

# Prism

MUSIC • WORSHIP • ARTS

YALE INSTITUTE OF SACRED MUSIC  
COMMON GROUND FOR SCHOLARSHIP AND PRACTICE

2015 AUTUMN  
VOL XXIV • NO 1

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## Welcome, New Students!

Compiled by Kathryn McNeal

*Each autumn we welcome new students who bring a breadth and depth of diverse backgrounds to our interdisciplinary enterprise. Many of them accepted our invitation to tell a bit about themselves so that our alumni and friends can catch some of the enthusiasm that abounds at this time of year.*

*As usual, the ISM community celebrated the opening of the academic year at the ISM picnic at the Eli Whitney Museum in Hamden.*



Natasha Huang, Liesl Spitz, Laurie Ongley (r.), and a guest

**Emma Langham Brown** (M.A.R.) is a first year M.A.R. student concentrating in religion and the visual arts and material culture. She graduated from Harvard University in 2014 with a degree in history and literature and a secondary field in French literature. Her interests include paleography, the medieval book, and conceptions of piety and power in the Middle Ages. She is originally from Macon, Georgia.

**Molly Channon** (M.A.R.), originally from New Hampshire, gained an early appreciation for the visual arts while living abroad in England and France. She received her B.A. in art history and philosophy ('14) from Brandeis University, focusing on modern art in Europe and the United States. In addition to her studies, Molly has worked on curatorial and education initiatives at several New England art museums, including the Currier Museum of Art in Manchester, NH, the Rose Art Museum at Brandeis University, the Hood Museum of Art at Dartmouth College, and most recently Harvard Art Museums. She looks forward to exploring the intersections of modern and contemporary art and religion.

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## NEW STUDENTS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

**Evan Cogswell** (M.M.) is a first year organ student, studying with Martin Jean. In 2014, Evan graduated summa cum laude from the Hartt School with a dual degree in composition and organ performance. Currently, Evan is the assistant organist at St. Augustine's and St. Paul's Roman Catholic Churches in Glastonbury, CT. As a composer, Evan has written several works for organ that he has performed on several occasions, the most recent being a choral setting of "Puer Natus" with organ and flute accompaniment.

**Brendan Dempsey** (M.A.R.) plans to study religious reconstruction. Having graduated summa cum laude in 2011 from the University of Vermont with a degree in classics and religion, he spent the next four years writing his first work in this undertaking: a 500-page epic poem in blank verse called "God." The poem narrates the modern death of God and prophesies/enacts God's subsequent rebirth in our own time. At Yale, the second (and much longer) phase of Brendan's project now begins, as he sets about articulating a completely reimagined mythic system in a projected 2000-page work entitled "Scriptures." To prepare for this he will continue studying philosophy, theology, ecology, music, mysticism, literature, writing, and other subjects. The completed work, he hopes, "will offer an efficacious spiritual framework to a world as self-destructive as it is desirous of a Sacred now but half-remembered."

**Jacob E. Drake** (S.T.M.) completed his B.A. at Belmont University and his M.Div. at Duke Divinity School. He is particularly interested in Greek Patristic theology, culture, and liturgy. He plans to complete a doctorate in early Christianity in the coming years to prepare for a career teaching others the joys of studying the early church. In addition to his studies, he has served in five Baptist churches and several nonprofit organizations. Recently, he pastored a group of intellectually disabled persons in Durham, NC. The experience reshaped the way he thought of ministry and theology—examining how theology impacts all people within a congregation. He hopes to mine the resources of the early centuries to serve and critique contemporary churches toward greater faithfulness. Jacob is a baptistic thinker with strong leanings to the wider historical Church. He is married to Emily, a musician, arts administrator, and instructor. He and Emily live in Branford with their puppy, Pepper.

**Joey Fala** (M.M.), a native of Honolulu, is a 2015 graduate of the School of Architecture at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY. He has spent time working in the architectural lighting industry as well as in the graphic design and photography fields. He comes to the ISM after the somewhat recent realization that the organ is something he'd like to make more than just a hobby in his life.

**Zachary Fletcher** (M.A.R.) was born at Yale-New Haven Hospital, and baptized downtown at Christ Church. After five years at St. Thomas Choir School in New York, he attended high school in



Aaron Peisner (l.), Patrick Murray (r.), and guests

Middletown, CT (where his family resides now), followed by four years at Harvard College where he sang a lot, and also studied Classics and Linguistics. His senior thesis focused on queer sex, failure and social mobility in Petronius' infamous *Satyricon*, the earliest extant example of Latin prose fiction. Zak's first academic exploration of liturgical studies, his current concentration, was in his junior year at Harvard, in a paper on the gold funerary tablets attributed to the ancient Mediterranean mystery cult of Orpheus. Zak wants to learn how liturgical practices inform and create denominational (and intra-denominational) identity, especially in his own Anglican tradition; he is affiliated with Berkeley Divinity School. He says, "I can't wait to sing more at Yale!"

