Welcome, New Students!

Compiled by Stephen Gamboa-Diaz

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.

Maggie Burk (M.M. choral conducting ‘19) is a conductor, teacher, singer, and composer who has held teaching appointments at the high school and middle school levels. For the past two years, she held the post of Assistant Director of Choirs at Free State High School in Lawrence, KS, where she co-taught seven choirs in a program of 320 students. In addition to her public school teaching, she served as assistant organist/choirmaster at Grace Episcopal Cathedral in Topeka, KS, where she led the Cathedral Choristers program and composed many sacred choral works for the Cathedral Choir. Maggie received her Bachelor of Music degree summa cum laude with departmental distinction from St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN, where she studied conducting with Anton Armstrong, Timothy Mahr, and Christopher Aspaas, and organ with Catherine Rodland. While at St. Olaf, she was a section leader in the acclaimed St. Olaf Choir, a teaching assistant for music theory and conducting, and a chapel organist.

Nia Campinha-Bacote (M.Div. ’20) writes, “I grew up as a classically trained pianist for seven years and am also an avid percussionist. My heart beats for worship and I’m hoping to use my musical skills to help others tangibly encounter the Love and Presence of
God. Additionally, I love belting out the Moana soundtrack at all hours of the day.”

Peerawat Chiranunt (M.A.R. religion and literature ’19) was born in Riyadh, raised in Bangkok, and graduated this past May from the great books program at St. John’s College (Santa Fe, NM). During his time at Yale, he intends to commit himself primarily to the study of Dante’s *Commedia* and the kind of thinking about the classics and one’s personal past that the poem encourages. Because other authors dear to him include Cervantes, Keats, and Proust, a pressing question for him as an ISM student concerns the extent to which ostensibly secular texts articulate the same visions of the human situation as those that claim sacred inspiration—and vice versa. He enjoys, in his spare time, coffee, clouds, and chess.

From 2009-2015, Matthew Daley (M.M. organ ’19) attended the University of Maryland as a piano major and received a B.M. and M.M. Degree, studying under Larissa Dedova. While pursuing his two piano degrees, Matt had the privilege of taking organ lessons with Dale Krider, William Neal (National Symphony Orchestra Organist) and John Walker (former president of the American Guild of Organists). Over the course of his musical journey, Matt became proficient in several other aspects of music, including collaborative piano, violin, and viola. As he has explored music, he has enjoyed sharing his music in various countries including Spain, Italy, South Africa, Canada, Lesotho, Puerto Rico, Australia and Jamaica. He has also enjoyed performing in concerts at prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall’s Perelman Stage and the Kennedy Center’s Concert Hall. Matt’s greatest passion for music comes from playing in churches and he considers it a great honor to have served as one of the organists at Sligo Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Colesville United Methodist Church, Calvary Baptist Church, and National Presbyterian Church.

Carmen Denia (M.A.R. religion and literature ’19) recently graduated as part of the inaugural class of Yale-National University of Singapore College. There she divided her time between pet-sitting for professors and researching on Dante’s *Divine Comedy*. Her other research interests are in poetry, material culture, and liturgy from classical to medieval Europe. Carmen has come to the ISM to understand better how these human expressions work together with faith for human flourishing—a short question that would take a lifetime to answer. Outside of class, she is usually listening to podcasts, exploring the Old Campus, or enjoying the quiet in Nouwen Chapel.

Christian Detisch (M.Div. ’20) comes to Yale from Washington, D.C. where he was working in digital strategy for an environmental nonprofit. He received an M.F.A. in poetry from Virginia Commonwealth University, and is interested in the intersections of religion and literature, social movements and the church’s place within them, and medicine and theology.

Sarah Fox (M.A.R. religion and music ’19) writes, “I am originally from Russellville, Kentucky and served as the music director/organist at Trinity Episcopal Church in Russellville for ten years. I attended Western Kentucky University as an undergraduate, receiving degrees in history and music. I then moved to Birmingham, United Kingdom, where I studied choral conducting as a Fulbright Postgraduate Scholar at the University of Birmingham. I also completed independent research regarding the intersections between music and adverse childhood experiences. My current research interests include music’s role in building spiritual identity, the connection between religious traditions/identities and cross-cultural relationships, and the use of music as a tool for internationally-focused peace and reconciliation efforts. I love to take walks in nature, read and write poetry, and cook.”

