



ARTHUR SATZ DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC
UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER



Graduation Ceremony



Class of 2023



May 13, 2023

9:00AM

Sloan Performing Arts Center

Program

Welcome and Introduction of Faculty

Matt BaileyShea

Reflections from the Class of 2023

Xinyu Cui

Arthur Satz Department of Music Video

Announcement of Special Prizes and Awards

Ward Woodbury Award

Honey Meconi

Kim Kowalke Academic Achievement Award

Jacquelyn Sholes

Awarding of Diplomas

Andrew Cashner

John Covach

Valediction

Cory Hunter

Closing Remarks

Matt BaileyShea

*Reception Immediately following Ceremony
on the Wilson Quadrangle*

** Highest Distinction
+ High Distinction
° Distinction

VALERIE BATTISTA**

BA MUSIC BS COMPUTER SCIENCE



Hometown Why Music?

Columbia, MD

I have loved music for as long as I can remember, and I became passionate about choral singing in high school. I came into college intending to minor in music, but I ended up taking and enjoying so many music courses that I decided to turn it into a major.

Future Plans

After graduation, I will be working as an Associate Software Engineer for the global financial investment company T. Rowe Price in Owings Mills, Maryland. I also intend to continue singing in choirs and making music in my free time.

Thanks to...

I want to thank my family, friends, and everyone in the Music Department for supporting me over the past four years!

Activities

Through the River Campus and Eastman, I have sung with the Chamber Singers, Schola Cantorum, and Treble Chorus, and I learned to play the carillon at the top of Rush Rhees Library. Outside of music, I was a member of the Society of Women Engineers, which organizes community outreach events for young girls in STEM as well as professional development opportunities.

Favorite Courses Well Wishes for the Class of 2023

History of Western Music to 1600 and Chamber Singers

I've had so much fun getting to know you over the past four years! Best of luck with your future lives and careers!

ASHLEY LEUNG BERTRAM**

**BA MUSIC
BA BRAIN & COGNITIVE SCIENCES**



Hometown

Hong Kong

Why Music?

I've loved teaching children music since I was 14.

Future Plans

Pursuing an MA in Music Education at Eastman.

Teaching in public schools in upstate NY.

Thanks to...

Thank you Jesus, my parents, and my husband Noah.

Activities

I was the President of Agape Christian Fellowship.

Favorite Courses

Gospel music in America and Keyboard Skills with Dr. Frank.



XINYU CUI+

**BA MUSIC
BA BUSINESS**



Hometown

Beijing, China

Why Music?

I love music!!!!

Future Plans

Go to graduate school

Thanks to...

Everyone in music depart is so nice!!

Music theory with Baileyshea and Bruce Frank;

ESM piano private lesson

Favorite Courses

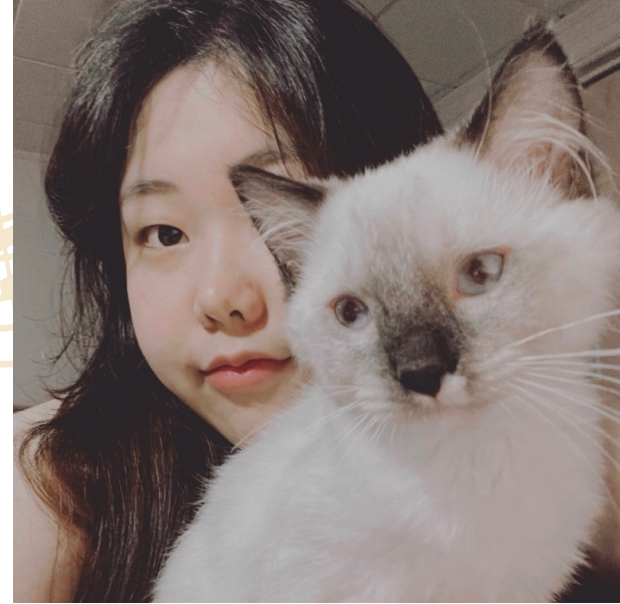
**Well Wishes for the
Class of 2023**

Wish everyone keep their passion in music, and
wish best luck in there following life journey!



YAN DENG+

**BA MUSIC
AME MINOR
JAPANESE MINOR**



Hometown Why Music?