**Victor Gan** (M.A.R.), brought up as an Anglican in Singapore, spent his college years in London, where he shaped his interest in liturgy and early music. Alongside medical school and graduate work in the gene therapy of immunodeficiencies, he had first-hand exposure to the labyrinthine sociology of academic biomedicine, intellectual engagement with the philosophical aesthetics community, parochial involvement in Anglo-Catholic liturgy, and the diverse choral music scene in London. Subsequent professional work in Singapore ranged centripetally from clinical infectious diseases to hospital epidemiology to national health promotion policy, which has led to an interest in exploring the liminality between ethics and liturgical performativity. Victor's interests include interfaith dialogue, Franco-Flemish polyphony, and reading culinary ethnography.

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**Prism** is published online several times a year and occasionally in print by the Yale Institute of Sacred Music.

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**Dustin Gavin** (M.A.R.), a native of Mobile, Alabama, is a New York City-based digital media artist who has spent the past few years focusing on experimental sound and video works that explore the duplicities of the body, gender, race, and identity. He holds a B.A. in journalism from Howard University, an M.A. in media studies and film from The New School, and will investigate the roles of race and gender in American religious history through the lens of the visual arts in the Institute of Sacred Music. In exploring this synthesis, Dustin intends to further inform notions of the black queer religious experience in America by creating digital works which provoke social commentary that complicate the effects and affects of that lived experience. Preoccupied with storytelling, Dustin believes that media has a responsibility to tell compelling stories, foster education, and provide insight to the world around us.

**Michael Gilbertson** (D.M.A.) is a composer from Dubuque, Iowa. He studied at The Juilliard School and Columbia University. After completing an M.M. at the Yale School of Music, he taught hearing and analysis as a lecturer at the YSM, and composition/theory at ECA, an arts magnet high school in New Haven. He has composed numerous choral and vocal works, frequently collaborating with poet and ISM graduate Kai Hoffman-Krull (M.A.R. '12). A lifelong Lutheran, Michael is music director at Holy Cross Lutheran in Trumbull, CT. He also serves as artistic director of ChamberFest Dubuque, an annual summer music festival he founded in 2009.

**Adele M. Grabowski** (M.M.) is a first-year mezzo soprano in the Voxtet at Yale. She recently received her Bachelors in Fine Arts in vocal performance from Carnegie Mellon University. Adele is active in performing sacred and secular music, performing in both the United States and Europe. Her secondary interests include piano, dance, culinary arts, and religious studies.

**Natasha Huang** (M.A.R.) comes to the ISM for her final year at Yale Divinity School where, as an M.A.R. Comprehensive student, she seeks interdisciplinary study of how the arts intersect with the sacred and affect people's lives. Born and raised in Southern California, Natasha attended the University of Southern California, where she double majored in music (violin) and East Asian languages and cultures (she is fluent in Mandarin) and subsequently obtained a master's degree in the latter. She is also a board-certified music therapist with particular interest in hospice work. Natasha came to Yale after working for five years and hopes to pursue chaplaincy and further graduate study upon finishing. In her spare time, she plays soccer for the Yale Divinity School Paracleteats, dances at Yale Swing & Blues, and enjoys going on solitary neighborhood walks.

**Tara (Negar) Jamali** (M.Div.) graduated from the University at Buffalo with a B.A. in communication and Italian in 2013. She has participated in a theater festival in Italy, in which she played a lead role in a play by one of Italy's most popular dramatists, Eduardo De Filippo. She has been involved in campus ministries such as Intervarsity USA, and sang in a Presbyterian church choir for over two years. She is Iranian-American, fluent in English and Farsi as well as Italian.

**Weston Jennings** (M.M.), originally from Stafford, VA, began his organ studies at the Interlochen Summer Arts Camp in 2007 and received his Bachelor of Music in organ performance from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY. Following graduation, he lived in England for two years as the Organ Scholar of Canterbury Cathedral and Chelmsford Cathedral. During this time, he was also appointed Organ Scholar to the Royal Festival Hall in London. Weston joins the

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Sakina Abdus Shakur, Bethany Carlson, Joey Fala, Weston Jennings, and Jonathan Sanchez

ISM this year as a student of Prof. Thomas Murray, whom he also assists at Christ Church. His other interests include running, cycling, traveling and cooking, as well as watching East German cinema.

