



# Office for the Arts at Harvard

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## PRESS RELEASE

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## Office for the Arts Announces 2017 Arts Prize Winners

### PRIZES BESTOWED ON ELEVEN 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 2017.

The awards, presented to over 140 undergraduates for the past 35 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: **Robin Kelsey** (Chair), Shirley Carter Burden Professor of Photography, History of Photography and American Art, and Dean of Arts and Humanities; **Jack Megan**, Director, Office for the Arts; **Diane Borger**, Executive Producer of the American Repertory Theater; **Federico Cortese**, Senior Lecturer on Music, Director of the Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra; **S. Allen Counter**, Director, Harvard Foundation; **Deborah Foster**, Senior Lecturer on Theater, Dance & Media and Director of Studies; **Jorie Graham**, Boylston Professor of Rhetoric and Oratory; **Christopher Hasty**, Walter W. Naumburg Professor of Music; **Jill Johnson**, Director, OFA Dance Program, Senior Lecturer on Theater, Dance & Media and Department of Music; **Ruth Stella Lingford**, Professor of the Practice of Animation, Film Study Center Fellow; **Cathleen McCormick**, Director of Programs, Office for the Arts; **Diane Paulus '88**, Artistic Director, American Repertory Theater; **Elaine Scarry**, Walter M. Cabot Professor of Aesthetics and the General Theory of Value and Senior Fellow of the Society of Fellows; **Matt Saunders '97**, Associate Professor of Visual and Environmental Studies; and **Marcus Stern**, Associate Director, American Repertory Theater/MXAT Institute for Advanced Theater Training.

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**Alexander “Sasha” Scolnik-Brower ‘17, 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 Winthrop House enrolled in the Harvard/New England Conservatory (NEC) joint five-year AB/MM program concentrating in English, **Sasha Scolnik-Brower** is awarded this prize in recognition of his work as a musician (cello), music director, and conductor. Scolnik-Brower has served as conductor and music director (2014-present) for Harvard’s Bach Society Orchestra. He is assistant conductor for the Harvard Radcliffe Orchestra, has conducted for the Mozart Society Orchestra, and performs with the Brattle Street Chamber players. For the recent Harvard College Opera production of *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Scolnik-Brower served as both music director and conductor. He has appeared as a soloist with a number of orchestras including the Boston Symphony, Boston Youth Symphony, NEC Youth Philharmonic Orchestra, and Longy School of Music Chamber Orchestra, and has played in the masterclasses of Joel Krosnick, Lynn Harrell, Alisa Weilerstein, Yo-Yo Ma, and Menahem Pressler, among others. He was a first-place winner of the Boston Symphony (2011), Boston Youth Symphony (2011), and the New England Conservatory Preparatory (2012) competitions, as well as a finalist in the Stulberg International String and International Chamber Music Foundation of New England (2012) competitions. Previous teachers include Natasha Brofsky and Andrew Mark. He currently studies in the studio of Paul Katz.

**Eriko Kay ‘17, recipient of the Council Prize in Visual Art.** The prize recognizes outstanding work in the field of visual arts.

An affiliate of Lowell House joint-concentrating in Visual and Environmental Studies (VES) and Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality, **Eriko Kay** is awarded this prize for her work in diverse media. Kay has contributed to the *Our Voices – Who Speaks for Us?* (2016) exhibition and the VES Open Studios (Fall 2016). She has served as a studio assistant to Jennifer Bornstein, 2016-17 Visual and Environmental Studies (VES) Department Visiting Lecturer, and has worked as a graphic designer for the Tokyo-based travel company Tokyo Way. In addition to her studio work, Kay has also led both the Harvard-Radcliffe Women’s Leadership Conference and the Organization of Asian American Sisters in Service on campus.

**Jake Stepansky ‘17, 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 Quincy House concentrating in Psychology with a secondary in Theater, Dance, & Media, **Jake Stepansky** is awarded this prize for his work in musical theater productions as a technician, designer, and director. Stepansky has worked on more than 20 undergraduate theatrical productions at Harvard and served on the Harvard Radcliffe Dramatic Club (HRDC) Board as Vice President, Mainstage Coordinator, and Loeb Experimental Theater (Loeb Ex) Coordinator. Notable musical theater productions include his direction of *Into the Woods* and

*Avenue Q* at OBERON. He was assistant sound designer for a concert production of *Ragtime* on Ellis Island in the summer of 2016, and worked as a production assistant for *Nice Fish*, *Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812*, and *The Last Two People on Earth*, as well as stage management intern for *Finding Neverland*, at the American Repertory Theater.

**Trevor Mullin '17, 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 resident of Mather House concentrating in Government, **Trevor Mullin** is awarded the Louise Donovan Award for his work as a theatrical technician and designer. Mullin has worked on more than 25 undergraduate theatrical productions at Harvard in various capacities, including as a producer (*H.M.S. Pinafore*), stage manager and assistant stage manager (*The Normal Heart*, *Seven Minutes in Eternity*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Little Women*), set designer (*Le Nozze di Figaro*, *Macbeth*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Hamlet*, *Peer Gynt*, *The Submission*, *Chalk*, *Mad Forest*), and technical director (*The Rake's Progress*, *Ruddigore*, *Iolanthe*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Peer Gynt*, *Chalk*, *Nine*, *The Maids*, *It Might Be a Story about a Band*, *Stranger*, *Three Sisters*, *Dogfight*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Little Women*). Mullin has also served as the Technical Liaison on the Board of Directors for Harvard-Radcliffe Gilbert and Sullivan Players (HRG&SP) (2015-17). A 2016 Symonds Award recipient, Mullin plans to pursue a career in public policy.

