



David Hill

Yale Institute of Sacred Music 2013-2024





Dear David,

I am stunned at how rapidly the years pass and saddened that we have reached the end of your formal appointment at Yale where you have made such an indelible mark: teaching, conducting, leading tours, making recordings, commissioning, building community through music. You have impacted audiences both here and abroad through visionary programming and exquisitely crafted performances, but most importantly you have helped prepare the next generation of leaders through your pedagogy.

This won't be good-bye, because we know where you live! There will be other modes of collaboration in future. But rest assured, Yale will always be your home away from home, and you will always have a warm place in our hearts.

Congratulations and blessings!

Martin Jean
Director, ISM





Dear David,

Thank you for wonderfully moving performances, especially of Joby Talbot's *Path of Miracles* during the ISM trip to Spain.

With gratitude,

Maggie Brooks
Founding Conductor of Yale Camerata



Dear David,

I can't believe your time with us is coming to a close! What you accomplished here over the last 10 years is remarkable. Recalling all the beautiful music and concerts, the inspiring tours, the sometimes tedious meetings, so many dinners, and one or two refreshing beverages (these are my favorite memories!), makes me terribly proud and grateful! We've experienced so much together. I'm particularly grateful, however, for the extra added support in recent years. You've been a great colleague. I wish you all the best and hope you won't be a stranger!

Lots of love,

Jimmy Taylor
Director, Yale Voxtet

David, your presence and artistry in our midst will always be treasured! I, for one, cherish those collaborative opportunities we have had over the years, both in Woolsey Hall and at Christ Church. Watching your genius in rehearsing an ensemble has been an education for me, something that will not be forgotten. This message brings my heartiest good wishes for all you will be doing in the future. I'll be watching!

Sincerely,

Tom Murray
Professor Emeritus of Organ



It was a joy to work with you at the ISM over the past years, David, and to see Schola flourish and shine under your direction. I especially cherish memories of the Evening Prayer Services at Christ Church in New Haven.

Thank you, David, and Godspeed.

Teresa Berger
Professor of Sacred Music and of Divinity





Dear David,

I'm very lucky to have had the chance to work with you in the 2014–2015 Yale ISM years. You were a tough leader in the rehearsal room which I needed but also a warm and understanding person off-stage.

I remember the years at the ISM like early music bootcamp. The growth I experienced performing countless challenging masterworks on campus and internationally to the UK and Russia with you, I wear proudly on my shoulders like a badge of honor. Thank you for leading us to the most beautiful places to perform in your home country! I still talk about the conductor I worked

with in grad school who had a hawk eye equivalent of ears. In addition to your consummate musical leadership, your English “street cred” was complete when I witnessed you quench your marathon-oratorio post-concert thirst with a record glugging of a pint of beer (just one!). Without much delay after this – on-brand with your typical swift tempos that I enjoyed – you stood up, bid our group goodnight, and gave your final congrats. You will live on in my memory as a great leader I had the privilege to train with, work with, and celebrate with.

Sincerely,

Mindy Chu, a.k.a. “Plucky Vox”
2015 M.M.





Dear David,

What big shoes the ISM will have to fill with your departure! The two years in which I was lucky to learn from your meticulous direction were a time of such rapid growth for me as a singer, that it's hard to imagine where I'd be without them. One experience I particularly valued was our recording the Fauré and Palestrina albums; we were short on time and I think there was a good deal of anxiety in the room, but your leadership couldn't have been more reassuring as you easily extracted the best of what we had to offer. (Of course, getting my first real shot at recording as a soloist in the Fauré was also a highlight, and you applied the very same wizardry in those brief moments.) I have so much more to offer as a singer than I ever could have without your rigorous



and good-natured direction for those two years. The world of music is broad and wide, but I very much hope we meet again. Until then, all the best as you move on to your next chapter!

Edmund Milly, 2015 M.M.