**Karl Isaac Johnson** (M.A.R.) graduated summa cum laude from Samford University in May 2015. As an M.A.R. candidate in liturgical studies, he is interested in the history, development, and meaning of liturgical and lay rites in the Roman Catholic Church. As a church organist and musical composer, Isaac is also invested in the creation, use, and history of Catholic music and hopes to work on constructive approaches to Catholic music and liturgy in the midst of extreme division within the Church after the Second Vatican Council. Isaac is also interested in the history of religion in the American southwest, especially the intersection of Catholic missions and Native American traditions, and hopes to create and discover rituals and life habits for himself and others that heighten religious meaning and environmental sustainability in the midst of a techno-centric, disoriented modern world. He is excited to join the ISM and to become involved in the Yale Group for the Study of Native America and in liturgies at St. Thomas More Catholic Chapel.

**Christopher Keady** (M.M.), a native of Oregon, grew up in Eugene and most recently lived in Portland. He studied organ performance, English literature, and poetry writing at Lewis & Clark College, graduating in 2010, and subsequently worked as an organist in the Portland area. Most recently he was organ scholar at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, and this year will serve as the sacred music intern at the Brick Presbyterian Church in Manhattan. Christopher is excited to avail himself of the broad course offerings at the ISM (especially literature), enjoy Yale's incredible organs, and get to know the Northeast with his husband Dan. Outside of school and work he enjoys bicycling, cooking, and eating out.

**Kristian C. Kohler** (M.Div.) is from Reading, PA. He received a B.M. in music education and sacred music, summa cum laude, from Westminster Choir College of Rider University. While at Westminster, he served as the associate minister of music at St. Paul Lutheran Church in East Windsor, NJ. As a candidate for ordained ministry in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Kristian plans to use his studies at the ISM to continue to integrate his passion for music and worship into his pastoral development. He will serve as the liturgical coordinator for the University Church in Yale during the 2015-2016 academic year.

**Michael Kurth** (M.Div.), originally from the Midwest, has spent the last four years in New York City. Along with the ISM, he will be studying at Yale Divinity School and Berkeley Divinity School for preparation for ordained ministry in the Episcopal Church. Michael has always been involved with church choirs, and hopes the ISM

will further develop his lifelong passion for sacred music and budding interest in liturgical studies. Outside of school, he enjoys spending time with people — whether traveling, trying new food, watching sports, or going to the ballet.

**Megan McDermott** (M.Div.) graduated with a degree in creative writing and religious studies from Susquehanna University in 2014, where her interests often overlapped. Megan found herself writing poetry that touched on faith, feminism, and life as a Christian woman. With the encouragement of the ISM, she looks forward to thinking more about how her theological studies and reflections can manifest in creative expression. Megan also hopes to learn more about feminist liturgy. Particularly, she's interested in the gendered language for God in worship and questions on how to balance liturgical innovation with historically rooted common prayer. Her ultimate goal for her time at Yale Divinity School is to prepare to be a campus minister or university chaplain. She is also a student at Berkeley Divinity School, in Anglican Studies.

**Daniel McGrew** (M.M.) is a native of Orange, California where he began his performance career as a boy soprano singing in choirs, appearing as a soloist, performing in operas, and recording for film and television. In high school he received his first training as a tenor with Patrick Goesser of Chapman University. In 2010, Daniel earned first prize in the Classical Singer Competition; he was honored as a 2011 Presidential Scholar in the Arts. He is a recent graduate of Oberlin Conservatory of Music where he studied with Salvatore Champagne. His interest in early music is born of two winters at Emmanuel Music's Bach Institute. Daniel is also passionately engaged with the art-song repertoire and the art of recital singing.

**Jane Meditz** (M.A.R.) is a native of Connecticut whose father graduated from Yale Divinity School in 1986. Her years as a girl chorister in an Episcopal parish laid the foundation for her future in sacred music. Her subsequent years in the Evangelical movement and as a sacred music major at Westminster Choir College continued to expose her to a wide variety of music from the Christian tradition. Her passions include composing sacred choral works and more contemporary songs and hymns, singing in early music ensembles, and participating in the music ministry of a local congregation. While at YDS and the ISM, she hopes to learn more about how others have experienced Christianity through music in the past, and to continue to contribute to this legacy through composing and performing.

**Mary Pan** (M.M.) is a recent graduate of The Hartt School, University of Hartford, where she studied organ with Patricia Snyder and Renée Anne Louprette. A Connecticut native and a long-time piano student of Margreet Francis at the Hartt Community Division, she took up organ at age

sixteen after “discovering” the instrument during a family trip to Shanghai, China. She has been organist and pianist at First Baptist Church, West Hartford, for the past three years, and is currently organ scholar at Trinity Episcopal Church, Hartford. She is interested in pursuing organ performance in both worship and concert, as well as exploring the many other facets of sacred music during her time at the ISM.

**Nathan Reiff** (D.M.A.) comes to Yale from New York, where he worked for two years as a conductor with the Young People’s Chorus of New York City, a children’s chorus serving about 1,500 students from across the greater New York City area. Prior to that, he received an M.M. in choral conducting from the University of Michigan. Originally hailing from Oregon, Nathan did his undergraduate degree at Yale several years ago. He says, “I’m thrilled to be back!”

