

JULY

2025

# UMBC DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

Current Students

Alumni

Faculty

## WELCOME TO OUR Monthly Newsletter

### Current Students

**Leo Hickman**, '27, participated in the Django in June music festival. Django in June is New England's premier occasion to celebrate, study and just plain enjoy the musical tradition associated with the inimitable Gypsy guitarist Django Reinhardt.



**Reanne Salazar**, '26, had her first orchestral work premiered at the Veneto Art and Music Summit summer festival. The Veneto Art and Music Summit (VAMS) is a premier event offering composers, conductors, and performers a unique opportunity to study, collaborate, and showcase their artistry in one of Italy's most culturally vibrant regions.





# UMBC Choirs Abroad

Raising our voices around the globe!

The UMBC Choirs were recently invited to participate in what turned out to be an extraordinary summer performance tour! The tour began with a concert in the beautiful city of Paris, followed by a trip to Prague, where the choirs performed with the Czech National Symphony Orchestra at the Summer Proms concerts.

The annual Prague Proms International Music Festival presented audiences with high-quality performances across all genres, featuring both local and international artists. One of the highlights of the experience was performing in the great Smetana Hall of the Municipal House, a historic landmark and exceptional concert hall.

The three UMBC Choirs represented on the tour were the UMBC Camerata, conducted by Prof. Lulu Mwangi, and the UMBC Jubilee and Gospel Choir, conducted by Prof. Janice Jackson. The choirs included music and non-music majors, staff, alumni, and community members. They also joined forces with the Jeremy Winston Chorale and other talented singers to form a 100-voice American Choir.



Join us Sept 19th for a thank you concert presented by the choir for the community



## Recent Graduates

**Nick Merdon** '25 headed to Johns Hopkins Graduate School. Nick just recently graduated this fall with a degree in music composition. Nick Merdon also attended the Del Mar International Composers Competition, the Summer 2025 Composition Intensive to study with Zae Munn, and won the Prelude Chamber Music Young Composers Competition 2025 for his string quartet Wild Chase.



**Mike Pfeifer** '25 headed to New York University Graduate School. Mike just graduated this fall with a degree in Jazz Piano Performance.

## Alumni



**Ellington Carthan**, '17 pictured left (Jazz Performance and Music Technology) and **Bentley Corbett-Wilson** '17 pictured right (Music Education) were panelists during UMBC Career Month event, Art & Industry: Building Your Creative Career! Ellington also started a position at St. Mary's College of Maryland as Assistant Professor of Music - Ensembles & Academics. Congrats! Bentley also continues to serve as the Director of Athletic Bands at UMBC and the Band Director at Lake Elkhorn Middle School.



## Alumni

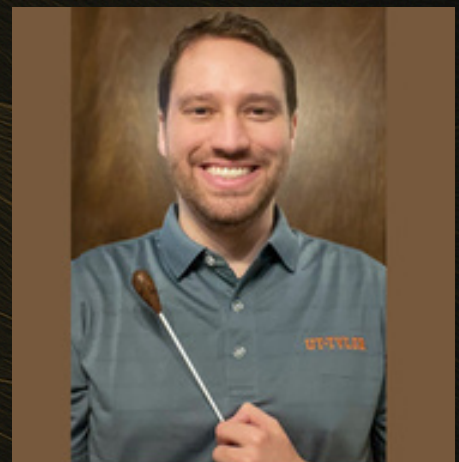
**Matt Redenbo**, '15 Music Technology, Recorded and Mixed the new EP "Coming up for Air" by Praise at Magpiecage recording studios. Matt has been an active engineer in the Baltimore music scene since graduation.



Congratulations to **Karena Ingram** '16, music composition, on receiving a commission from the Virginia B. Toulmin Orchestral Commissions Program! Her work RAINN was premiered by the Memphis Symphony Orchestra and music director Robert Moody on May 17 and 18, 2025. Additional performances in the 2025-2026 season will be announced by the Asheville Symphony, Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra, and Orchestra Nova Northwest.

Congratulations to **Dr. Alexander Scott** '11, music education, on his appointment as Assistant Professor of Music and Director of Bands at The University of Texas at Tyler!