Photo by Laurie Ongley



It is hard to summarize the number of extraordinary experiences I had working with David over many years of collaboration between the ISM and Juilliard415. Tours to India, Scandinavia, and the UK, an extremely memorable (and delicious!) lunch at his beautiful home in the English countryside, and, dare I say, plenty of gin on many occasions. But the thing that sticks out to me most about David is his integrity as a musician. He always approached every piece of music, whether old or new, with a level of sincerity that is rare among conductors of his stature. He was able to bring out the very best in our

students without ever resorting to drama or histrionics. I cherished watching him on the podium whether in rehearsal or in performance since I knew things would be so secure. How could they not be with those extraordinary ears! Practically a supernatural ability to hear through any amount of complexity. David, thank you for all you have given us. I wish you the very best on your retirement from Yale with many many more years of extraordinary music ahead.

With thanks and affection,

Ben Soslund

Former Manager, Juilliard Concert Office







Dear David,

What a privilege and a joy it has been to teach alongside you and to learn from you these past many years. From our first collaboration on Britten's *Cantata misericordium* to watching you lead the Schola this semester in a moving and insightful performance of Howells's *Hymnus Paradisi*, I have been inspired by your utterly impeccable musicianship, your total commitment to getting it right, and your determination to have fun along the way. The impact of your work will benefit the choral program here for many years to come, and I am filled with gratitude. I wish you nothing but the best in all that is to come and trust our paths will cross again soon.

Until then, warmest regards,

Jeff Douma

Conductor, Yale Glee Club





Dear David,

Thank you for being a never-ending source of musical inspiration to me. It would be hard to pick a favorite memory, but I would probably choose one of those cocktail nights at Michael's last year! I hope to work with you again. I can't think of another conductor who is more musical and humorous than you! Every rehearsal with you was a joy.

Juliet Papadopoulos, 2024 M.M.

Photo by Eliana Barwinski



Dear David,

Thank you for bringing your kindness and warmth to Schola this year. Your patience and musicality have truly shaped my musical life. I remember taking the musicianship exam with you and feeling completely at ease because of your fairness and kind spirit. Thank you for all you do and I hope to see you in England!

Eliana Barwinski, 2025 M.A.R.



David, thank you so much for bringing us through such challenging and stunning repertoire with purpose. You are an inspiration, and it's been an honor to make music with you. All the best to you moving forward!

Sandy Sharis, 2024 M.M.A.



David,

There was a moment when you spoke about the making of Howells's Requiem that stuck with me; you intricately described his despair from losing his son, who posthumously became the vessel for his composition. You delved deep into the mystery and spirituality behind this creation, which touched me. Because I am someone who thinks through music in a spiritual sense, your words illuminated the text in a way relatable to my thinking. It was moments like this, when often being the only person like myself in Schola, that created a much-needed connection. Thank you.

Collin Edouard, 2027 Ph.D.



Dear David,

When I started my Ph.D. at Yale in 2021, my self-confidence as a singer was at an all-time low. I was not sure that I wanted to sing on stage anymore, ever. In fact, I almost didn't audition. But three years of singing with Schola has reminded me of why I studied voice in undergrad. Thanks to working with you and the other members of this group, I found the courage to re-imagine what it means to think of myself as a singer. Thanks for helping me find my voice.

Renée Barbre, 2027 Ph.D.



YALE INSTITUTE OF SACRED MUSIC PRESENTS



Yale Schola Cantorum

David Hill, *conductor*

Juilliard415

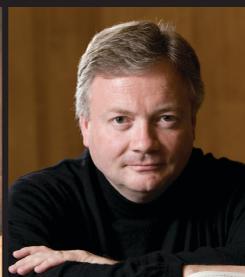
Haydn

Lord Nelson Mass

Łukaszewski

Ascensio Domini

WORLD PREMIERE



Friday, May 3 | 7:30 PM

Woolsey Hall ■ 500 College Street ■ New Haven

ism.yale.edu FREE; NO TICKETS OR RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Yale

Dear David,

I will never forget my first few rehearsals with you and Schola upon starting at Yale. We immediately jumped into rehearsing Bax's "Mater Ora Filium" and it was revelatory for me to make music at that level! My first year in Schola really changed me as a singer and musician and I was constantly amazed and delighted by the musical nuances you were able to draw from the choir. I have yet to encounter a conductor with a finer set of ears and an ability to give pitches in all ranges on the fly!