**Jonathan Sanchez** (M.Div.), from Columbia, South Carolina, is a first-year M.Div. student seeking ordination in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. He recently graduated from St. Olaf College, in Northfield, MN, where he majored in bass clarinet performance. He also enjoys playing Renaissance recorder. In addition to being able to study liturgy at the ISM, Jonathan is looking forward to furthering his study of Biblical languages. On a personal note: “Fried chicken is my favorite food, and I love making puns!”

**David A. Simon** (M.M.) was born in Toronto and first studied music at St. Michael’s Cathedral Choir School. His interests in sacred choral and organ music have led him to study at Yale where he is working towards the M.M. degree in organ with the church music studies certificate.

**Janet Yieh** (M.M.), a native of Alexandria, Virginia, is a graduate of The Juilliard School (B.M. Organ ’15) and former assistant organist of Trinity Wall Street in New York. Memorable recent performances for her include a Pipedreams national radio broadcast from Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall with NOVUS NY orchestra, and solo recitals at St. Thomas Church, Fifth Ave, Washington National Cathedral, and St. John’s Cathedral in Taipei. She has appeared as harpsichordist with the Trinity Baroque Orchestra and premiered new music for the organ. With Presbyterian and Anglican roots, Janet particularly loves church music and working with choirs and currently serves as organ scholar at Trinity Church on the Green. Janet looks forward to the many collaborative learning opportunities at the ISM and hopes to explore the role of sacred music in liturgy and worship from new perspectives.

**Xiao Situ** (M.A.R.) comes from Brooklyn, New York. She did her Ph.D. studies in art history at Yale, focusing on nineteenth-century American and British art and material culture from a feminist and literary perspective. She wrote her dissertation on the poet Emily Dickinson, focusing on Dickinson’s relationship to the visual and material properties of windows from the 1830s to 1880s. Xiao served as a student deacon at the University Church in Yale while she was working on her Ph.D. She hopes to combine her art history training with pastoral care and theology in her future career. She enjoys reading, cooking, classical ballet, and is a fan of period detective novels and TV shows. She is also an amateur historian of perfume and fragrance.

Lead story photos by Katharine Luce



Kristian Kohler, Jane Meditz, Jonathan White, Thomas Williford, and Mary Copeley

## FACULTY NEWS

In August, **TERESA BERGER** presented a paper entitled “Christian Worship, Congregational Singing, and Practices of Gender: Exploring the Intersections” at the third biennial Conference on Christian Congregational Music in Oxford. Her most recent publications are “Gender Matters in Worship: An Ecumenical Theme across a Divided Church” (*Liturgy* 30:4(2015): 36-43) and “Liturgie und Frauenleben: Orte, Zuschreibungen und Zumutungen im Gottesdienst” (in *KATHARINAFEIER: Kritisch-theologisch-feministisch. Eine Nachlese*, ed. Anna Steinpatz et al., Salzburger Interdisziplinäre Diskurse, 189-206. Frankfurt: Peter Lang, 2015).



Teresa Berger and some of her students gather round the hearth/laptop to listen to Pope Francis during his U.S. trip.



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In July, **MAGGI DAWN** was keynote speaker at “Called to be a Living Voice,” the biennial conference of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians, in Atlanta GA, where she was in conversation with Bishop Guy R. Erwin, bishop of the ELCA Southwest California Synod, who from 1993 - 1999 taught the history of Christianity and historical theology at YDS.

In September she attended the Ecclesiology and Ethnology conference at the University of Durham, UK, and gave a paper, “Sing to the Lord a New Song: A Study into How Songs Become Established in Church Repertoires.”

In October she attended and gave a presentation at The Venice Colloquium, an international meeting in Italy for ritual artists – liturgical ministers, all of whom had first trained in music, visual arts, literature, or theatre.

In addition to giving lectures on opera for Yale Alumni College and for the Yale University Women’s Organization, **JUDITH MALAFRANTE** covered several opening nights for Opera News, including Anna Bolena, Turandot, and Tosca at the Met, and the world premiere of Jake Heggie’s Great Scott in Dallas. Her article on “Vibrato Wars” was featured in Early Music America magazine’s fall edition, and she continues her regular column, “Canto,” in that quarterly publication.

On October 17, 2015, **BRYAN SPINKS** gave a lecture entitled “The Nineteenth Century Liturgical Revival: Evolution and Devolution of Worship in the Kirk” at New College, Edinburgh. This lecture was the Church Service Society Sesquicentennial Lecture at Greyfriars Kirk, and was part of SPARK Greyfriars Festival of Worship and the Arts.

**JAMES TAYLOR** has been invited to do masterclasses and lectures on Bach’s St. Matthew Passion and the role of the Evangelist in Bach’s Passions at the University of Minnesota.

