

AUGUST

2025

UMBC DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

Current
Students

Alumni

Faculty

WELCOME TO OUR Monthly Newsletter

ARTS+ debuts at UMBC this year!

October Arts+ Events

- Homecoming: Choirs Thank You Concert
- Livewire 15: Blazing Trails

September Events

- Woodwind Day, September 14th
- Brass Day, September 27th
- Beethoven Reimagined, September 28th



more info: music.umbc.edu/events

Livewire 15 Celebrates Musical Trailblazers SAVE THE DATE!



Livewire 15 honors innovators, experimentalists, and artistic “firsts” who challenged boundaries and opened new paths in contemporary music. Each event in this year’s festival centers artists whose work redefined possibility—past and present.

The festival opens on Thursday, October 16 with a pre-concert talk by composer-in-residence Zosha Di Castri, followed by RUCKUS: Trailblazers, featuring works by Sofia Gubaidulina, Tania León, Joan Tower, Di Castri, and George Lewis.

On Friday, October 17, audiences will enjoy an Emerging Artists concert at 12:00 p.m., daytime presentations and a powerful evening performance of Julius Eastman’s *Femenine*—a genre-defying, immersive work performed by RUCKUS with UMBC Affiliate faculty.

Saturday, October 18 begins with a playful midday performance of Alison Knowles’s *Proposition #2: Make a Salad*, a Fluxus classic reimaged by RUCKUS. Additional presentations will take place throughout the afternoon. The festival closes that evening with Ensemble Bravura under the baton of Philip Mann, featuring bassoonist Kim Walker in David Baker’s blues-infused concerto, and a multimedia collaboration between Herman Kolgen and the music of Philip Glass, among other compelling works.

Livewire 15 promises three days of transformative performance and dialogue—don’t miss it. October 16th - 18th

Current Students



Rickerra Bassett '28 (pictured right) and **Nema Robinson** '26 (pictured left) were featured in UMBC Magazine with the headline “Coming full circle on musical pathways—UMBC students now teach at the programs that launched their success”



Lucas Rose, '27, participated in the Endless Mountain Music Festival. The mission of the Endless Mountain Music Festival is to bring world-renowned musicians to their community of northern Pennsylvania and southern New York to enrich the cultural, economic and educational life of the Twin Tiers region.

Students and Alums Perform Mendelssohn Octet Alongside Faculty

Current students **Lucas Rose** '27, and **Albert Russell** '26 joined recent graduates **Gaby Echiverri** '25 and **Julia Plumer** '25 with faculty members **Nicholas Currie**, **Renate Falkner**, **Gita Ladd**, and **Airi Yoshioka** to perform Mendelssohn's beloved Octet for Strings, Op. 20. Presented as part of the professional concert series at Catonsville Presbyterian Church, the event offered students and alum the opportunity to collaborate with faculty in a professional setting.



Quick Note:

UMBCs Thank You concert has a new date of October 5th, 5:00pm. The choirs are returning from a summer trip in Europe! Read more about it in the July Newsletter on the Department of Music Website!

Recent Graduates

Jack Horvath '25 will be attending the Eastman School of Music at the University of Rochester where he will continue to play and study saxophone.



Ricky Jefferson '20 is headed to Mannes School of Music at the New School in New York City. Through its undergraduate, graduate, and preparatory programs, Mannes offers a curriculum as imaginative as it is rigorous, taught by world-class faculty and visiting artists.

Alumni



Bethan Cruise '24 (pictured left) and **Angie Heyward '23** (pictured right) both attended the Soundscape Music Festival in Switzerland. 43 participants from around the world came together in July to hone in on their skills as composers, performers, and sound engineers. Featuring state-of-the-art practice facilities and lodging overlooking scenic Lake Geneva, the centre was an inspiring place for the participants to develop their musical craft.

Alumni

Pramuk Mohanlal-Vargas '20 released *A Blossoming out of Black and White*, a six-track EP that he described as “songs I’ve grown so much with over the years.” Reflecting on the project, Mohanlal-Vargas shared that the tracks “represent who I am as a person, artist, and songwriter.” Developed over more than a year of collaboration in and out of the studio, the EP stands as a deeply personal and expressive milestone in his creative journey.

Listen [Here](#)



Congratulations to **Matt Galinn** '19 on his appointment as Assistant Professor at Porterville College in California. He will begin his new role this fall, bringing his creative vision and expertise to a new generation of students.

Alumni

Nick Reedy '17 continues his work as a Sales Engineer at Sweetwater Sound in Indiana, where he has been working for over a couple of years. Reflecting on his time at Sweetwater so far, Nick shared, "Everyone is amazing here. The team has been one of the most welcoming and warm groups of people I have ever met in my career." Congratulations, Nick!