I cherish many of our musical moments together; from recording the Fauré and Palestrina albums in my first year, to touring Pärt's *Passio*, Handel's *Dixit Dominus*, and of course, the immensely challenging *New England Symphony*

by Williams. You always demanded a high standard but remained patient and kind (and kept your sense of humor!) even when we had difficult rehearsals. I regularly think about you sitting down to improvise jazz harmonies under a difficult alto phrase in the Williams and how it gave everyone a much needed laugh and a refreshed approach to the music. I was also particularly grateful for your kindness and encouragement while I was struggling with a vocal injury my second year.

Thank you sharing your gifts with Schola, and for showing us the level of music-making we should aspire to!

Warmest wishes,

Nola Richardson, 2020 D.M.A.





David! I feel so grateful to have caught you on your way out the door. While I certainly wish I had been fortunate enough to know you sooner, it has been a joy to learn from you this year. Your generosity with your gifts and infectious zeal for music making have made such an impact on me, and on everyone who has been lucky enough to learn from you. I hope the winds of this silly choral lifestyle will bring our paths to cross again. Until then, I'll have very fond memories of this year!

Veronica Roan, 2025 M.M.

David, thank you so much for a wonderful year of fantastic music making. I have so greatly appreciated the attention to detail and creativity that you've put into each of our rehearsals and performances. I feel so honored to be part of this ensemble and to have the privilege of making such excellent music with you. I will miss your leadership, your sincerity, and your care. Thank you for everything.

All my best,

Trevor Scott, 2025 M.M.A.



Dear David,

Thank you for your leadership and teaching over the last two years (and your entire illustrious career with Schola)! It was such a special part of my experience at Yale to be a part of the choir. Many of the pieces and performances will stand out in my memory as powerful and meaningful, but my favorites were the Britten *Hymn to St. Cecilia* and the Howells, both *Requiem* and *Hymnus Paradisi*. I truly appreciate the chance to be a part of such a skilled choir and have learned so much about vocal technique from you as well as from the others in the bass section. Your approach to concert preparation and attention to detail really are inspiring. I know I'll take all of the things I've learned over the last two years here forward through the rest of my life as a singer. Thanks for all you have done for Schola and for music at Yale!

Lee Larson, 2024 M.B.A.

David,

I might go so far as to say that singing in Schola has been the most meaningful music-making experience I've had the fortune to be a part of during my six years at Yale. Schola was everything I was looking for coming out of the pandemic – community, excellence, beauty, commitment, and friendship. It has been an absolute joy to sing under your baton for two years. You have revitalized my love for Anglican music (especially Howells) and introduced me to new works that I will continue to treasure for the rest of my life. Thank you for your leadership, your insight, and your incredible musicianship. I feel truly blessed to have been a part of Schola under your guidance.

With love, gratitude, and admiration,

Frances Pollock, 2025 D.M.A.



Dear David,

It has been a tremendous honor to work with and sing under you during your last year as the conductor of Schola. I feel incredibly fortunate that I had the chance to be here at Yale while you were still here and to experience your expertise and leadership. I have enjoyed singing a wide variety of choral music with you, from Buxtehude, to Howells, to Rutter, to Shaw, and you have continuously shown me that a small choir can have an extraordinary range of sound, color, and emotion under the right conductor. I am so looking forward to touring the UK with you while singing one of Bach's masterpieces, and feel honored to have the opportunity to take part in your final performances with Schola. Thank you for setting an excellent example of what a musical leader should be; we all appreciate your commitment to this group more than we can express. I hope you know that you will always have a home and a family here at Yale.