## OTHER NEWS

**JAMES ABBINGTON** was honored by The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada (The HSUSC) at its annual conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, in July 2015, by being named a Fellow of The Hymn Society. This award, the highest honor given by the organization, was conferred because of Abbingtion’s work as a scholar, editor, and practitioner of church music with a particular emphasis on African-American congregational song.

# Yale Voxtet

James Taylor

This year's Voxtet members have been busy right from the first day. In addition to singing the Bach masses with Masaaki Suzuki and Schola and Juilliard, they recently spent a weekend in Norfolk, Connecticut, as guests of David Low. There they worked on continuo repertoire with baroque cellist Phoebe Carrai. We faculty gave a recital for them, cooked them dinner, went for a hike, and then we sang a concert in the converted barn, all part of a memorable weekend in the beautiful New England autumn.

Previously, the soprano Emma Kirkby and lutenist Jakob Lindberg had spent a week in residence with the Voxtet, culminating in a Renaissance party and performance with lute accompaniment.



Photo of Norfolk grounds by James Taylor; others on this page by Melanie Ross



## NOTES ON THE STAFF

Returning in a new role, **NICOLE BENEVENIA** (M.A.R. '15) will coordinate the special events for the 2015-16 academic year.

A 2008 graduate of Boston College (majoring in philosophy and English), Nicole then came to the ISM/YDS to study religion and literature in 2013. During her years at Boston College, Nicole was co-head coordinator, trip leader, and volunteer for Appalachia Volunteers, through which she participated in six service-learning trips to the Appalachian region. Upon graduating from BC, she held marketing and editorial positions at *Commonweal Magazine*, Wiley-Blackwell Publishing, Pearson Learning Solutions and diacriTech, Inc. She then came to the ISM/YDS to study religion and literature in 2013. While at Yale, she interned at Yale Press and co-edited *LETTERS*, the student-run journal for literature, the arts, and spirituality.

**ANDREA HART**'s role at Yale has been expanded. While remaining at the ISM as lead administrator, she has been tapped by the central business operations unit of the Office of the Vice President to take charge of the C&T Summer Training program and to be involved in planning and implementation for business office training programs across the University. This promotion follows on the heels of the success of the C&T Summer Training program, which she was instrumental in

designing and implementing, and for which the team won the President's Award for Staff Excellence in 2014.

**LAURIE ONGLEY** has been appointed as concert production assistant at the ISM. She is working with Laura Adam and others in supporting the music programs and related events, with a special focus on Yale Camerata. She fills the vacancy left by **MELISSA ROOKLIDGE**, who left the ISM in August to teach music at Whiting Lane Elementary School in West Hartford.

Ongley is no stranger to Yale and the ISM. A Yale College grad, she later received the Ph.D. in historical musicology from Yale, writing on liturgical music in late eighteenth-century Dresden. After a number of academic positions, she moved back to Connecticut in the mid-90s and held a number of positions managing, in successive years, the Yale symphony Orchestra and Yale Camerata. She served as staff editor for *Sound View Press* and *Oxford University Press*, and in 2000, Ongley became managing editor for *Yale College Publications*. Still working at Yale, in 2011, she was named communications manager for Student Financial and Administrative Services. There she edited the Yale course book and managed the course review process and online catalog.

## Artist-in-Residence



This year the ISM welcomes back **Kenyon Adams** (M.A.R. '15) in a new capacity as artist-in-residence. A collaborative artist and arts advocate, Adams is known as little ray, a *nome d'arte* inspired by the episode in

Dante's *Inferno* where the condemned soul, Count Ugolino, relates the story of his death. Locked in a prison tower, Ugolino was forced to watch his children die slowly before him. During Ugolino's speech, Dante inquires of the reader, "And if you are not weeping, about what do you usually weep?" Dante's account of Ugolino's tragedy portrays a "little ray" of light that enters through a window of the tower, illuminating the scene."

Kenyon Adams has been the recipient of a National Young Arts Foundation Award, and was named a White House Presidential Scholar in the Arts.

Adams made his feature film debut as Jason in director Lee Isaac Chung's 2010 narrative feature *Lucky Life*, which premiered at Tribeca Film Festival and was selected for the Moscow International Film Festival, Torino Film Festival, American Film Festival Poland, and others. In 2011, he formed the band Kenyon Adams & American Restless, which sought to explore the liturgical quality of the blues aesthetic in the American musical context. Other appearances include *Changing Light on Water: Some Possible Beginnings and Endings* directed by Bill T. Jones.

During this residency at the ISM, Adams will develop a creative platform with Yale students around questions of faith and social conscience. Guided by an interdisciplinary committee of Yale faculty, he will gather a cohort of artists who will focus on the question of Empathy: Its plausibility in light of the limits of knowing and of language, its contingency in relation to structures of power, and its apparent necessity for the maintenance of justice and civility in contemporary society. Their work will be shared in public performance.