Jacob Gelber (M.M. choral conducting ’19) is a first-year choral conductor and countertenor. Originally from Cranford, New Jersey, he recently finished his studies in the Columbia-Juilliard Exchange, where he led the Columbia University Vivace Chamber
Singers and sang in New York’s C4 Ensemble. Jacob loves conducting ensembles small and large and is eager to collaborate with composers and across disciplines!

Amy Giuliano (M.A.R. religion and visual arts ’18) is in the final year of her master’s degree in religion and visual arts. Prior to her time at Yale, her most recent degree is a S.T.B. in theology from the Angelicum in Rome, where she also was trained and worked as guide of the city’s art and architecture. She is currently an adjunct professor at Sacred Heart University. Amy has given colloquia and radio interviews on the history of art at Seton Hall University and Sacred Heart University. This past summer, Amy led tours of the Yale University Art Gallery as an Elm Institute graduate research associate, worked for two months as an art historical tour guide in Rome for the Paideia Institute’s undergraduate Latin program, assistant-directed a short film entitled Living Latin in Rome, studied sacred art in Jerusalem as a Two Brothers fellow, and became a contributing essayist for the Magnificat.

Andrew Hon (M.M. choral conducting ’19) is a choral artist from Hong Kong. Previously, he served as the choir director at St. John’s UCC – Newport, KY and head of music at Fung Kai Innovative School. Hon has studied under world-renowned conductors including Helmuth Rilling, Rolf Beck, Eric Stark, Stephen Coker and Dénes Szabó. He was the chorus master and masterclass coordinator for Professor Stephen Coker, and Professor William Weinert in Hong Kong’s Singfest. He was also the chorus master for Mozart’s Idomeneo at the University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music. Hon received his Bachelor of Arts (music) from University of California, Berkeley with distinction, and a Master of Music (choral conducting) from University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music, where he served as teaching assistant and taught theory and musicianship at the undergraduate level. He also received a postgraduate diploma in Education from Hong Kong Baptist University with an award of merit in supervised teaching practice.

Allison Merril (M.A.R. religion and music ’19) writes, “I am delighted to be a part of YDS and the ISM and look forward to my studies in the religion and the arts/music concentration. Singing was my gateway to broader musical study, leading to interests in choral studies, music history, music education, and church music. The interdisciplinary study approach resonates with me in light of all these connected interests. My husband and I come from Jacksonville, Florida as graduates of Jacksonville University. We are so thankful to be a part of the ISM community!”

Ashley Mulcahy (M.M. voice ’19) is a mezzo-soprano earning her master’s in voice as part of the Voxet. Ashley is particularly interested in seventeenth and eighteenth-century repertoire and spent the last two years in Chicago studying with early music specialist Ellen Hargis. In Chicago she was a frequent chorister with groups such as The Newberry Consort, Music of the Baroque, and Church of the Ascension. She was also a Young Artist at the 2017 Boston Early Music Festival. Prior to moving to Chicago, Ashley earned undergraduate degrees in Vocal Performance and Italian from The University of Michigan where she studied with Carmen Pelton.
406 Prospect: Building Update

Student Impressions

The atmosphere was festive at 406 Prospect Street. Students, fellows, and professors, many wearing hardhats and reflective vests, all gathered at 406 Prospect St. one day after Colloquium to celebrate the groundbreaking of the Institute of Sacred Music’s new home. It was inspiring to hear how the project that many people have advocated for relentlessly is finally coming to fruition.

The building itself was originally built as a large single-family home in 1909 (see article in the last issue, or here). Though in need of this renovation, the bones of the building already reveal the potential of the space. There are large windows allowing for wonderful natural light and a diverse array of rooms that will clearly accommodate a wide range of events. It is also conveniently located directly across from the divinity school, thus facilitating a strong continued connection between the ISM and YDS.

Having our own ISM building will help students feel as though we truly have a home base and an established identity on campus. All ISM students straddle multiple academic communities, but I think that having this place where we can all convene as a unified group will help us further develop close community and improve our collaboration. We are all very excited for this new building and for the opportunities that the space will undoubtedly support!

- Hannah Sachs, M.Div. ’20
- Andrew Hon, M.M. choral conducting ’19

I was honored to be a part of the groundbreaking ceremony of the ISM’s new building and to witness the dream and vision of our courageous director, Martin Jean, become a reality. The new building means a lot to the ISM community and to Yale. While providing the ISM with a permanent home, the new building will reinforce the role of the Institute as a premier center for the interdisciplinary study of sacred music, worship, and arts. It will also enable the leadership of the ISM to be more creative and bold with the future development and growth of the Institute.

