the legacy and remarkable career of Milton Schlesinger, a percussionist pioneer of early radio, theater, and television; awarded to students who have demonstrated exceptional achievement in the study of percussion.
Emma Catherine Gi覚al

BARRABRA R. SMITH GAMELAN PRIZE
Established by Barbara R. Smith ’51E (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 alumni ’52E (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 Witscher ’91E; 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

WILLIAM HALL PRESS AWARD FOR HARP
Established in memory of Jere H. Hall, PhD, harpist, scholar and teacher; awarded to a harp performance major entering today’s music professions.
Elizabeth Morgan Ojeda

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

HONORS and AWARDS

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