# Parish-Based Music Schools Initiative

## Introduction

As music education programs in public schools face funding challenges across the U.S., many congregations are working to fill the void in their communities by offering innovative programs that provide individual or group music lessons for local children. Such initiatives expand vital outreach and leverage existing resources, such as facilities, personnel, and their inherent role as cultural leaders in their communities. They can also generate an additional revenue stream for the church. They provide a welcome to thousands who do not have easy access to music education and create vibrant communities of artists and teachers. These parish-based music schools exist all around the country, but are relatively unknown.

For all these reasons, the ISM has launched a multi-year project to highlight and advocate for ways that parishes can offer much-needed music education in their communities. A [related article](#) by **Joseph Ripka** (M.M. '11) appeared on page 9 of the last issue of PRISM.

The first phase of the initiative collects information about existing programs for the sake of creating a network of like-minded people and facilitating the exchange of ideas. Additionally, the ISM is presenting workshops around the country to introduce the concept to congregation leaders and to teach them how to begin a school/program or strengthen one they may already operate. Future phases will share additional resources useful to such programs and provide continuing training to their leaders.



Larry Zukof, Beverly Clafin, Martin Jean, Joseph Ripka, Jared Wilson, and Rebecca Mason

## Workshops

The ISM held its first workshop on parish-based music schools in New Haven, Connecticut, on October 24, 2015. Artistic and administrative leaders of successful programs in three states shared their first-hand knowledge and experiences to equip church musicians, clergy, and lay leadership with practical tools for creating and sustaining a program in their parish.

A second workshop will be held on Saturday, May 14, 2016, at Parkway United Church of Christ in St. Louis, MO. More information and online registration will be posted online at in early January.

Additional workshops in other parts of the country are planned for 2016-17.

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*Workshop Presenters*

- **Martin Jean**, Director and Professor of Organ  
Yale Institute of Sacred Music  
New Haven, CT
- **Beverly Clafin**, Director of Worship and Music; and **Rebecca Mason**, Administrator  
Mount Olivet School of Music  
Mount Olivet Lutheran Church  
Minneapolis, MN
- **Joseph Ripka**, Organist/Choir Director  
Artistic Director  
Calvary Music School  
Calvary Church (Episcopal)  
Stonington, CT
- **Rev. Jared D. Wilson**, Senior Associate Pastor  
Madison Street Music & Arts Academy  
Madison Street United Methodist Church  
Clarksville, TN
- **Lawrence Zukof**, former Executive Director  
Neighborhood Music School  
New Haven, CT

*Workshop Topics*

- **The Case for Music Education**
- **Establishing the program’s mission**
- **Organizational structure and relationship with the church**
- **Hiring teachers, other personnel**
- **Setting rates/payment deadlines, other policies**
- **Facilities and instruments**
- **Program administration and staffing**
- **Beyond private lessons: group classes, ensembles, etc.**

More information and registration information is at [ism.yale.edu/MusicWorkshop](http://ism.yale.edu/MusicWorkshop)

Photos by Tyler Gathro



# Yale Schola Cantorum: “A Better World”

In October Masaaki Suzuki, Schola’s principal guest conductor, returned to the podium to conduct an all-Bach program that included the Lutheran Masses BWV 234 and 235. Schola performed with the period-instrumentalists of Juilliard<sup>415</sup>, who also presented the third Brandenburg Concerto. The program was performed in New Haven at St. Mary’s Church before a standing-room-only crowd (photo) and in New York at Lincoln Center. Of the New York performance, Stan Metzger of [Seen and Heard International](#) said, “[Yale Schola Cantorum] sang

with tremendous vitality, never wavering under the guidance of Suzuki..... In whatever short period of time he had to rehearse these students, he drew from them a quality of sound certainly near, if not equal to, the instrumentalists and chorus of his Bach Collegium Japan... to have one of the great masters of Bach on stage with one of the best choruses and the top student orchestra in its field is to feel that, yes, we have made progress towards a better world.”



Photo by Tyler Cahro

## ALUMNI NEWS

Photo by Katharine Luce



Nicole Benevenia (M.A.R. '15) and Nicholas Lewis (M.Div. '13), pictured here with Kristen Forman (r.), return to Yale in new administrative capacities.

**HORACE BALLARD** (M.A.R. '10) has been appointed curator of education at the Birmingham Museum of Art. Ballard joins the Birmingham, Alabama museum from RISD's Museum of Art, where he taught courses, established new programs, and generated community engagement for the Continuing Education Department and School & Teacher Programs division. Ballard simultaneously worked as a graduate lecturer at Brown University and as graduate collections manager at the Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology. Ballard also previously worked at the Monticello/Thomas Jefferson Foundation, the Studio Museum in Harlem, and the Yale University Art Gallery.