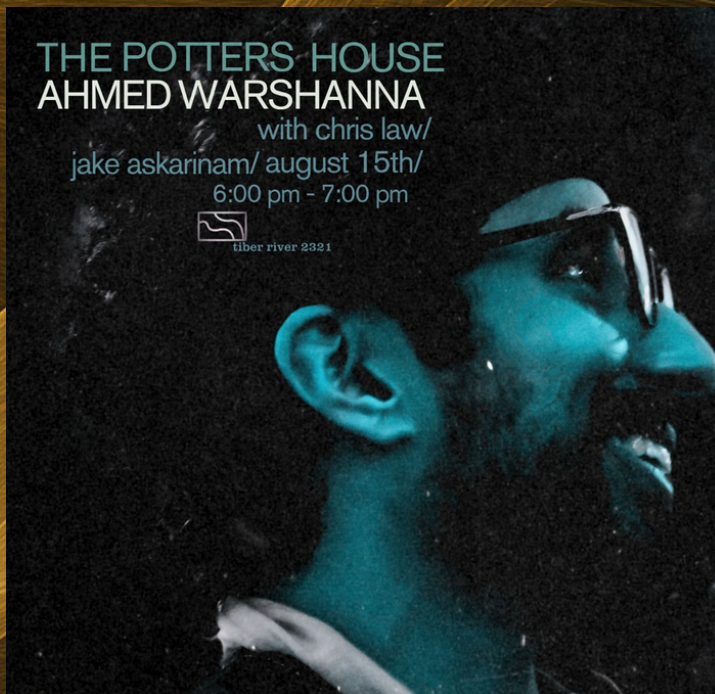


Pianist and composer **Chris Benna '25**, released *Serenity Prayer* on Apple Music, Spotify, and all other streaming platforms. Congrats Chris!

Listen [Here](#)

Alumni

Christian Hartman '20 performed duets for an audience of over 500 as part of a public concert presented by the Reston Town Center Association. The performance was warmly received and marked a joyful celebration of live music in a vibrant community setting.



Ahmed Warshanna '20 has been busy performing original music from his new EP, including a featured performance at The Potter's House in Washington, D.C. on August 15, 2025. Joined by Christopher Law and Jake Askarinam, Warshanna presented selections such as *Elle* alongside special arrangements, offering audiences a rich and intimate evening of new music.

Faculty News



Dr. Airi Yoshioka, faculty violinist, made her Carnegie Hall debut with Duo della Luna, performing alongside vocalist Susan Botti. Presented by Vox Feminarum, the program highlighted the ensemble's powerful commitment to contemporary works that amplify women's voices and experiences. She also performed an original composition by Edward Bilous with singer Alita Moses at UNESCO's International Day of Education, which focused on the role of artificial intelligence in education and the arts.

Dr. Dustin Donahue's Los Angeles-based group, the PARTCH Ensemble, has released *The Wayward* on Bridge Records. This landmark album is the first complete recording of Harry Partch's epic collection of works by the same name, offering a rare and comprehensive look into the composer's visionary sound world. They also performed at REDCAT/Walt Disney Concert Hall (Los Angeles). The program included premieres by Evan Ziporyn and Stephen James Taylor.

[Listen Here](#)



Faculty News

Pianist **Dr. Audrey Andrist** served on the faculty of the Chamber Music Conference at Colgate University in New York State, where she taught and performed in early July. She also performed at ChamberFest Canandaigua from July 19–25 and traveled to Shanghai, China, to teach and perform as a faculty member of the Manhattan International Music Festival Summer Camp.



“New Cello Professor in Maryland.” **Dr. Juan Sebastian Delgado** was featured in The Strad News. The cellist said on social media about the appointment: ‘I’m thrilled to be joining @umbcmusic this fall as full-time faculty in Baltimore! Yes, it’s a strange time everywhere and especially in the US... but as a musician, I can’t hide my excitement to be part of a vibrant public university known for its research, creativity and a forward-looking music department. I’ll be teaching and performing with Ruckus, UMBC’s new music ensemble in residence with my talented colleagues.’

Faculty News

Professor **Brian Kaufman** has been invited to serve on the College Music Society (CMS) Council for Music Education for the 2025–2027 term. The CMS is the premiere U.S.-based professional organization dedicated to music in higher education, and this appointment reflects Kaufman's leadership and ongoing contributions to the field. **Professor Kaufman** and **Dr. Bri'Ann Wright** were also awarded a \$10,000 Hrabowski Innovation Fund grant for their project, Developing an Approach to Creating and Refining Innovative Learning Outcomes in a University Music Education Program. The award supports bold, collaborative initiatives that enhance student learning and success.



Professor **Matt Belzer** performed on flute, alto flute, clarinet, bass clarinet, alto saxophone, and baritone saxophone in the world-premiere run of *A Wrinkle in Time* at Arena Stage in Washington, DC with music and lyrics by innovator composer Heather Christian.