The building will be called Miller Hall, but if I could give it a nickname, it would be the “ISM Village,” because the Institute is a small and intimate community. I envision the new building will bring us even closer to each other—like brothers and sisters living in the same village. My favorite part of the building is the beautiful view of the Prospect Hill neighborhood from the window of the common space. My least favorite part is that we need to wait one more year before we can move in!
Looking forward to 2018: Mark your calendars!

**Back-to-Back Bach**
in Woolsey Hall

**FRIDAY, APRIL 27 | 7:30 PM**
*St. John Passion*
arr. Robert Schumann
Yale Schola Cantorum
DAVID HILL, conductor

**SATURDAY, APRIL 28 | 7:30 PM**
*Mass in B minor*
ISM Alumni Chorus
Juilliard415
MASAAKI SUZUKI, conductor
Alumni soloists: Sherezade Panthaki, Mindy Ella Chu, Virginia Warnken, Sara Yanovitch, Gene Stenger, Sarah Couden, Dashon Burton, Nola Richardson, Daniel Moody, Paul Tipton, Dann Coakwell, Jay Carter

Information about these and many other events: ism.yale.edu


Robert Tangeman Professor Emerita of Music History Margot Fassler reports that two books appeared in the last year, one a co-authored study, with Jeffrey Hamburger, Eva Schlotheuber, and Susan Marti: Liturgical Life and Latin Learning at Paradies bei Soest, 1300-1425: Inscription and Illumination in the Choir Books of a North German Dominican Convent. 2 vols. (Munster: Aschendorff Verlag, 2016); and the other an edited volume, with Katie A.M. Bugyis and Andrew B. Kraebel, Medieval Cantors and Their Craft: Music, Liturgy, and the Shaping of History (800-1500), York Medieval Press of Boydell and Brewer, 2017. Last summer she won a 1.6 million grant from Lilly Endowment, Inc. (co-PI with Mark Doerries) to support graduate student work with the Notre Dame Children’s Choir. She is President of the Medieval Academy of America, and was elected an honorary member of the American Musicological Society in the fall of 2016.

Fall 2017 has been particularly busy with keynote addresses in Reichenau, Germany; and at “A Sacrifice of Praise: Liturgy, Prayer, and Hymnody at the Center of Faith and Life,” the 42nd Patristic, Medieval, and Renaissance Studies Conference at Villanova University. She gave the Bernardo lecture at the University of Binghamton on the subject of “Cosmos and Creation in Hildegard of Bingen” (including scenes from the nearly finished digital model); and (via Skype) a lecture for the University of Basel. Fassler has been involved in several national and international projects and think-tanks, including “Rethinking Sacred Arts” at St. Vladimir’s Seminar, organized by Peter Bouteneff, Professor of Systematic Theology; “Developing Virtues in the Practice of Science,” organized by Celia Deane Drummond, Thomas Stapleford, and Darcia Narvez; and “Sound Memories: The Musical Past in Late-Medieval and Early Modern Europe (SoundMe)" under the direction of several European scholars, including Professors Karl Kügle of the University of Utrecht and Susan Rankin of Cambridge University. Fassler’s interview with Professor Bouteneff provides an example of her thoughts on sacred music as it informs the arts more generally. She is currently Keough-Hesburgh Professor of Music History and Liturgy at the University of Notre Dame, where she directs the program in sacred music.

Judith Malafonté spent the summer as a singer, continuo player, lecturer, vocal coach, and music critic, with excursions to the Virginia Baroque Workshop, Queens Baroque Opera Workshop, and the American Bach Soloists Academy (where Matthew Cramer, M.M. ’17, was a participant), Tanglewood, Caramoor, the Merola Opera Program, Mostly Mozart, and the Aix-en-Provence Festival, where she reviewed five opera productions. Be sure to ask Judith about her adventures transporting the family dog to the West Coast, where her daughter was hiking the Pacific Coast Trail.