In October, **ROBERT BENNESH** (M.M. '14, A.D. '15) brought a group of twelve music directors from the diocese of Lund (Sweden) to study how to involve children in music ministries and inspire youth to play the organ, and to learn about American organ culture, American choral music, liturgy, and religious diversity. The visit included talks with several Yale faculty and alumni in New Haven and New York.

Courtesy Robert Bennesh



Robert Bennesh, left, and Thomas Murray, right, with the visiting musicians from Sweden.

**PAUL JACOBS** (M.M. '02, A.D. '03) was featured in a [New York Times](#) article, entitled "[On the Organ Trail in Manhattan.](#)" The article was published on July 2, 2015.

**NICHOLAS LEWIS** (M.Div. '13) has joined the senior leadership team of YDS as associate dean of student affairs, following in the footsteps of Dale Peterson, whose years of service were celebrated during the commencement festivities. Since graduation, he had worked as assistant dean of the college and community life chaplain at Bard College, while also serving as a member of the YDS Alumni Board.

**TAWNIE OLSON** (A.D. '00) is the winner of the 2015 Iron Composer Competition. The prize includes a commission for a new ten-minute orchestral work for the Blue Water Chamber Orchestra. This year Olson is also working on filling commissions from the Mt. Holyoke Symphony Orchestra, Third Practice (with support from a New Music USA project grant), the Cluster Festival and Plumes Ensemble, The Canadian Art Song Project, and the Yale Guild of Carillonners, as well as a Magnificat setting for the Elm City Girls Choir, commissioned by longtime Yale Camerata alto Karen Clute.

**ADAM PAJAN** (M.M. '10) has recently been appointed conductor of the Oklahoma Master Chorale. He is currently instructor of organ and shop technician at the University of Oklahoma's American Organ Institute, where he teaches students in organ performance and organ technology.



**CATHERINE VINCIE** (M.Div. '83) gave the Kavanagh Lecture at the ISM this October, speaking on "Shooting for the Stars: Worship and the New Cosmology." She is professor of liturgical and sacramental theology at the Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis.

**JAY WEGMAN** (S.T.M. '95), is associate priest at St. Luke in the Fields Episcopal Church in Greenwich Village. He was interviewed for a [New York Times](#) [article](#) about his work as director of the Abrons Arts Center, a nonprofit community organization on the Lower East Side, and an offshoot of the Henry Street Settlement.



Erin Hasson for the New York Times

**ENID WOOD** (M.A.R. '84) moved to England after graduation and taught violin for many years. Now back in the United States, she has been painting landscapes in pastel, and teaches pastel painting workshops in Texas and New Mexico. During September 2015, her artwork was featured in an exhibition at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, entitled *Touched by Time: Landscape Paintings in Pastel by Enid Wood.*

# Alumni Profile

## Dashon Burton (M.M. '11)

Before coming to Yale, bass-baritone Dashon Burton began his professional studies at Case Western Reserve University and graduated from the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music. After singing with Cantus, a professional men's classical vocal ensemble, Burton entered the ISM, where he studied vocal literature with James Taylor and was a member of the Yale Voxtet.



Photo by Ann Marsten

He brought home a top prize from the 2012 ARD International Music Competition in Munich, as well as the first prize in Oratorio from the 49th International Vocal Competition in 's-Hertogenbosch, the Netherlands. These awards followed his first place wins in both the 2012 Oratorio Society of New York's Competition and the Bach Choir of Bethlehem's Competition for Young American Singers.

Most recently, he has sung in Bach's newly reconstructed St. Mark's Passion at the Oregon Bach Festival, performed the role of Jesus in the St. Matthew Passion at the Carmel Bach Festival, and joined the American Classical Orchestra as a soloist in Bach's Mass in B-minor at Alice Tully Hall.

In addition to his work in early music, Burton is an avid performer of new music and has premiered many works by living composers. He is a founding member of 2013 Grammy Award Winning (Best Chamber Music/Small Ensemble Performance) Roomful of Teeth, with whom he tours internationally. This vocal ensemble, under the direction of **Brad Wells** (M.M. '98, D.M.A. '06), is devoted to the performance of new compositions using the fullest possible range of vocal techniques.

About his career trajectory after he left Yale and how the ISM helped prepare him for the life of a professional musician, Burton says:

"I am a classical singer, and I travel the country (sometimes even the world) singing with orchestras, choirs, chamber ensembles, vocal ensembles, or pretty much wherever I can. I'm absolutely in love with the music that I get to sing, and enjoy getting to know so many people and places around the world in this particular way – not to mention eating lovely food in the process!

After graduating from the ISM, I participated in a few different ensembles that raised my profile and put me in a good place to transition from full time school to a full time freelance singing career. I had the opportunity to travel frequently to Europe, singing in many prominent places there and in the United States. I was already used to the kind of work and travel, thanks in part to my time at the ISM. The immense preparation the vocal program provided helped me move fairly easily into singing as a full time career, and I'm happy to say that it still continues to this day!