Faculty News

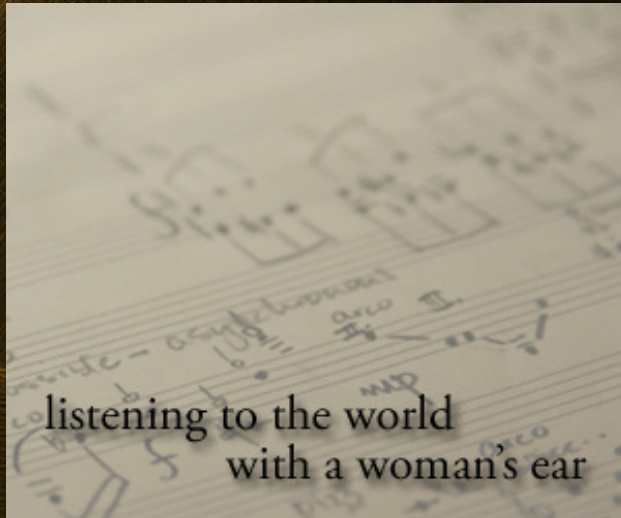
UMBC Faculty Collaborate on Internet-Based Performance at Juilliard



Professors **Greg Kalember** and Music Tech Coordinator **Sarah Baugher** joined **Dr. Airi Yoshioka** in a collaborative performance of *Clouds in Single File* by composer Ray Lustig, a work composed to celebrate the latency of internet-based performance with musicians located across different sites. The piece was presented as part of Future Stages Festival 1.0 at The Juilliard School, marking 25 years of technology-inspired performances.

Dr. Yoshioka's performance was streamed live from UMBC's recording studio with expert technical support from Professors Kalember and Baugher. The live audience at Juilliard experienced two performers on stage alongside projections of seven remote participants. Notably, Dr. Yoshioka also performed in the original *Beyond the Machine* concert 25 years ago —as a Juilliard student.

Faculty News



Dr. Linda Dusman's *I Resound Press* completed its archive this summer, after spending 15 years collecting over 300 scores representing many works by women composers unavailable anywhere else. The press includes many scores of Rahilia Hasanova accessed prior to her passing in 2024. Many music major interns worked on the site, including Jennifer Roberts, who worked diligently on all the details of beginning the project, and Pam Voulalas, who tirelessly completed the accession of the Hasanova collection and did final proofreading of the entire site. **Karena Ingram** '16, **Eliza Triolo** '19, Jordan Hartmann, **Sidney Wagner** '16, and **Kathryn Blake** '21 also completed major accessions and important technical documentation. Chris Parent designed and built the website. **Alan Wonneberger**, Director of Music Technology embraced the project from its beginning and blessed it with his technical expertise throughout its life, Sarah Baugher provided ready technical expertise, and Jack Seuss, Vice President for Information Technology at UMBC, has assured the preservation of the website. The UMBC Department of Music, chaired by E. Michael Richards and subsequently by Lisa Cella, supported the project in many ways, and celebrated its success at the Livewire Festival in 2024.

All works in the collection will now also be available through the e-collections at the Albin O. Kuhn library at UMBC. At the foundation of this project lies a deep gratitude to the composers involved, and to composers in general, all of whom gift the world with both their creativity and their dedication to the art of music, leaving a resounding legacy of their times.

Explore The Collection [Here](#)

Faculty News

Dr. Lisa Cella presented a solo faculty concert at the Nief Norf New Music Festival in Knoxville, TN where she has been on faculty for many years. In addition, she spent two weeks teaching and performing in Blonay, Switzerland at the Soundscape Composition and Performance Exchange, a festival dedicated to contemporary music.



Oboe **Professor Fatma Daglar** recently performed as guest principal oboe with the National Symphony Orchestra at Wolf Trap. She was joined on stage by Guitar **Professor Tom Lagana**, who also performed in one of the concerts. Their appearance with the NSO highlights the exceptional talent and professional engagement of UMBC's music faculty. We're proud to see them representing the department at one of the region's premier venues.

Faculty News



Dr. Joseph Siu's summer included professional service, teaching, scholarly writing, and professional development. He served on the Program Committee for the upcoming *Analytical Approaches to World Music Symposium on Asian Musics* (Cornell University, October 11–14, 2025), evaluating proposals and providing feedback to authors for the theme “Music Theories, Histories, Analysis, and the Musical Cultures of Asia.” At UMBC, he taught two online general education courses: MUSC 102 *Advanced Music Fundamentals*, an intensive review of music fundamentals for incoming music majors and other students with prior training; and MUSC 328 *Music and the Mind*, which examines topics in music cognition and perception, including how people perceive, remember, enjoy, and interact with music. He also submitted the final copy of his analytical essay, “Metrical Dissonance and Hypermetric Downbeats in Hins Cheung’s ‘Missing’ [張敬軒《缺》],” for publication in the forthcoming Oxford University Press volume *Modeling Popular Music Analysis*. In addition, Dr. Siu is enrolled in the University System of Maryland Faculty Professional Development program through the William E. Kirwan Center for Academic Innovation, pursuing the *Google AI Essentials Specialization* and *Google Prompting Essentials Specialization*.

Thank you!

WELCOME BACK!

Please send your updates to the music
office so we can share your
accomplishments with the community!
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concert series, visit us at

music.umbc.edu