Below, Left to right: Robert Mealy, Elizabeth Blumenstock, Kenneth Slowik, Corey Jamason, Judith Malafonté, Max Van Egmond
Vasileios Marinis received tenure last spring. His new book, titled *Death and the Afterlife in Byzantium: The Fate of the Soul in Theology, Liturgy, and Art*, was published by Cambridge University Press in early 2017. His article on the vision of the Last Judgment in the vita of Saint Niphon has just appeared in *Dumbarton Oaks Papers*.


Christian Wiman’s edited anthology *Joy: 100 Poems* features works from the twentieth century to the present day that explore the concept of joy in our time (Yale University Press). A review in *The Atlantic* is available online here.
Student, Alumni and Other News

Student News

ISM first-year organ student Diana Chou has been selected by the American Guild of Organists as a semi-finalist in the National Young Artist Competition in Organ Performance. Out of 37 applicants of advanced students, she was one of nine chosen to compete at the AGO National Convention in Kansas this coming June. David von Behren, also a first-year student, was selected as first alternate. Congratulations to both!

Nathan Reiff (D.M.A. ’20) was appointed Resident Conductor of the Harvard Glee Club and also joins the faculty of Boston Conservatory as co-conductor of the Boston Conservatory Choruses. (Facebook Post)

Alumni News

Deborah Gemma (M.M. ’91) was appointed director of Music at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in Falmouth, MA.

VAN classical music magazine interviewed Paul Jacobs (MM ’02, AD ’03) in late July 2017. Read here.

Tripp Kennedy (M.M. ’14, organ) was guest organ teacher in residence at Oberlin College and Conservatory during September and October of 2017.

Stephanie Tubiolo (M.M. ’16, choral conducting) has been appointed assistant director of choirs at Princeton University. Read here.

Other News

Reena Esmail, whose work This Love Between Us was premiered and toured in India by the Yale Schola Cantorum and Juilliard415, was named Musical America’s New Artist of the Month for August 2017. Read here.

Hillary Purrington (Schola Cantorum) was awarded the American Composers Orchestra’s 2017 Underwood Emerging Composer Commission. The $15,000 commission will support Purrington in creating a work to be premiered by ACO in a future season. Read here.

Publications

The ISM annual report has been published online at: ism.yale.edu/print-media/annual-reports.

Vol. 3. No. 2 of Yale Journal of Music & Religion was published in September at ism.yale.edu/yjmr.

The student literary journal LETTERS will be published in a new online format early next year: www.lettersjournal.com.

The next issue of The Yale ISM Review will appear at the end of January: ismreview.yale.edu.
Jacob Reed (M.M. organ ’19) was born in Oxford, England, and raised in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. He recently became the first student ever to receive a simultaneous B.A./M.A. in music theory and history from Yale University (double-major in mathematics), studying harpsichord with Arthur Haas and organ with Thomas Murray. The 2017–18 organ scholar at Grace Church in Manhattan, he has given recitals across the United States, Europe, and Canada. Jacob has also performed frequently as a soloist, accompanist, and chamber musician on piano, harpsichord, and viola da gamba. Since matriculating at Yale, he has been a member of the Yale Temperament Viol Consort, instrumentalist and vocalist for the Yale Collegium Musicum, and harpsichordist for the Yale Baroque Opera Project.

Paul E. Olive-Reese (M.Div. ’19) is beginning his middle year at the ISM and the Berkeley Divinity School at Yale. Previously, Paul studied voice at Greenville University (IL) and musicology and choral conducting at Western Illinois University, writing a thesis about the Jesus People and the development of the Christian music industry. Most recently from Philadelphia, Paul is seeking holy orders in the Episcopal Church. At the ISM, Paul’s interests include public arts as tools for evangelism, community development, and poverty relief.

Sarah Rodeo (M.A.R. liturgical studies ’19) writes, “I completed a B.A. in music at Vassar College, where I focused on the organ and voice, also studying piano and playing other historical keyboards. I am now attending Yale Divinity School, pursuing an M.A.R. with a concentration in Religion & the Arts (on the music track), and a certificate from the Institute of Sacred Music. While I am a dedicated Roman Catholic devoted to the Tridentine Mass, the Daily Office, Latin, Gregorian chant and Renaissance polyphony, I greatly love and value Anglican and Eastern Orthodox aesthetics and artistic traditions. I currently work as Fundraising/Social Media Assistant to the Christopher Mueller Foundation for Polyphony & Chant, soprano section leader in the Berkeley Divinity School Chapel Choir, and organist/choir director at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Orange, CT.”