I have also fulfilled many personal goals of singing beautiful music with great friends, such as my most recent recording project with double bassist Logan Coale: a song cycle entitled *Lori Laitman: Holocaust, 1944*. The poems chosen for this piece were selected from *Holocaust Poetry*, edited by Hilda Schiff. As the Holocaust defined the lives of each contributor in this book, their poetry allows us to identify with their collective experience, making the horror of these years seem more immediate and real for us today. Their words teach the lesson of the Holocaust to a new generation, by heroically declaring, 'never again.'

I am very proud to be a part of Roomful of Teeth with many of my friends from Yale. I would have to say that accepting a Grammy award with my mother in attendance was one of the most satisfying moments I've experienced as a professional musician.

My work at ISM helped me collaborate more and not just open my heart to other people's ideas, but most importantly, to value my own contributions to society as a musician and an artist. Meeting so many people outside of my discipline helped me to truly appreciate the role that we each play in bringing art into the world. I greatly treasure the many wonderful friends and colleagues I met at the ISM who encouraged me and loved me unconditionally along the way."

More about Dashon's work and upcoming projects is at [dashonburton.com](http://dashonburton.com).

## PUBLICATIONS

As related in the last issue, the current issue of the **YALE JOURNAL OF MUSIC & RELIGION**, guest edited by Markus Rathey and dedicated to “Music and Preaching” is now online.

### YALE JOURNAL OF Music & Religion

YJMR is currently accepting submissions for an upcoming special issue on the sounds of processions (appearing September 2016, submission deadline February 1). Articles on any topic relating to music and religion will be considered for our general issues appearing each March (submission deadline September 1). If you have any questions, please contact the editors ([yjmr@yale.edu](mailto:yjmr@yale.edu)).

[ism.yale.edu/yjmr](http://ism.yale.edu/yjmr)

The **YALE INSTITUTE OF SACRED MUSIC YEAR IN REVIEW 2014-2015** is now online at

[ism.yale.edu/print-media/annual-reports](http://ism.yale.edu/print-media/annual-reports)



Yale INSTITUTE OF SACRED MUSIC

Year in Review  
2014—2015



### The Yale ISM Review

VOLUME 2 • NO. 1: *Water*



The **YALE ISM REVIEW**, Vol. 2, No. 1 “Water” will be published on November 15. Rita Ferrone edits the online journal. This issue’s contributors are Talitha Arnold, Teresa Berger, Maggi Dawn, Makoto Fujimura, Michelle Lewis, Anne Rowthorn, Jeffery Rowthorn, Don Saliers, Martha Serpas, Ben Stewart, and Megan Sweas.

[ismreview.yale.edu](http://ismreview.yale.edu)

# In Memoriam

The ISM is mourning the loss of two musical luminaries, both of them friends of the ISM.



## Sir David Willcocks

The great conductor Sir David Willcocks made several visits to Yale. He died on September 17 at age 95.

“His creativity and musical energy were surpassed only by his kindness,” said Martin Jean.

Photo by Robert A. Lisak



Photo by Robert A. Lisak

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## John Scott



John Scott, organist and director of music at St. Thomas Church, Fifth Avenue, died unexpectedly on August 13.

An ardent supporter of the ISM, he hired several of our music grads as assistant organists and choral singers, and hosted Yale Schola Cantorum on more than one occasion.

“But beyond that,” reminisced Martin Jean, “he was a towering leader in the field of church music. When asked how he hoped to spend his career, he replied simply, ‘I am a liturgical musician.’ That career has been cut tragically short.”

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The ISM is grateful for the friendship and support shown by these inspiring leaders and teachers.

Yale Institute of Sacred Music  
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[www.yale.edu/ism](http://www.yale.edu/ism)

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## YALE INSTITUTE OF SACRED MUSIC PRESENTS

### **Dona nobis pacem**

Advent concert

#### **YALE CAMERATA**

Marguerite L. Brooks, *conductor*

Arvo Pärt: *Adam's Lament*

W.A. Mozart: Bassoon Concerto K. 191

Wayne Hileman, bassoon

J.S. Bach: *Dona nobis pacem* from Mass in

B-minor

and more



Saturday, December 5

7:30 PM

Battell Chapel

400 College St.,  
New Haven



### **Christmas in Lübeck**

#### **YALE SCHOLA CANTORUM**

Simon Carrington, *guest conductor*

*Music of Buxtehude and more*

Friday, December 11 · 5 PM

Christ Church New Haven

84 Broadway at Elm, New Haven

Preconcert talk at 4 PM

by Kerala Snyder

“Christmas Music from Lübeck: Extracting  
Gems from the Treasure Trove of St. Mary’s  
Choir Library”

Both concerts are free; no tickets required. [ism.yale.edu](http://ism.yale.edu)