



# Office for the Arts at Harvard

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## PRESS RELEASE

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## Office for the Arts Announces 2015 Arts Prize Winners

### PRIZES BESTOWED ON TEN HARVARD STUDENTS FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE ARTS

(Cambridge, MA)— The Office for the Arts at Harvard (OFA) and the Council on the Arts at Harvard, a standing committee of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, are pleased to announce the recipients of the annual undergraduate arts prizes for 2015.

The awards, presented to over 120 undergraduates for the past 33 years, recognize outstanding accomplishments in the arts undertaken during a student's time at Harvard. Council on the Arts members at the time of selection were: **Diana Sorensen** (Chair), James F. Rothenberg Professor of Romance Languages and of Comparative Literature and Dean of Arts and Humanities; **Diane Borger**, Executive Producer of the American Repertory Theater; **Federico Cortese**, Senior Lecturer on Music, Conductor of the Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra; **S. Allen Counter**, Director, Harvard Foundation; **Deborah Foster**, Senior Lecturer in Folklore and Mythology; **Jorie Graham**, Boylston Professor of Rhetoric and Oratory; **Christopher Hasty**, Walter W. Naumburg Professor of Music; **Jill Johnson**, Dance Director, OFA Dance Program, Senior Lecturer on Music; **Ruth Stella Lingford**, Professor of the Practice of Animation, Film Study Center Fellow; **Cathleen McCormick**, Director of Programs, Office for the Arts; **Jack Megan**, Director, Office for the Arts; **Diane Paulus**, Artistic Director, American Repertory Theater; **Matt Saunders**, Associate Professor of Visual and Environmental Studies; **Elaine Scarry**, Walter M. Cabot Professor of Aesthetics and the General Theory of Value and Senior Fellow of the Society of Fellows; and **Marcus Stern**, Associate Director, American Repertory Theater/MXAT Institute for Advanced Theater Training.

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**Chase Morrin '15, recipient of the Louis Sudler Prize in the Arts.** The prize recognizes outstanding artistic talent and achievement in the composition or performance of music, drama, dance, or the visual arts. This prize honors the sum of a student's artistic activities at Harvard.

A resident of Quincy House enrolled in the Harvard/New England Conservatory joint five-year A.B/M.M. program concentrating in Computer Science with a secondary in Neurobiology, **Chase Morrin** is awarded this prize in recognition of his exceptional work as a composer and jazz pianist. Morrin has earned multiple national and state awards, which include the ASCAP Jimmy Van Huesen award as a promising composer; the ASCAP Plus Award for composition recognition; four ASCAP Young Jazz Composer awards; nine *DownBeat Magazine* awards for composition, arrangement and leading his own school groups; three National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts (YoungArts) awards in jazz composition, jazz piano, and classical composition; the Jazz Education Network (JEN) Composer Showcase award; and the Monterey Jazz Festival's Gerald Wilson award for his big band composition "Mumphis", which was performed at the 2011 Monterey Jazz Festival by the Next Generation Jazz Orchestra, for which Chase was selected as the pianist for their west-coast tour. He has studied with Vijay Iyer, Fred Hersch, Jason Moran, Ed Simone and Bruce Brubaker and composes for the NEC Jazz Composers' Workshop Orchestra (JCWO). During the summer of 2012, Morrin participated in the ASCAP/NYU Film Scoring workshop in memory of Buddy Baker and was selected to participate in the Jazz Composers' Orchestra Workshop Institute (JCOI) through the Center of Jazz Studies, Columbia University and American Composers. Chase also won the national 2012 Yamaha Young Performing Artist (YYPA) competition for jazz piano. A 2013 Artist Development Fellowship recipient, he was selected to participate in the Banff (Canada) International Workshop in Jazz and Creative Music. He plans to pursue a career as a pianist and composer.

**Ashleigh Cote '15, recipient of the Council Prize in Visual Arts.** The prize recognizes outstanding work in the field of visual arts.