Hannah Sachs (M.Div. ’20) is an applied theatre artist and director from Virginia. She studied directing, religion, and social change at Smith College and has recently returned from a year teaching and directing in the Czech Republic as a Fulbright scholar. She has been blessed to serve and learn from many marginalized communities including Syrian refugees, sex trafficking survivors, and people experiencing homelessness. Hannah is passionate about academically exploring historical and contemporary connections between faith and the arts, as well as specifically using her theatrical skills within diverse ministry contexts.

Anna Thurston (M.A.R. religion and visual arts ’19) is a joint degree candidate at Yale Divinity School and at Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies (M.E.M. ’19) specializing in the intersection of art, religion, and the environment. At the ISM, she investigates the role creative material culture plays in the formation of worship, ritual, and faith-based practices within the context of natural and imagined landscapes. Prior to her time at

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2017-2018 Fellows

We welcomed (and welcomed back) six ISM Fellows into our community. They were introduced in our summer issue (p. 7); see also ism.yale.edu/fellows2017. They are enjoying a productive year!

Charrise Barron, Ramez Mikhail, Barbara Haggh-Huglo, Finian M. M. Gerety, Anderson Blanton, Hannah Chang

Notes on the Staff

Aric Issacs joined Laura Adam and Laurie Ongley in the concert office as a part-time concert production assistant in September 2017.

Aric is originally from Connecticut and holds a Bachelor’s degree from Wesleyan University. Most recently, he worked for seven years for the New Haven Symphony Orchestra first as director of patron services, and then as General Manager in which he oversaw all aspects of concert and event production, union relations, and day-to-day office management. He also worked as Audience Services Manager for the International Festival of Arts and Ideas, and as Patron and Community Services Manager for the Connecticut Opera. He also has a background in the graphic design business.

Thomas Williford (M.M. ’16, organ) has joined the staff on a part-time, temporary basis supporting the concert office for the spring semester. He is director of music at St. John’s Church in Stamford, CT.
Yale, Anna worked with the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington, DC, the Harvard Museum of Natural History in Cambridge, MA, and the Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice, Italy. Inspired by a pilgrimage to Robert Smithson’s *Spiral Jetty* in 2013, Anna began her foray into eco-criticism, which led her to the field of eco-theology and interfaith initiatives in pursuit of environmental justice. She graduated with honors from Brigham Young University in 2014 with a B.A. in humanities, art history, and Italian literature. Currently a student organizer for the Religion and Ecology Colloquium at Yale, Anna finds herself at home when she is in the mountains, in an art gallery, or listening to the Prelude to Act 1 of Richard Wagner’s *Lohengrin*.

**Edward Vogel** (M.M. voice ’19) is thrilled to be joining the ISM community as the first-year baritone in the Voxtet. He is a recent graduate of the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana, where he received a Bachelor of Business Administration degree with majors in marketing and vocal performance. Thanks in part to Notre Dame’s own sacred music program, he has developed a deep love of early and sacred music, and is incredibly happy to be returning to his hometown of New Haven to continue following his passion.

**Rosemary Williams** (M.A.R. liturgical studies ’19) is a scholar and musician whose interests focus on the intersections between liturgy and music. In her undergraduate studies at James Madison University, Rosemary was awarded dual degrees in music performance (clarinet) and interdisciplinary religion, served as music minister at Canterbury Episcopal Campus Ministry, and performed in the orchestra for numerous student opera productions. Rosemary holds professional memberships in Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, Theta Alpha Kappa, and Phi Sigma Tau; and has studied clarinet under the tutelage of Dr. Janice Minor, Dr. Anastasia Christofakis, and Dr. Sarunas Jankauskas.

Other new students:
- **Diana Chou** (M.M.A. organ ’19), **Jack Dewey** (M.A.R. religion and literature ’19), **Emily Donato** (M.M. voice ’19), **Hannah Goodwillie** (M.M. choral conducting ’19), **Haitham Haidar** (M.M. voice ’19), **Thomas Ingui** (M.M. organ ’19), **He Li** (M.A.R. religion and visual arts ’19), **Wonhee Lim** (M.Div. ’19), **Camille Rabbat** (S.T.M. ’18), **Sam Stella** (S.T.M. ’18), **David von Behren** (M.M. organ ’19)
From all of us at the ISM ….

Best wishes for a joyous and interdisciplinary 2018!