



Recognition Ceremony Spring 2025

3:30 p.m., Thursday, May 8, 2025
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 2025!

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.

Despite many uncertainties in the world around us, you’ve exhibited perseverance and resilience, as well as artistic and academic excellence throughout your academic journey. I’m particularly impressed by your collective ingenuity in realizing 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.

I have no doubt that the curiosity and determination you’ve demonstrated in completing your music education will continue to serve you well as leaders and influencers across a range of established and emerging fields.

As you embark on the next phase of your musical journey, I encourage 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.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John S. Davis".

John S. Davis
Dean, CU Boulder College of Music



*Learn more about the
CU Boulder College of
Music and our mission
to inspire artistry and
discovery, together.*

Program

Prelude

BACH: My Spirit Be Joyful

BACH: While Sheep May Softly Graze

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 Alumna Award

Fennoyee Thomas (BA '68, MA '71, DMA '83)

Outstanding Graduate Address

Nathan George

Bachelor of Music Education, choral emphasis

Conferring of Degrees

Matthew Roeder

Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies and Enrollment Management

Margaret Berg

Associate Dean for Graduate Studies

Closing Remarks

John Davis

Dean, College of Music

Recessional

BEETHOVEN: Ode to Joy

Music performed by Connor Johnson, trumpet; Adam Warnke, trumpet; Susannah Greenslit, horn; Mark Bennett, trombone; Jesse Factor, tuba



Distinguished Alumna: Fennoyee Thomas

The University of Colorado Boulder College of Music is pleased to welcome triple alumna Fennoyee Thomas (BA '68, MA '71, DMA '83) as our 2025 Distinguished Alumna, honoring her lifelong contributions to the arts.

Thomas—who established a distinguished career as a pianist and educator—spent decades shaping the next generation of musicians. “Teaching was never just a job, it was my calling,” she says. “Seeing students grow, challenge themselves and find their voices as musicians has been one of the greatest joys of my life.”

Beyond teaching, Thomas is a passionate advocate for the arts, having served on numerous local, state and national boards, commissions and committees—including the College of Music Advisory Board and the CU National Alumni Board Association. She supports the College of Music’s *universal musician* approach that aims to equip students with flexible skills to navigate broadly-based careers. “I’m impressed with the curricula, programs and all of the opportunities that students have now to help them become well-rounded artists in today’s society,” she says. “The arts can play such an important role in service to mankind. I applaud the College of Music administration for adapting to students’ needs, providing more options for them to be creative and responsive to today’s world.”



*Learn more about
Fennoyee Thomas and
previous Distinguished
Alumni Award recipients.*

Noting the evolving role of education and advocacy in today’s cultural landscape, Thomas adds: “More people are beginning to appreciate the arts as essential to our humanity and how we relate to each other. From attending concerts and visiting museums to attending lectures, listening to poetry or even joining a book club—all of these experiences shape our perspectives on society.”

Thomas remains active as an arts advocate and mentor to young musicians. She offers this advice to our graduates: “Follow your passion and pursue what you love with determination. Use the knowledge and positive experiences you’ve gained here to go out into the world, make it a better place and support others—because now, more than ever, we need that.”



Outstanding Graduate: Nathan George

Singing in a choir requires a delicate balance of skills. One voice becomes part of a larger ensemble; one artist's creative spirit thrives only through collaboration, teamwork and humility. It's an art form that demands a fusion of individual talent and selflessness for the sake of the greater musical good.

For Nathan George—the College of Music's 2025 Outstanding Graduate by faculty vote—the choir's blend of creativity and community was always a draw. And the teachers who brought that dynamic were always an inspiration.

"I started choir in middle school. I loved performing with my friends and I think that was the main thing—the community of performance," recalls George who grew up in the Broomfield/Thornton area, finding direction in the choir and the theatre that would ultimately steer his path to CU Boulder. "I felt empowered by a lot of my teachers and I wanted to do the same—provide students something they can enjoy, give them a way to gain confidence, learn intangibles, learn how to be a good person."

While George earned a music education degree with an emphasis in choral music and a minor in theatre, he's quick to point out how his journey as a Music Buff opened his eyes to myriad facets of music education—from working with the CU Boulder Middle School Ensembles program and Middle School Summer Music Academy to his role as president of the CU Boulder chapter of the National Association for Music Education and serving as a student ambassador for the College of Music. George also organized a holiday concert that featured musicians from CU Boulder and the broader community performing works by the late composer George Lynn.