A resident of Adams House concentrating in Visual and Environmental Studies, **Ashleigh Cote**, is awarded this prize for her work in animation. Cote has interned for the Croatian Film Association working in their animation department and has also been involved in video research focusing on adoption of the subjectivity and identify of another in theater lead by Radcliffe Fellow, visual artist David Levine. On campus, she is House Press Master for the Bow and Arrow Press. Co-captain of the Harvard Women's Ice Hockey team, Cote is currently engaged in producing a stop-motion animation film exploring the life of a burdened woman for her senior creative thesis. She plans to pursue a career in animation.

**Elizabeth Leimkuhler '15, recipient of the Radcliffe Doris Cohen Levi Prize.** The prize recognizes a Harvard college student who combines talent and energy with outstanding enthusiasm for musical theater at Harvard and honors the memory of Doris Cohen Levi, Radcliffe '35.

A resident of Dunster House concentrating in Organismic and Evolutionary Biology, **Elizabeth Leimkuhler** is awarded this prize for her work in musical theater productions as an actress and operatic performer. She has taken on a number of challenging roles in productions at various

venues on campus including Mrs. Lovett in *Sweeney Todd*, Joanne in *Company*, and Ruth in *Wonderful Town*. In addition to performing in a leading musical role almost every semester at Harvard, she has also served as a board member of Dunster House Opera, is a member of the a cappella group Harvard College KeyChange, and has had the opportunity to work with Lionel Richie and sing with John Legend. This semester she is performing in two non-musical productions in the Loeb Experimental Theater, *Stranger* and *The Maids*.

**Alexandra Kiley '15, recipient of the Louise Donovan Award.** The award recognizes a Harvard student who has done outstanding work behind the scenes in the arts (e.g., as a producer, accompanist, set designer, or mentor and leader in the undergraduate arts world).

A History and Literature concentrator residing in Winthrop House, **Alexandra Kiley** has worked on over 20 undergraduate productions in every major theatrical space on campus. Kiley has directed, produced, light designed, and acted (among other positions) with the Harvard-Radcliffe Dramatic Club (HRDC). She has served as both the President and Technical Liaison on the HRDC Executive Board. Kiley has worked as a production assistant and venue manager with the OFA and recently served as a choreography intern on the American Repertory Theater's production of *Finding Neverland*. She has directed five different productions on campus, including *Little Women* and *Bat Boy: The Musical* in Farkas Hall and is currently directing *Middletown* on the Loeb Mainstage.

**Julia Cataldo '15 and Hannah Firestone '16, recipients of the Suzanne Farrell Dance Prize.**

Named for the acclaimed dancer and former prima ballerina of New York City Ballet, the prize recognizes a Harvard undergraduate who has demonstrated outstanding artistry in the field of dance.

A senior concentrating in Neurobiology and a Winthrop House affiliate, **Julia Cataldo** has performed extensively with Harvard Dance Project, Harvard-Radcliffe Modern Dance Company (HRMDC), and Expressions Dance Companies, and additionally worked with the Harvard-Radcliffe Dramatic Club and Harvard TAPS. She has worked as choreographer and director on 15 different productions, including *Enough Space* with the HRMDC, and *Puttin' on the Ritz*, *Got Rhythm?*, and *Moondance* with Harvard TAPS. Cataldo has served as the director of both the HRMDC and Harvard TAPS and as a Dance Proctor for the Freshman Arts Program. Cataldo was co-director along with Heather Firestone of the fall 2014 HRMDC production of *Tempo* which featured live musicians accompanying five new works by students and a guest choreographer.

A junior concentrating in Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality residing in Dunster House, **Hannah Firestone** has performed extensively with the HRMDC in addition to serving as the Co-Director of the company this past fall. She co-directed the Fall 2014 *Tempo* at the Harvard Dance Center, and performed in two of its dance pieces. Additionally, Firestone worked as a Co-Producer for DanceFest at the 2014 ARTS FIRST festival. Firestone has also served in various production staff roles for the Harvard Ballet Company and the Harvard Dance Program.

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**Samuel Moore '15, recipient of the Robert E. Levi Prize.** This prize acknowledges a Harvard College senior who has demonstrated outstanding arts management skills over the course of an undergraduate career. The recipient's dedication, organizational talent and creative problem-solving, as well as ability to nurture artistry, have been critical factors in the success of one or more arts organizations and/or projects. The award honors the memory of Robert E. Levi, Harvard College class of 1933 and Harvard Business School, MBA, 1935.