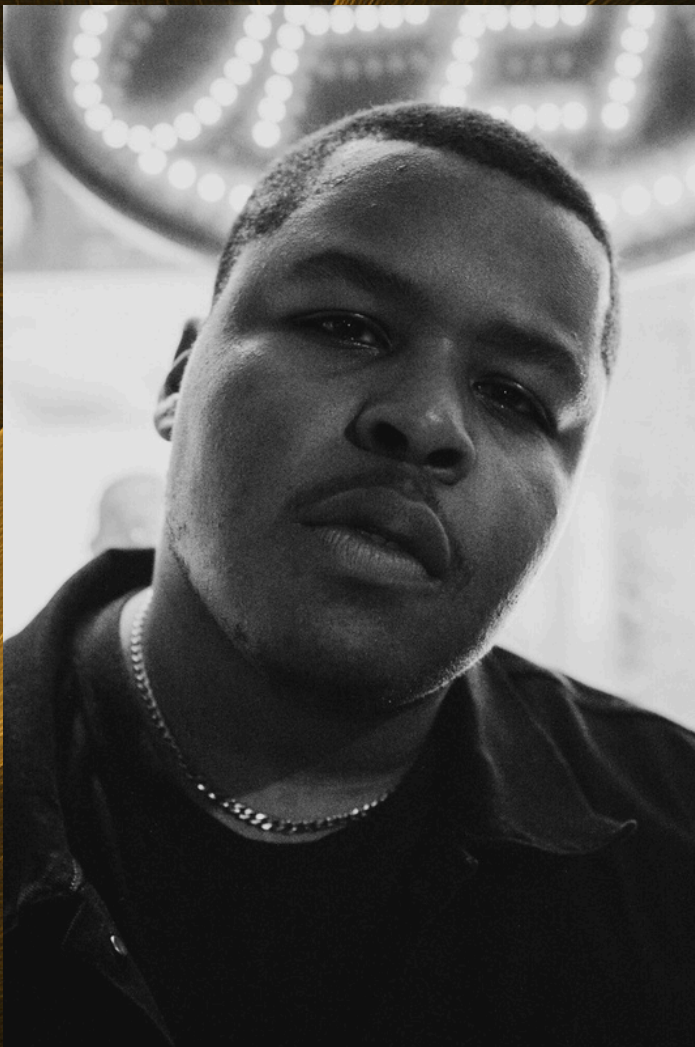
Scott taught for nine years at the elementary, middle, and high school levels in Maryland public schools and received his Doctorate of Musical Arts in Conducting, Band, & Wind Ensemble at The University of Michigan.





## Alumni

**Thomas Jasmine**, '19, Music Technology,, was welcomed into the Recording Academy's Class of 2025, giving him a voice in the academy and voice in the Grammys. "What makes the Academy strong is its diversity—of genres, experiences, and voices. I'm excited to contribute my perspective and help champion musical excellence around the world."



**RECORDING ACADEMY**  
Class of 2025  
#IAmTheAcademy



Thomas  
Jasmine

**Briley Harris**, '18, was featured in Voyage Baltimore Magazine with the headline "Rising Star: Meet Briley Harris of Baltimore." He also just performed on NPR's Tiny Desk concert series with the group Clipse.

Read the article here:

[Interview](#)

Tiny Desk Performance:

[Performance Clip](#)



## Welcoming New Faculty

We are delighted to introduce **Dr. Liana Harron** who will join the UMBC faculty in Fall 2025 as an Assistant Professor of Piano. Dr. Liana Pailodze Harron, blending her Georgian heritage with an American spirit, captivates audiences with daring performances that breathe life into contemporary classical music. Praised by Pulitzer Prize-winning critic Tim Page of The Wall Street Journal as 'smashingly effective,' her latest album with Vesna Duo mesmerized audiences, showcasing her passionate interpretations. Her artistry has graced esteemed venues across the United States and Europe, including iconic stages like Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the New World Center, and the United Nations.