China

Music has become part of my life since I was 3, and I always hope to learn more about music besides piano playing. University of Rochester is a wonderful place full of music elements, and here I met a lot of amazing professors and staff in music field.

Future Plans

One year internship as a musician or studio engineer and then go to graduate school

Thanks to...

I want to thank all music department faculty for being very kind and supportive. Also most importantly, my friends and family, for encouraging me not to give up and offering help at each difficult time.

Favorite Courses Advice for Future Music Students Well Wishes for the Class of 2023

Private lessons and film music lessons

There's no need to look up on ratemyprofessor when you wonder which course to select, just go for it, they are all very nice :)

I wish we all preserve our love and passion towards music, and I know we might live very different lives, but I wish music always keep us happy.

Additional Thoughts

Studying at the U of R is already being abroad for us international students. As for my favorite memory, I will say is the department trip to NYC! I love Lion King and La Traviata, and the time we spent together. Really amazing experience.



ELIZABETH GARIJO-GARDE**

BA MUSIC
BA PUBLIC HEALTH



Hometown

Darien, CT

Why Music?

To me, studying music has never felt like "work!" It's always been something I've genuinely loved learning about and I couldn't get enough of!

Future Plans

I'll be staying in Rochester to complete a Take 5 in religion and social change!

Thanks to...

My mom, siblings, friends, professors, and teachers who have all encouraged, supported, and inspired me these past four years!

Favorite Courses

There are so many to choose from! Some highlights were my theory classes with Professor BaileyShea and Professor Frank and "Music, Ethnography, and HIV/AIDS" with Professor Kyker!

Activities

Outside of the classroom, I was involved in the orchestras, Gamma Phi Beta, the Panhellenic Executive Board, Meridian Society (tour guide), Student Alumni Ambassadors, Writing Fellows, Cello Choir, and I was a Residential Advisor. It's impossible to pick one as my favorite, but I'm especially grateful for the memories I made and experiences I had in Gamma Phi and as a Student Alumni Ambassador!



TIANYU (DAVID) HUANG

BA MUSIC
BS COMPUTER SCIENCE
BS PHYSICS



Hometown

Beijing

Why Music?

I love music! I've learned many instruments since I was a child and composed a lot during high school

Future Plans

Going to grad school for PhD studying quantum information science

Thanks to...

I would like to thank everyone in the music department who helped me to success in my music undergraduate academic career, especially Prof. BaileyShea, Prof. Covach, Prof. Meconi, Prof. Sholes, Prof. Frank, etc.

Favorite Courses **Activities**

Theory IV

For music-related clubs, I was in Jazz Combo and Rock Ensemble. My favorite memory is the drum solo I played in Jazz Combo during my first semester for the song "Bolivia".

Advice for Future **Music Students** **Well Wishes for the** **Class of 2023**

Keep doing what you love, and stay motivated!

Wish you guys great success with your dreams and career. Stay safe and healthy!



KATIE HURWITZ**

BA MUSIC BA CREATIVE WRITING & WORLD LITERATURE

Hometown Why Music?

Walpole, MA

I chose music to make the little girl who used to amuse herself by pounding atonal chord clusters on her grandfather's piano happy—the little girl who completed recorder karate, chose a pink ukulele as her first instrument, and fell deeply in love with the cello. Doing a music major at the University of Rochester meant I had the chance to learn alongside the best-of-the-best at Eastman, as well as expand my world through learning about (and participating in) musical traditions from across the globe. I choose music because it allowed me to embrace my humanity and connect with others in ways I couldn't even fathom when I began my college journey.

Future Plans

From May 2023 to August 2023, I will officially begin my graduate studies at the Warner School of Education, working towards a triple certification in Childhood Education, TESOL, and Reading & Literacies. From September 2023 to July 2024, I will be teaching English at the Hellenic-American Educational Foundation in Athens, Greece through a Fulbright grant. From August 2024 through August 2025, I will finish up my M.A.

Thanks to...

Matt BaileyShea, Jennifer Kyker, Jimmy Warlick, Sara Rembert, Jennifer Carpenter, and the rest of the UR music department. My family: mom Joan, dad Eric, sister Emily, grandparents Les and Jan. All my friends! Especially my roommate Deborah.