Best wishes,

Ellen Robertson, 2025 M.M.A.



Dear David,

From day one, Schola has been one of the highlights of my Yale experience. When I pivoted my vocational focus from music to theology, I was worried that I would lose opportunities to make music at a high level. When I joined Schola during my first week of class at Yale, however, I knew I could lay those fears to rest. It has been an immense privilege to make music with you over the past two years, and the work we have done has informed the way I will approach ensemble singing for the rest of my life. The joy and meaning you find in making music is so apparent and contagious that I have left even our most gruelling rehearsals feeling inspired and fulfilled. I feel honored to be a part of the Bach B Minor Mass project (what a swan song for your time at Yale!), and I do hope that our paths will cross again many times in the future! Thank you for a wonderful two years!

Gratefully,

Sully Hart, 2026 M.Div./M.S.W.



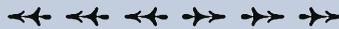


Thank you for everything David!

It has been such a pleasure working with you and learning from you, and I had so much fun working on Britten's *War Requiem* in our lessons together. You have always been so helpful, encouraging, and supportive, and I enjoyed singing for you in Schola very much. I will really miss our time together, and the wonderful music that we've made! I hope everything goes well for you and our paths cross again in the near future!

With all the best wishes,

Yiran Zhao, 2023 M.M.



Dear David,

It was both a pleasure and a privilege to have studied with you and performed under your direction during my three wonderfully fulfilling years of music-making at Yale. The combination of your superlative musicianship and commitment to musical excellence whilst being so patient and encouraging is such a rare combination that remains a continued source of inspiration for me in my work as a musician and teacher. Thank you for the music, the happy memories, and all the very best for the next chapter – you will undoubtedly be sorely missed!

Michael Lukin, 2022 M.M.A.



Photo by Michael Lukin



Dear David,

Congratulations on a very successful eleven-year run as Principal Conductor of Yale Schola Cantorum!

Funnily enough, I still vividly remember joining Schola as a college sophomore and being deathly afraid of you. I felt very intimidated by the high level and fast pace of the choir. People told me that you had an ear like no other, that you could hear the smallest mistakes or the slightest intonation issues. They were not wrong. Though my apprehension was needless in the end, it inspired me to become a better sight-reader and hone my ear for intonation. Being a part of Schola has made me a better musician, a more versatile singer, and a more compassionate person. For this, I will be forever grateful.

It was not until our Germany tour, when I first spoke with you outside of rehearsal, that I finally realized your unfading kindness and cheer. You strive for musical perfection, but the emotional impact is what matters most to you in any

performance. You aim to build the choir's reputation and success, but you also care deeply about each member on a personal level. You know when to hunker down and work, but also when to let loose and enjoy the moment.

Mostly, I want to thank you for believing in me not only as a member of Yale Schola Cantorum, but also as a solo singer. Your faith in me has truly transformed the way I approach music and the confidence I have in myself. I am certain that without Schola and without you, I would not be as connected to music as I am today. And I most certainly would not be pursuing it as a career.

So, a million times, thank you! I am hopeful that our paths will cross again, somehow, somewhere. May this UK Schola tour be the most memorable one yet and a wonderful celebration of your contribution to Yale.

With many thanks,

Jackie Kaskel, 2024 B.A.



Dear David,

Thank you so much for a really wonderful year! Schola has really shaped my first year of college and brought me a lot of joy. I've grown so much as a musician and I'm really grateful for your mentorship. Wishing you all the best in your future projects! We'll miss you!

Love and thanks,

Claire Spence, 2027 B.A.

David, I want you to know how big of an impact you had on me going into my first year of college. Welcoming me into Schola really helped me to find a place of belonging on campus, and you've really been the catalyst for most of my musical growth since coming here. You've taught me so much in such a short time, and I'll always see you as one of my foremost musical mentors.