In some ways, George's education represents the complex, nuanced dynamics of a choir: His journey has been equal parts individual skill and community engagement. He's shown a commitment to expanding his own artistic abilities, even as he's worked for the benefit of the broader world around him—an achievement and an approach ideally suited to a teaching career.



*Learn more about
Nathan George and his
CU Boulder experience.*

The Graduates

* *Honors*

** *High Honors*

*** *Highest Honors*

◊ *Dec 2024 graduate*

† *Aug 2025 graduate*

Bachelor of Arts in Music

Gabriella Barbic ◊

Clarinet

Joseph Berrios

Voice

Michelle Brannon

Flute

Dane Burton

Horn

Sabrina Chen

Piano

*Emphasis in Music Technology
and Media Studies*

Pearl Enssle

Piano

Brody Hartwig

Voice

*Emphasis in Music Technology
and Media Studies*

Jacob Lei ***

Violin

Elizabeth Lo ***

Piano

Jenny Peralta

Voice

Aidan Roux †

Percussion

Aaron Schneider

Voice

Music Technology Certificate

Emma Stanek ***

Piano

Jacob Stewart ***

Violin

Kaeden Tilak †

Voice

*Emphasis in Music Technology
and Media Studies*

Bachelor of Music

Joseph Aigner *†

Double Bass Performance

Joselyn Arnett *

Composition

Music Theory Certificate

Ella Bajcsi

Double Bass Performance

Jacqueline Bell *** †

Voice Performance

Clarrisse Bosman * ◇ <i>Bassoon Performance</i>	Isabel Harrison ** <i>Musical Theatre</i> <i>Singing Health Specialist Certificate</i>
Nathan Burak ** <i>Jazz Studies</i> <i>Music Entrepreneurship Certificate</i>	Larissa Harrison ** <i>Bassoon Performance</i>
Mya Busch <i>Musical Theatre</i>	Sharon Hui *** <i>Piano Performance</i> <i>Music Technology Certificate</i>
Alyssa Byrne *** <i>Violin Performance</i>	Camden Johnson <i>Jazz Studies</i>
Carson Conley * <i>Clarinet Performance</i>	Anna Kallinikos ** <i>Trumpet Performance</i> <i>Music Entrepreneurship Certificate</i>
Caden Craig <i>Clarinet Performance</i> <i>Music Technology Certificate</i>	Bryce Kayser <i>Viola Performance</i>
Finn Cruit *** <i>Viola Performance</i>	Caleb Kovar <i>Jazz Studies</i>
Judah Davis <i>Jazz Studies</i>	Luke Lozano † <i>Piano Performance</i>
Amy Delevoryas <i>Cello Performance</i>	Alecia Marquardt ** <i>Musical Theatre</i>
Raven Dow-Hygelund *** <i>Classical Guitar Performance</i>	Joshua Maynard *** <i>Composition</i> <i>Music Technology Certificate</i> <i>Music Theory Certificate</i>
Leonard Eppich *** <i>Viola Performance</i>	Alex Mehigan † <i>Musical Theatre</i>
Ryan Flat ** <i>Composition</i>	Kyle Nakaji <i>Trombone Performance</i> <i>Secondary emphasis in Jazz</i>
Elizabeth French *** ◇ <i>Piano Performance</i>	Thomas Nance † <i>Jazz Studies</i>
Miles Gibbs ** <i>Voice Performance</i>	
Marshal Goff <i>Trombone Performance</i>	

