

A MUSICAL SUMMER

MAY - JUNE

2026

UMBC DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

Upcoming
Events

News

Current
Students

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WELCOME TO OUR Monthly Newsletter

Through individual attention from extraordinary faculty, a supportive community, and real-world experience, we develop forward thinking musical citizens who make a positive impact in their communities and the world.



Congratulations to our graduating seniors from Fall 2025
and Spring 2026!

Ruben Aquino
Jahquana Bond
Zachary Bradley
Chase Clemens
**Elijah Cox
**Jocelyn Faison
Heath Franklin
Connor Fuerst
Charis Grant
Charley Gray
**Jadyn Hackley
**Zachary Johnson
Grace Kang
Nicolas Komosa
**Bryan Lee
Hunter Marsh
**Jean Nguyen
**Tal Pluznik
Benjamin Porter
Colin Powell
Nema Robinson
Joseph Ross
Jeanpaul Tauler
Michael Tom
Andifon Ubom
Frank Weaver
**Justin Whitmore

** Music Department Honors Recipient. Awarded for superior
academic achievement and outstanding
service to the Department of Music.

Alumni



Jeff Martin '23 Continues Graduate Studies and Premieres New Interactive Work

Jeff Martin recently completed his M.A. in Music at the University of Iowa and is currently pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the University of Illinois, where he studies with Kerry Hagan, president of the International Computer Music Association (ICMA).

His recent creative work explores interactive music for live performers, electronics, video, and camera-based gesture recognition. This spring, he premiered a new work for percussion, electronics, video, and live gesture-controlled media, continuing his research at the intersection of music and technology.

You can watch “i move in the gaze of light” here:

[Jeff Martin Composition Work](#)

Alumni



Brandon Gouin '23 and **Ida Dierker '25** were featured performers at the Black Mountain College Museum + Arts Center in Asheville, North Carolina. Their program of contemporary works for piano and percussion was praised for its focus, nuance, and expressive precision, highlighting the rich possibilities of experimental music. The concert paired their performance with an improvised electronic set by Asheville-based ensemble LOCALLC, creating an evening that celebrated listening, collaboration, and artistic exploration in the spirit of Black Mountain College's experimental legacy.

Hi Tom Ensemble



Alex Armbruster '22, Brandon Gouin '23, and Ida Dierker '25 continue to build momentum with their contemporary music group, *Hi-Tom Ensemble*. The trio, which specializes in new music and free improvisation, recently performed at 2640 Space in Baltimore alongside Matchstick Percussion, presenting works by Andy Akiho, Angelica Sanchez, Brett Dietz, and Robert Carl. They also appeared at The Hargrove Baltimore, where they performed contemporary works by living composers that explored minimalism, theatricality, jazz, and an inventive palette of percussion instruments.

Congratulations to Alex, Brandon, and Ida as they continue to expand Baltimore's vibrant new music scene.

Alumni



Cara Jaye '16 just returned from Miami with Duran Duran/INXS tribute band DDXS after a successful show at the Dennis Moss Cultural Arts Center. Her next show in Maryland will be at The Great Boonsboro Carnival on 5/26 with The Reagan Years - The East Coast's Original 80s Tribute Band!

Christian Hartman '20, recently completed his Doctor of Musical Arts in Cello Performance at Shenandoah Conservatory in Winchester, Virginia, where he served as teaching assistant to renowned cellist Julian Schwarz. His dissertation research focused on a rare 1919 cello sonata by French composer Marcelle Soulage, and his lecture recital featured the U.S. premiere of the work.

Another highlight of Hartman's doctoral studies was serving as cello soloist in Flower Power, a 35-minute work for six amplified soloists and orchestra by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Julia Wolfe. Hartman and his fellow soloists were the first musicians to perform the piece outside of the Bang on a Can All-Stars, for whom it was originally written.



Alumni



Stefanie Watson '05 is currently teaching class piano and serving as a staff pianist at both the College of New Jersey and Lehigh University, continuing her work as an educator and collaborative pianist.

Colin Powell '25 has been involved with Project Poetic Justice, collaborating with incarcerated people to set their poetry to music. The project uses music and creative expression to amplify personal stories and support meaningful artistic connection.



The Best of Baltimore!

A One-Night Only Baltimore Experience

Sunday, May 31st at 7:30pm

The Baltimore Chamber Orchestra makes its Meyerhoff Symphony Hall debut during the League of American Orchestras National Conference.

Renowned cellist Bryan Cheng joins Music Director Robert Moody and the BCO to perform pieces by Grammy winning composer Mason Bates, UMBC graduate Karena Ingram, Baltimore-born Frank Zappa, and Ludwig van Beethoven!

Limited tickets available. Scan the QR code to learn more and get yours!

Free student tickets available!

Email info@thebco.org for more information!



Karena Ingram '16 was featured by the Baltimore Chamber Orchestra as part of its The Best of Baltimore program at the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall. The concert celebrated Baltimore's creative community and included a performance of Ingram's orchestral work, *Animals of the Solstice: Calm of the Equinox*, alongside music by Frank Zappa, Mason Bates, and Ludwig van Beethoven.

Faculty News

UMBC Music Teaching and Learning faculty member **Krystal Williams** has been selected as a 2027 Grammy Music Educator Award™ Quarterfinalist. The award recognizes exceptional music educators who have made a significant impact through their dedication to music education and student success.



UMBC Music Teaching and Learning faculty member **James Dorsey** was selected as a 2026 Grammy Music Educator Award™ Quarterfinalist and recognized as a Legacy applicant. The Grammy Music Educator Award honors educators who have made a lasting impact through excellence in music teaching and advocacy.

Both are in the running to be considered as a finalist for this year's award.

Faculty News



Dr. Liana Harron was recently featured as a pianist on composer Dan Deacon's score for the Netflix film *Little Brother*. Harron contributed to the film's soundtrack through a recording project featuring Deacon's original music, bringing her artistry to the composer's latest work for the screen.

Thank you!

Please send your updates to the
music office so we can share your
accomplishments with the
community!

<https://forms.gle/Mz9dPRfVRmkGCLhy5>



**UMBC
MUSIC**

For more information and to view our 2025 arts +
concert series, visit us at

music.umbc.edu