Favorite Courses Well Wishes for the Class of 2023

Analysis of Song, Music History III, Approaches to Musical Ethnography
Sustaining our passion for music can take us anywhere in life! Keep being your lovely selves, and let's stay connected :)

Activities

Chamber ensembles: Cello choir (founder), piano trios, string quartet. Eastman opportunities: Advanced Mbira Ensemble, Gamelan Ensemble, cello lessons. Additional music activities: Jazz ensemble, jazz combo, URCO, URSO, OBOC Pit, Newman Center Music Ministry, Institute for Performing Arts Council (music department representative), independent research study on children's music, Music Technician. Additional activities: Meliora Figure Skating Club (Co-Founder & former Events Chair), Aviation in Rochester (Co-Founder and former Director of Activism), BPG Fun things off campus: ROCmusic teaching artist, volunteer at ECMS early childhood program, RPYO Assistant, ESL tutoring. Favorite memory: Performing Bachianas Brasileiras at ROCmusic's Cello Day!

Advice for Future Music Students

If you take a moment to really reflect on why you're studying music, there can be so many possibilities. Maybe music is a release for you. Maybe you feel empowered every time you hit a milestone in your musicality. Maybe music is medicine; maybe it heals. Maybe music is a way of socializing and a way of being a part of a community. Once you identify your reasons, really think about how you can make music fulfill your own wishes, no matter what other people expect of you. Use music as a way of being your best, most authentic, self.

Additional Thoughts

THANK YOU! I made the BEST decision ever transferring here in 2020. Through living my UR experience, it became more and more my dream school, and I am so privileged to have the opportunity to be a part of the music program in such an arts-appreciating city. I love how close and connected the music department is on the River Campus...I especially appreciate all the music major receptions, the opportunity to go to NYC, and the chance to shine at my senior recital. As a future teacher, I give a gold star to the UR Music Department!



DAVID MINGZE JIN°

BA MUSIC LEGAL STUDIES MINOR AME MINOR



Hometown Why Music?

California

Music has always been a passion of mine. Through music I got through some of the most difficult times. it's a constant safe space for me to escape to. The music program at U of R is impeccable because it allows so much diversity in terms of courses offered, and I was able to take lessons at Eastman which is beyond helpful for my musicianship.

Future Plans Thanks to...

Loyola Law School

I would like to thank Professor BaileyShea for his constant support, Sara for always being there for everybody, Professor Sholes for making me a better scholar, Professor Meconi for her kindness in allowing me to express my creativity, Julie Covach for being one of the best choir directors, Professor Hunter for his trust in me, Professor Frank for his endless encouragement.

Activities

Midnight Ramblers, the semester shows are always amazing but this past spring show was the 25th anniversary so it was extra special.

Favorite Courses

The courses I actually TA-ed for: Gospel Music in America, and Black popular music and religion

Well Wishes for the Class of 2023 Advice for Future Music Students

You all are so amazing and are going to accomplish great things. Wishing you nothing but the best.

Enjoy your time whilst in this lovely campus, it really goes by so fast.

SEAN SEHUAN PARK**

BA MUSIC PSYCHOLOGY MINOR



Hometown **Why Music?**

Seoul, South Korea

I chose music because it had been a part of my life for a long time, and I wanted to study it rather than keep it a hobby.

Future Plans **Thanks to...**

My plans for after graduation is to work for a few years.

I would like to thank Professor Matthew BaileyShea and Professor Bruce Frank for helping me out a lot during my studies.

Favorite Courses **Advice for Future** **Music Students** **Activities**

My favorite music courses were the theory courses.

Get ready to do a lot of writing.

I played in the University of Rochester Symphony Orchestra for three years.



QIUCHEN (RAE) SHEN**

BA MUSIC
BA PSYCHOLOGY
MATHEMATICS MINOR



Hometown **Why Music?**

Huzhou city, Zhejiang province, China

I have always been passionate about music and it has been an essential part of my life since I could remember. Although I was very rebellious when my mother asked me to practice piano as a child, I found music truly brought me joy and fulfillment. I love singing in a choir, performing music theatre, recording and producing songs. I chose music as a major since I wanted to learn more knowledge and skills, and get to know amazing people who also do music!

Future Plans

I'm going to pursue a Master of Art degree in mental health counseling at Northwestern University. After that, my short-term goal is to start working as a bilingual counselor specialist at a counseling clinic.

Thanks to...