**Ileana Riveron '17 and Talia Rothstein '17, 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 resident of Leverett House concentrating in Economics, **Ileana Riveron** has been extensively involved with the Harvard Ballet Company as a performer, co-director, producer and choreographer, with her work featured in productions including *Alice*, *The Jungle Book*, *The Giver*, and *OZ*. She was the director and choreographer of 2015 ARTS FIRST Festival's Saturday morning featured piece *Swan Lake: For the Birds*, which included performances by Deans Rakesh Khurana and Tom Dingman, as well as Professors Diana Eck and Steven Pinker along with Hasty Pudding Theatricals, the River Charles Ensemble, and the Harvard Ballet Company. Outside of Harvard, Riveron has performed with Boston Ballet II and Royal Ballet in London, interned at American Ballet Theatre, and given talks to pre-professional ballet schools based on the book she co-authored entitled *Healthy and Lean: The Science of Metabolism and the Psychology of Weight Management*.

A resident of the Dudley Co-op concentrating in History and Literature with a secondary in African American Studies, Talia Rothstein has performed extensively with the Harvard Ballet Company (HBC), the Harvard-Radcliffe Modern Dance Company (HRMDC), in student-devised works through the Emerging Choreographers Showcase, and with the faculty-led Harvard Dance Project. Rothstein has worked as an administrative assistant for the Harvard Dance Center and

served on the student board of HRMDC. As a recipient of an Emerging Choreographer's Residency this year through the OFA Harvard Dance Program, she will present a full length work, *Business as Usual*, on April 29 in Arts@29 Garden. A 2017 Artist Development Fellow, Rothstein will travel this coming summer to Melbourne, Australia, for training in Countertertechnique under choreographer Anouk van Dijk and her company, Chunky Move.

**Aislinn Brophy '17, 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.

A resident of Adams House concentrating in Theater, Dance, & Media, **Aislinn Brophy** been involved in over 25 HRDC productions in roles ranging from actor, costume designer, director, choreographer, and playwright. She has served on the Executive Board of the HRDC as Campus Liaison (2015-16) and President (2016-17). Brophy is a production assistant at Farkas Hall and venue manager for the Office for the Arts. Brophy's upcoming original play *Dryside* can be seen on the Loeb Mainstage April 22-30. A 2016 Artist Development Fellow, Brophy plans on pursuing a career in theater.

**Emma Frucht '17 and Sam Wu '17, recipients of the 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 Winthrop House concentrating in History of Art and Architecture, **Emma Frucht** has served as co-concertmaster and co-Principal second violin of the Harvard Radcliffe Orchestra, and President and Treasurer of the Brattle Street Chamber Players. She has performed as a soloist with the Mozart Society Orchestra, and has played in masterclasses with Aaron Rosand, Donald Weilerstein, Yo-Yo Ma and Kathy Winkler, collaborated with Paul Katz, Naoko Tanaka, Victoria Chiang, and the Parker String Quartet, and participated in Glenn Dicterow's String Leadership Program at the Music Academy of the West. Winner of the Parker String Quartet's Guest Artist Award, Frucht currently studies violin with Lynn Chang '75.

A resident of Adams House and joint concentrator in Music and East Asian Studies, **Sam Wu's** music has been performed by the Melbourne Symphony, Shanghai Philharmonic, Beijing National Center for the Performing Arts, Shanghai International Arts Festival, Callithumpian Consort, Antioch Chamber Ensemble, Princeton Pianists' Ensemble, and *pipa* master Wu Man, among others. In addition to composing, he is the Music Director for the Harvard Mozart Society Orchestra, guest-conducted for the Bach Society Orchestra, and served as the assistant-conductor of the Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra (2014-15). He is a 2016 Artist Development Fellow, winner of Harvard University's John Green and Hugh F. MacColl Prizes, Ensemble Ibis Prize, and

Interlochen Fine Arts Best Composer Award. Wu has studied composition with Tan Dun, Chaya Czernowin, Libby Larsen, David Conte, and Richard Beaudoin; conducting with Federico Cortese and Andrew Clark. In the fall, he will pursue a Masters in composition at Juilliard, with Robert Beaser.

**Juliana Sass '17, recipient of the Jonathan Levy Award.** This prize recognizes the most promising undergraduate actor at the College.

A resident of Dunster House concentrating in Comparative Literature with a secondary in Theater, Dance, & Media, **Juliana Sass** has performed in over thirteen productions while at Harvard. Performances include two Visiting Director's Project productions, as Gabriela in *References to Salvador Dali Make Me Hot* and as Patsy in *Little Murders*, both on the Loeb Mainstage, Doctor/Patient in the Theater Dance & Media concentration's spring 2016 show *The Man Who* (Farkas Hall) and Rose in *The Flick* (Adams Pool Theater). Sass was the recipient of a 2016 Artist Development Fellowship and has served as a Proctor for the Freshman Arts Program (FAP) since 2013. Sass plans to pursue a career in theater after graduation.

**Kathleen Zhou '17, recipient 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 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 Mather House concentrating in Mathematics with a secondary in English, **Kathleen Zhou** is awarded this prize for her varied contributions to technical theater on Harvard's campus. Zhou has served on the HRG&SP board since her freshmen year, and recently completed her term as president of the organization. In addition to her work with HRG&SP she has also worked behind the scenes in over twenty productions as a lighting designer, producer, director and makeup designer. Productions that featured her lighting design work include *The Mikado* (Agassiz Theatre), *The Maids* (Loeb Ex), *The Wonderful World of Dissocia* (Loeb Mainstage), and *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Farkas Hall). Zhou plans to pursue an MFA in Lighting Design at Boston University beginning this fall.

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**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 [ofa.fas.harvard.edu](http://ofa.fas.harvard.edu)