An English concentrator and resident of Winthrop House, **Samuel Moore** is awarded this prize for his extensive work and contributions to the theater community. During his four years at Harvard, Moore has worked on more than 13 student productions at various venues on campus, primarily as producer. Moore's producing highlights include *Bat Boy: The Musical* and *Little Women* at Farkas Hall, and *Lakmé* for Lowell House Opera. Additionally, he has had roles including general manager and stage manager on professional productions with the American Repertory Theater, Boston Theater Company, Second Stage Theatre, and Juventas New Music Ensemble. He has also worked both as a production and technical assistant for the OFA and served as treasurer for the Harvard-Radcliffe Dramatic Club Executive Board. Moore is producer of the upcoming production of *Middletown* set to run on the Loeb Mainstage in late April.

**Stella Chen '15, recipient of the first Robert Levin Prize In Musical Performance.** This prize has been established to recognize an extraordinarily gifted undergraduate musician, preferably of the senior class. The award honors Robert Levin '68, Professor Emeritus and former Dwight P. Robinson Jr. Professor of the Department of Music at Harvard University.

A resident of Kirkland House enrolled in the Harvard/New England Conservatory joint five-year A.B/M.M. program concentrating in Psychology, **Stella Chen** is a violinist and concertmaster of the Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra and the Dunster House Opera and is a co-president of the Brattle Street Chamber Players. In 2013, Chen received an Artist Development Fellowship to participate in the Perlman Music Program, the Ravinia Steans Music Institute, and the Mozarteum International Summer Academy in Salzburg. This May she will perform Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto with the Bach Society Orchestra. After graduation, she hopes to pursue a career as a performer and teacher of music.

**Laura Trosser '16, recipient of the Jonathan Levy Award.** This prize recognizes the most promising undergraduate actor at the College.

A Mather House affiliate concentrating in Literature, **Laura Trosser** has performed in over thirteen productions at venues across campus. Her roles include Eurydice in *Eurydice* and Lucentio in *Taming of the Shrew*. She also appeared as Antigone in the Loeb Mainstage Fall 2013 Visiting Director's project, *Antigonick*, directed by founding member and the Artistic Director of One Year Lease Theater Company, Ianthe Demos.

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**Christopher Marks '15 and Christina Rodriguez '15 recipients of the Alan Symonds Award.** The Alan Symonds Award, administered by the Office for the Arts and given by the Harvard-Radcliffe Gilbert & Sullivan Players (HRG&SP) in honor of Alan Symonds '69-76, HRG&SP alumnus and former Technical Director for Harvard College Theatre, recognizes outstanding work in technical theater and commitment to mentoring fellow student technicians.

A resident of Cabot House concentrating in Government, **Christopher Marks** has served on 19 production teams and advised many others. He has been involved as technical director or advisor for over 18 productions with both the Harvard-Radcliffe Dramatic Club and Harvard-Radcliffe Gilbert & Sullivan Players (HRG&SP). Recently he served as Technical Advisor to the HRG&SP spring production of *Iolanthe* and Master Carpenter for their 2014 production of *Patience*. He is currently working as the co-technical director on the Loeb Mainstage production of *Hamlet*.

A resident of Cabot House concentrating in Visual and Environmental Studies, Studio Art Track, **Christina Rodriguez**, has served as scenic designer and/or master painter for over 13 Harvard theater productions including *Pirates of Penzance*, *Twelfth Night* and *Little Women*. A recipient of a 2014 Artist Development Fellowship to study scenic painting at Cobalt Studios in New York, Rodriguez was also a scenic painting and props intern with the Wolf Trap Opera Company in the summer of 2013. After graduation, her goals are to work in the professional theater world as a scenic painter.

**The Office for the Arts at Harvard (OFA)** supports student engagement in the arts and integrates the arts into University life. Through its programs and services, the OFA teaches and mentors, fosters student art making, connects students to accomplished artists, commissions new work, and partners with local, national, and international constituencies. By supporting the development of students as artists and cultural stewards, the OFA works to enrich society and shape communities in which the arts are a vital part of life. For more information about the OFA, call 617.495.8676, or visit [www.ofa.fas.harvard.edu](http://www.ofa.fas.harvard.edu).

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