I would like to thank all my wonderful professors and TAs for giving me those amazing learning experiences. A big thank to Sara and the music department for always being so caring and approachable. The NYC trip was soooooo amazing, and I loved every parts of it!! I would also like to thank my parents and all my friends for always being so supportive.

Favorite Courses

There are so many!!! I love working with Nigel, Zach, and Hannah on MUSC133 Music Theatre Performance and I love my VCE130 Secondary Voice classes with Nick and Ali Rose.

Well Wishes for the **Class of 2023**

Congratulations on this amazing achievement! You are all wonderful people and I wish you all the success in the world with your music. I know you have a bright future ahead, and I can't wait to see where your journey takes you!!

Activities

I was in the gospel choir and concert choir. Singing in a local church and a nursing house were definitely inspiring experiences for me. This was the first time I felt that music has so much power and energy that could encourage people. Singing a Mahler's piece with an orchestra at the Kodak Hall was also an exciting experience that I will never forget. Moreover, I was a member of Rice Crew, and doing dance performances was totally out of my comfort zone but brought me so much fun!!

Advice for Future **Music Students**

Enjoy the journey and be yourself!!

TREVOR SMITH**

BA MUSIC
BA PHYSICS



Hometown

Milwaukee

Why Music?

I wanted to have space to explore my passion in music

Future Plans

Graduate school in physics

Thanks to...

Prof. Baileyshea for making my transition into the music major very painless and understanding

Favorite Courses

MUSC 221, MUSC 127, MUSC 111, MUSC 112, MUSC 211

Activities

Strong Jugglers, OBOC. My favorite memory in OBOC is when I was a student director. We had "chaos/fun runs" where people just had fun and did whatever they wanted with the choreography. It helped bring the energy. My favorite memory in Strong Jugglers is when I was "Tyball" in the production "Romeflow and Jugglette." I was killed onstage and had to be dragged across the floor by my parents, Lord and Lady Clubulette

Advice for Future

Use your resources, talk to your professors and TAs, and don't be afraid to fall in love with music

Music Students

Well Wishes for the Class of 2023

It's so interesting seeing what all of us are involved in and planning to do after graduation. While many of us are not staying in music for a career, I hope that we all keep it with us in some capacity.



VANESSA WISH**

BA ETHNOMUSICOLOGY
BA LINGUISTICS



Hometown **Why Music?**

South Brunswick, NJ

I loved singing in choir and playing piano growing up, and I was excited to explore so many other realms of music while in the program, while continuing my passion for the music I grew up playing.

Future Plans

I have accepted a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant grant in Galicia, Spain for the 23-24 school year.

Thanks to...

I would like to thank Jennifer Kyker for dealing with me in class for seven of my eight semesters here while being a fantastic advisor, mentor, and teacher!

Favorite Courses **Activities**

Ngoma and Carillon

I was a member of the Varsity Track and Field team (Throws), the advanced mbira ensemble, Hopeman Carillon society, and Linguistics Undergrad Council. My favorite memories are probably playing carillon for Scare Fair, Commencement, and other events!



PANZHEN WU**



BA MUSIC
BS APPLIED MATHEMATICS
PHILOSOPHY MINOR
AME MINOR
TAKE 5 SCHOLAR

Hometown **Why Music?**

Shenzhen, China

During my high school, it happened to be the case that 80% of my extracurricular activities were about music. Therefore, it made sense to apply for college with a primary intended major in music. However, I used to want to be a theoretical physicist. So, doing a music major was initially an accident.

Future Plans

I will attend New York University for graduate program in Composition: Screen Scoring.

Thanks to...

I want to give a shout-out to all the music professors that I have had so far! They are really good instructors and mentors for my journey in college. I especially want to thank professor Matthew BaileyShea, professor Jacquelyn Sholes, Dr. Bruce Frank, professor Robert LaVaque, and professor Mark Watters, as well as professor Elise Piazza from the BCS department.

Favorite Courses

History of Western Music 1800 - Present; Film Music; Intro to Jazz Theory; ALL music theory courses taught by Dr. Frank and Prof. BaileyShea

Well Wishes for the **Class of 2023**

Keep playing and producing music! Stay in touch!