Eshaan Giri, 2027 B.A.



Photo by Laurie Ongley

Dear David,

Thank you so much for 2 wonderful years of music-making! I am eternally grateful for having had you as a mentor and have learned more than I can possibly express about musical expressivity, the rehearsal experience, and true *heart*. I hope you know that you have forever impacted so many students at Yale and we will all miss you very dearly. But I know that this is not “goodbye,” just “see you later!”

Most sincerely,

Sarah Shapiro, 2025 M.M.



Dear David,

How grateful I am to have gotten to know you and work with you these past two years! The gifts of your mentorship need no recapping, and yet, that’s what I’ll do: your musical leadership of Schola has shown me how comprehensively the score and our ears can illuminate the flow of the music, if only we pay attention to it. Despite how effortless your musical leadership often seems, I’ve appreciated your willingness to teach what must surely seem old-hat to you. Your feedback in

my lessons was so encouraging, as you heard and dignified my concerns, then helped me reframe them into something useful. And for giving me time to work with Schola this year, I’m not sure how to thank you sufficiently! My time with them has helped develop my ear, certainly, but it’s also given me confidence in my ability to lead productive rehearsals with an ensemble of that caliber. The repertoire I’ve encountered – many pieces I didn’t know before but now love – will certainly live on with me, and I’ll think of you often when they inevitably come up. Thanks again for all you’ve given to the conductors and singers during your time at Yale!

Margaret Winchell, 2028 D.M.A.



Dear David,

It has been wonderful working with you in Schola and as a conductor! So grateful for all your wisdom, insight, and perpetual good humor over this year. All the best for the next chapter!

Mahima Kumara, 2025 M.M.



Photo by Laurie Ongley

Photo by Eliana Barwinski





It has been an absolute joy to work with David Hill for the past two years. He has been very kind and welcoming to me as I joined the faculty, and I appreciate his efforts to make me feel a part of the team. David is a brilliant musician, with an unmatched ear; he is ever charming,

and a joy to work with. He leaves behind an enduring legacy of excellence as the conductor of Schola. For the past two years, I have also had the opportunity to share audition week with him as well, and his nonverbal messages are a true art (and an absolute delight) that will be missed! David, we appreciate your constant professionalism, stellar musicianship, and passionate enthusiasm for every program you have performed with Schola. Your impact on your students and contributions to the musical community at Yale will be lasting.

Wishing you continued blessings as you leave us and return across the pond! “And now...over to you!”

Felicia Barber
Conductor, Yale Camerata



YALE INSTITUTE OF SACRED MUSIC PRESENTS

Songs of Farewell

A cappella works of Pizzetti and Parry



Yale Schola Cantorum
David Hill, conductor

THURSDAY • NOVEMBER 1 • 7:30 PM
Christ Church New Haven (84 Broadway at Elm)

*Free; no tickets
or reservations*

ism.yale.edu

Yale

Dear David,

Listening to you lead the sonorous voices of Schola Cantorum over the years has been mesmerizing, and surely one of the great highlights of being at the ISM! We will miss you here at the ISM but are wishing you the best in your next chapter.

Best wishes,

Eben Graves

Assistant Director, ISM



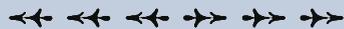
Dear David,

Thank you so much for being such an amazingly inspirational colleague. You've always had such an inviting spirit and shared so much experience and knowledge. Your presence will surely be missed and I truly hope our paths will cross in the near future. All the best on your next journey and please continue being a light to us all!

Sincerely,

Nat Gumbs

Director, Chapel Music



Dear David,

Thank you for your exceptional leadership of Yale Schola Cantorum over the years! Your talent and presence will be deeply missed. I wish you all the very best in this next chapter of your life and work.

Warmly,

Amanda Patrick

Marketing & Communications Manager, ISM