Maya Napolillo **

Jazz Studies

Music Entrepreneurship Certificate

Edward Ness ◇

Jazz Studies

Valerie Nguyen **

Clarinet Performance

Music Technology Certificate

Samuel Nixon *

Flute Performance

Music Entrepreneurship Certificate

Elijah Pouliot ***

Violin Performance

Music Theory Certificate

Keenan Powell *

Composition

Karena Pruitt

Clarinet Performance

Adriana Ripley **

Musical Theatre

Tori Rognerud

Flute Performance

Ian Saverin *

Musical Theatre

Marcus Schaller

Voice Performance

Beatrice Seidenberg

Violin Performance

Jonas Shofler

Jazz Studies

Maxwell Warnock ***

Piano Performance

Bachelor of Music Education

Isabelle Bodley ***

Choral

Clarrisse Bosman *◇

Instrumental

Nathaniel George ***

Choral

Brianna Gress ***

Choral

Mikaela Schindler ***

Choral

Artist Diploma

Rinat Erlichman

Solo Violin Performance

Daniela Maria Garzón Guerra

Orchestral Performance

Jordan Grantonic

Solo Violin Performance

Peyton Magalhaes

Solo Cello Performance

Natalie Trejo

Solo Flute Performance

Camila Rabelo

Opera and Solo Vocal Performance

Master of Music

Benaiah Axlund

Voice Performance

Kristina Butler

Voice Performance

Jaila Carr

Horn Performance

Lucca Cidale

Trumpet Performance

Elise Cole

Cello Performance

Shannon Donahoe

Saxophone Performance

Jack Dunning

Jazz Performance and Pedagogy

Julia Emery

Cello Performance

Elijah English

Voice Performance

Gracie Fagan

Composition

Madison Falkenstine

Voice Performance

Zoe Fernández

Viola Performance

Elias Gillespie

Wind Band Conducting

Sidney Grimm

Voice Performance

Ian Gunnarschja

*Saxophone Performance and
Pedagogy*

Pedro López-Retana

Jazz Performance and Pedagogy

Ben Mangonon

Bassoon Performance

Jude Markel

Collaborative Piano

Katiann Nelson

Voice Performance

Erik Okel

Cello Performance

Enion Pelta

Jazz Performance and Pedagogy

Reese Phillips

Voice Performance and Pedagogy

Laura Pérez Rangel

Violin Performance

Max Randal

Collaborative Piano

Nadia Rodriguez

Piano Performance and Pedagogy

Noelle Romberger ♦

*Choral Conducting with Voice
Performance Emphasis*

Taylor Sapanara

Viola Performance

Rebecca Seifert

Voice Performance

Madison Triplett

Bassoon Performance

Melda Turuncoglu ♦
Guitar Performance

Mackenzie Vann
Voice Performance and Pedagogy

Simeon Wallace
Voice Performance

Alleigh Watson
Voice Performance and Pedagogy

Ryann White
Euphonium Performance

Benjamin Work †
Music Theory

Natalie Zeles
Flute Performance

Lauren Lier
Violin Performance

Master of Music Education

Ryan Kimball
Cognate: Percussion Performance

Justin Slaman
Cognate: Wind Conducting

Doctor of Musical Arts

Michael Brotherton
*Trumpet Performance
and Pedagogy*

Jackson Feaster †
Piano

SeaJun Kwon
Jazz Performance and Pedagogy

Kurt Melendy
Double Bass Performance

Bobby Pace
Collaborative Piano

J. David Reid †
Piano

Elizabeth Schumann †
Piano

Matthew Sebald
Collaborative Piano

Logan Sorey †
Wind Conducting and Literature

Elizabeth Strickland Hegde
Piano

Seth Tack
Voice Performance and Pedagogy

Keith Teepen
Collaborative Piano

Christine Teng
Collaborative Piano

Ya-Ting Yang
Collaborative Piano

Doctor of Philosophy

Brian Casey †

Historical Ethnomusicology

Dissertation title:

*A Modern Creole Serenade:
Functions of Creole Identity in
the Development of Jazz in New
Orleans*

Benjamin Pongtep Cefkin †

Ethnomusicology

Dissertation title:

*Kinship, Conflict, and
Collaboration: Thai, Lao, and
Cambodian Performing Arts
Ensembles of Colorado*

Lydia Wagenknecht †

Ethnomusicology

Dissertation title:

*“Entre hielo y coirón”: Sound,
Climate, and Identity in Chilean
Patagonia*



Commencement Marshal

Alumna Leigh Holman is the university's new commencement marshal, succeeding Bud Coleman who has led the spring commencement ceremony since 2018.

"On behalf of our entire college, we're proud of Leigh Holman assuming the role of commencement marshal," says College of Music Dean John Davis, also noting Holman's transformative role as director of the college's highly regarded Eklund Opera Program and New Opera Workshop (CU NOW).

"Leigh's work advances our mission to develop multiskilled, multifaceted universal musicians with flexible career options, thereby also amplifying momentum toward more interdisciplinary collaborations across our campus. In that spirit, as commencement marshal, Leigh perfectly represents not only the College of Music, but also our increasingly interconnected campus community."



*Learn more about
Leigh Holman and her
new role.*

The role of commencement marshal is mostly behind the scenes, until the day of the ceremony when Holman will be front and center on stage before thousands of graduates and their guests. It's a role she relishes and is excited to take on.

"As a performer, I feel comfortable being on stage. And part of the job of being commencement marshal is emceeing the event, so I feel very comfortable in that role," she says. "The main thing I'm excited about is being a part of this special day for our students, a day that hopefully they'll never forget."

About the College of Music

Since 1920, the University of Colorado 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