Activities

Beatbox Collective, OBOC, Xclusive, SAVVY

Advice for Future **Music Students**

As a person who used to only PLAYING music, it might be confusing to a lot of us what it means to STUDY music as a subject in college. Keep experimenting with all genres of music and you will gain extended knowledge of music language; keep asking questions within various academic fields of music and you will finally realize why you are learning them, such as music theory and music history.

Additional **Thoughts**

Thanks to the Take Five Program, I was able to be at UR for an extra year, joining OBOC, finishing an AME minor, exploring Rochester as one of the birthplaces of film, and finding my passion for screen scoring.

XIJUE WU**

BA MUSIC BS CHEMISTRY TAKE 5 SCHOLAR



Hometown

Guangzhou, China

Why Music?

I've been in the choir since I was six years old. Since then, the choir has been a safe haven where I can put all my troubles behind me for a while. I made so many cool friends through music. I also like the diversity of music: different instruments, different people, can always find their unique roles.

Future Plans

I will pursue a Ph.D. degree in Chemistry!

Thanks to...

I would like to thank all conductors, voice part leaders and senior members in the choir at my hometown. Without their encouragement and instructions along the way, I wouldn't love music and decide to major in it!

Favorite Courses

Opera & Music Theater

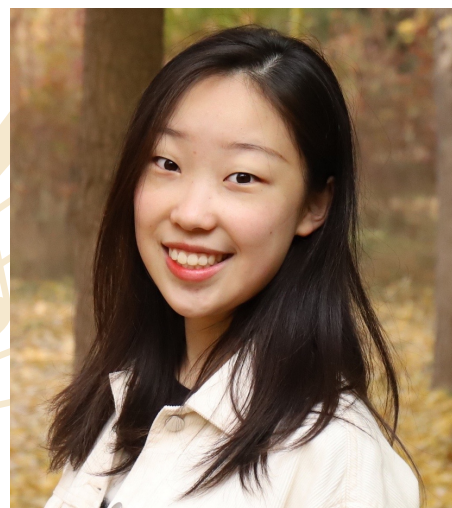
Well Wishes for the Class of 2023

Maybe we will not necessarily be engaged in music-related work in the future, but I hope that all of us can always gain happiness and energy from music!



ZIYU (COCO) XIONG**

BA MUSIC BA DIGITAL MEDIA STUDIES LINGUISTICS MINOR TAKE 5 SCHOLAR



Hometown Why Music?

Beijing, China

After two years wandering in the mist, I finally couldn't stop my burning passion for the melodies and the melodious people in Music. "Wake up, live your life and sing the melody of your soul." - Amit Ray

Future Plans

I'm going to a graduate program in Entertainment Industry Management/Communication.

Thanks to...

I want to thank all the lovely Music professors who taught me, talked to me, shared their life stories to me, the story collector, and supported me throughout my journey in college. Also my excellent, interesting, and lovely peers! Special thanks to Dr. Frank for encouraging me about my interests and his support to my application to the Take 5 Program, to Professor BaileyShea for his support and advice when I felt lost and to my graduate program application, to Professor Cashner for having such rewarding roundtable discussions, to Professor Meconi for her caring kindness to international students, to Sara for making the NYC trip fantastic, and to Dr. Waddell for teaching me the class I enjoyed the most in college. It is these people that made my life in college!

Favorite Courses

Can I say ALL?? The time I spent and the courses I took in the Music Dept. have been the best of my college memories. If I have to pick some, I really enjoyed my voice lessons at Eastman, Music Theory I-IV, Intro to Conducting, choirs, and Keyboard Skills.

Well Wishes for the Class of 2023

May sunshine always break through the clouds in your sky. May music always warm your life. May we sing and laugh together at our reunion, and in case I don't see ya, good morning, good afternoon, good evening, and good night.

Activities

I was a workshop member of the U of R Trebellious A Cappella for two years. I soloed a song at their 10th anniversary show - that was the first time I felt myself shining in college and warmly surrounded by an intercultural group. I was also a Pledge President of the business professional fraternity Alpha Kappa Psi - that was my first leadership role after I came to the US. Those three months have made all the difference on how I overcame language barriers and cultural shock and truly felt blended into this multicultural community.

Advice for Future Music Students

Listen to your melodious soul and enjoy your life :)



YAO YIN

BA MUSIC



Hometown

Shanghai

Why Music?

Love it

Future Plans

Work in China

Thanks to...

All professors in music department, especially Dr. Frank!