[Read More](#)



We are delighted to welcome **Dr. Juan Sebastian Delgado** as our new Assistant Professor of Cello. First-prize winner at the Latin-American Cello Festival in 2008, Argentinean cellist Juan Sebastián Delgado completed Doctoral studies in performance at McGill University with cellist Matt Haimovitz focusing on contemporary music and Nuevo Tango. The CBC Radio Ideas chose his artistic research to be featured throughout Canada and he was the featured cellist in the episode Virtuoso Brain by the TV program Decouverte. Founding member of the duo Stick&Bow(cello&marimba),together with percussionist Krystina Marcoux, their eclectic repertoire features their own original arrangements and commissioned works. To date, they have performed in some of the top music festivals across Canada including the Bach Festival Montréal, Festival Classica 2020, National Arts Centre for their #Canadaperforms, Salle Bourgie, and La Viree Classique, among others.

[Read More](#)



## Faculty News

**Janice Jackson** was one of the featured soloists at the 2025 Summer Proms in Prague. She performed with the world renowned Czech National Symphony Orchestra, and the 100 Voice choir under the baton of Dr. Jeremy Winston.

Jackson's rich, colorful soprano rang through the Smetana Concert Hall, rising above the orchestra and captivating the audience with her vocal skill, precision, and heartfelt expression.



**Dr. Natalie Groom**, Affiliate Artist of Clarinet, has been awarded a Dresher Center Summer Fellowship to research, engrave, and perform Trio for Clarinet, Horn, and Bassoon by Pauline Oliveros. One of Oliveros' first works composed while she was a student, the piece only exists in manuscript and does not appear to have been performed beyond its premiere ca. 1956.



## Faculty News



**Matt Belzer**, Director of the Jazz Studies program and Teaching Professor in the Department of Music, has been awarded the 2025 CIRCA-IMET Artist-in-Residence Fellowship. During his residency, Matt will consult with scientists at the Institute of Marine and Environmental Technology (IMET) to understand sensory systems, comparative life spans, and other biological and behavioral processes to create *The Ocean is Aware*, a proposed composed suite for an ensemble of creative musicians and a live performance. The musical material within the suite would be drawn from insights about the way sea life interacts with its environment, their perception of time, and their awareness of humans and each other. This performance could be documented as an audio-video recording with the potential for later exhibition.

**Dr. Lindsay Johnson** recently presented her paper, "Celebrating Amateurism: Riffing on the Early Modern Salon," at the annual meeting of the Society for Seventeenth-Century Music, held at Yale University.





## Faculty News

**Dr. Linda Dusman's** installation *Infinite Transformations* (in a Suitcase) is on the road this summer. It will appear at the COMPASS conference in Toronto, Canada, the Toronto Summer Music festival, and was installed in the Dillenschneider Gallery as part of the New York City Electroacoustic Music Festival in June. This work was created collaboratively with Prof. Foad Hamidi as part of an Imaging Research Center Fellowship, with significant creative partnership with Alan Wonneberger, Lee Boot, and Ryan Zuber.

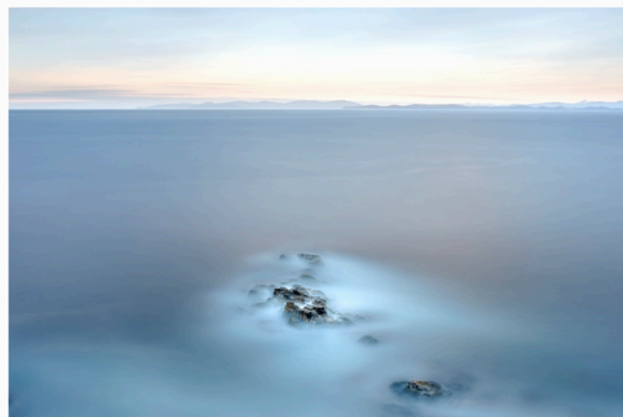
Her video work *Dream Prayer Observatory*, a work created collaboratively with photographer Dan Bailey and UMBC violinist Airi Yoshioka, was also presented at the NYCEMF in June.



New York City Electroacoustic Music Festival  
June 22 - 28, 2025  
The Sheen Center for Thought and Culture  
[www.nycemf.org](http://www.nycemf.org)



15th Annual Festival



*Dream Prayer Observatory:*  
a collaboration between a photographer, a composer,  
and an audio engineer



# Thank you!

Please send your updates to the music  
office so we can share your  
accomplishments with the community!  
[jkeaton1@umbc.edu](mailto:jkeaton1@umbc.edu)

We thank you for any support you can  
give!

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