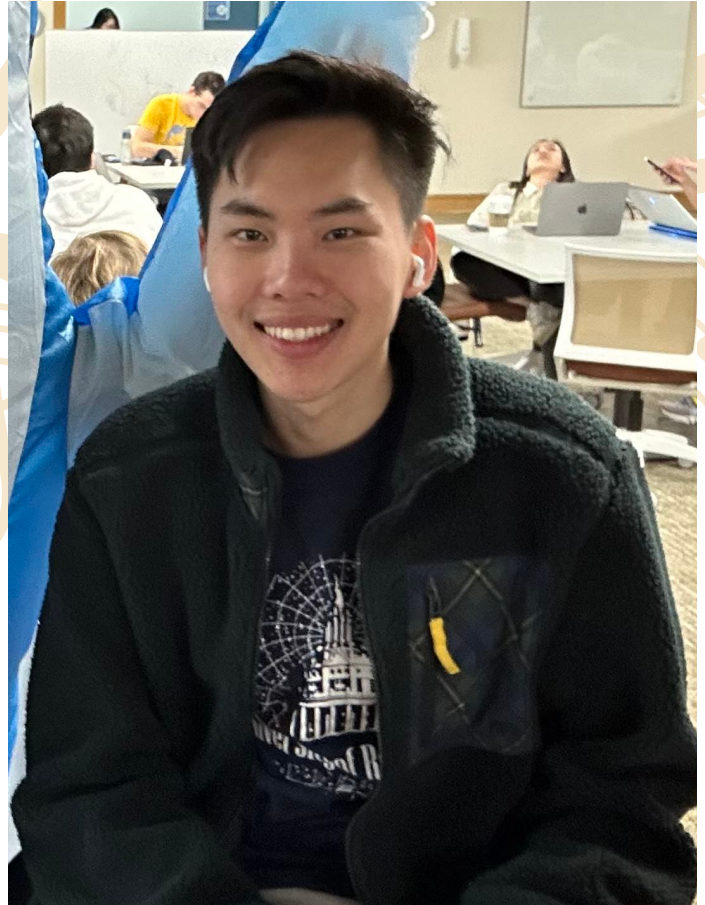
Favorite Courses

Theory1-4



ROBERT RONGSHENG ZENG+

BA MUSIC
BA FINANCIAL ECONOMICS



Hometown

Shenzhen

Why Music?

I have had passion in music since I was young.

Future Plans

Grad School

Thanks to...

I want to thank all my music professors and advisors.

Favorite Courses

Film composition over at Eastman School

Well Wishes for the Class of 2023

I hope all your dream come true!

Activities

YellowJackets A Capella, men's club volleyball.

Advice for Future

Look through the whole music course list at river campus and Eastman and pick the classes you are interested.

Music Students

Additional

Thoughts

I really enjoyed the senior trip offered by the department. It was truly a fantastic experience.



2022-2023 Faculty

Matt BaileyShea, *Professor of Music and Chair*
Associate Professor of Music Theory, Eastman School of Music

Doris Aman, *Director of Carillon Activities*

Kerfala Bangoura, *Director, West African Drumming Ensemble*

Andrew Cashner, *Assistant Professor of Music*

John Covach, *Professor of Music*
Professor of Music Theory, Eastman School of Music
Director, Institute for Popular Music

Julie Covach, *Director, Chamber Singers and Concert Choir*

Julius Dicks, *Director, Gospel Choir*

Bruce Frank, *Senior Lecturer*

Naomi Gregory, *Instructor*

Cory Hunter, *Assistant Professor of Music*
Assistant Professor of Musicology, Eastman School of Music

Jennifer Kyker, *Professor of Music*
Associate Professor of Ethnomusicology, Eastman School of Music

Honey Meconi, *Professor of Music*
Professor of Musicology, Eastman School of Music

Christopher Meeker, *Instructor*

Bruce Pilato, *Instructor*

Jacquelyn Sholes, *Visiting Assistant Professor of Music*

Philip Silvey, *Director, Treble Chorus*
Associate Professor of Music Education, Eastman School of Music

William Tiberio, *Director, Wind Symphony, Jazz Ensemble, and Brass Choir*

Jason Titus, *Senior Lecturer*

Rachel Waddell, *Lecturer and Director of Orchestral Activities*