



# Office for the Arts at Harvard

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## *P R E S S   R E L E A S E*

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## *Office for the Arts Announces 2022 Arts Prize Winners*

### *ELEVEN HARVARD STUDENTS RECEIVE PRIZES 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, announce the recipients of the annual undergraduate arts prizes for 2022.

The awards, presented to more than 187 undergraduates for the past 39 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; Alicia Anstead NF '08, Associate Director for Programming, Office for the Arts; Jack Megan, Director, Office for the Arts; Remo Airaldi, American Repertory Theater; Lecturer on Theater, Theater, Dance & Media; Federico Cortese, Senior Lecturer on Music, Conductor of the Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra; Jorie Graham, Boylston Professor of Rhetoric and Oratory; Phillip Howze, Lecturer on Playwrighting, Theater, Dance & Media; Ruth Stella Lingford, Professor of the Practice of Animation, Film Study Center Fellow; Laura Rodriguez, Lecturer on Dance, Theater, Dance & Media; Matt Saunders '97, Assistant Professor of Art, Film and Visual Studies; Elaine Scarry, Walter M. Cabot Professor of Aesthetics and the General Theory of Value and Senior Fellow of the Society of Fellows; Yosvany Terry, Senior Lecturer on Music, Director of Jazz Bands; and Aysha Upchurch, Lecturer on Education, Harvard Graduate School of Education.

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*Julia Riew '22 and Benjamin Perry Wenzelberg '22 are recipients 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 Lowell House studying Theater, Dance, & Media (TDM) and Music, *Julia Riew* is a Korean American musical theater composer-lyricist-librettist and the co-founder of the Harvard Asian Student Arts Project (ASAP). Her original work has been featured at the American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.), AMAS Musical Theater, Harvard University's Farkas Hall and Agassiz Theater, The UNC-Greensboro School of Theater, Nora Theater Company at Central Square Theater, The Harvard Art Lab, University of Missouri, The Community Music School of Webster University, and John Burroughs High School. Julia was the 2020 recipient of the Radcliffe Doris Cohen Levi Music Theater Prize and the inaugural recipient of the Musicians United for Social Equity (MUSE) Linda Twine Scholarship (2021), as well as a member of the first Maestra Music Mentorship Program (2020-21). Most recently, Julia wrote the book, music, and lyrics for her senior thesis, *Shimcheong: A Folktale*, an original musical inspired by the Korean folktale "The Blind Man's Daughter." Some of her other works include *Alice's Wonderland*, a new musical in written in collaboration with J Quinton Johnson (*Hamilton, In the Heights*) *Jack and the Beanstalk: A Musical Adventure*, which was commissioned for the A.R.T. 2020 Family Musical, and *Thumbelina: A Little Musical* (A.R.T. 2019 Family Musical).

A resident of Leverett House and concentrator in English with a Secondary in Music and Language Citations in Spanish and German, *Benjamin Perry Wenzelberg* is a conductor, countertenor, composer, pianist, and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts. He has Guest Conducted the Tonkünstler-Orchester in Austria and the Boston Pops as the Winner of their Bernstein Centenary Conducting Competition, and has attended the Tanglewood Music Center Conducting Seminar, the Britten-Pears Young Artist Program in Orchestral Conducting (studying with Marin Alsop), and the Gstaad Conducting Academy in Switzerland as an OFA Artist Development Fellow (2020). As a countertenor, he was named a 2021 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions Boston District Winner and New England Regional Encouragement Award Winner, and participated in the 2021 Houston Grand Opera Young Artists Vocal Academy. In February 2020, the Hyogo Performing Arts Center Orchestra presented the Japan premiere of his orchestral composition as part of celebration concerts for Beethoven's 250th birthday, and he received an ASCAP Morton Gould Young Composer Award for his original libretto and music of *The Sleeping Beauty, a new opera for family audiences*. At Harvard, Wenzelberg has been the Music Director and Vice President of Arts of Harvard College Opera (HCO), a co-Music Director of the Mozart Society Orchestra, and the Assistant Music Director of Lowell House Opera, for whom he completed the libretto and music of a new commissioned opera, *NIGHTTOWN: an operatic reimagining of James Joyce's Ulysses*. The opera, also his thesis, was recently premiered in Sanders Theater with him conducting in March 2022. He also sings with the Harvard University Choir, and has performed as a vocal soloist with the Choir, the Harvard Baroque Chamber Orchestra, the Harvard Glee Club, the Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra and the Harvard Choruses, Harvard College Opera, and in the Dunster House Messiah. Additional campus performances include performing as a collaborative pianist for Chancellor Angela Merkel during the 2019 Honorary Degrees Dinner.

**Treasure Brooks '22 and Tiff Rekem '22** are recipients of the Council Prize in Visual Art. The prize recognizes outstanding work in the field of visual arts.

*Treasure Brooks* is a resident of Winthrop House and a senior concentrator in Art, Film and Visual Studies (AFVS). Treasure is a filmmaker, writer, producer, multidisciplinary artist, and cultural critic. She is a co-founder of *The Meteor*, a feminist media company launched in 2021 under the direction of former editor-in-chief of both *Glamour* and *Self* magazines, Cindi Leive. As *The Meteor's* inaugural multimedia editor, Brooks has directed and edited work in partnership with companies such as Teen Vogue, Audible, and TED. She is also founder of the creative collective *Aw Sookie Sookie Now*, which employs political resistance tactics originated in African American and Queer communities by producing creative activations such as dance parties, support groups and media kits for social impact organizations. Treasure is a proud alumni of Oakland School for The Arts (alma mater to Zendaya and Kehlani) where she studied ballet and modern. She often showcases her 15+ years of dance training in her self-directed film and video projects. Treasure's work with film, sculpture, installation, performance art, and design foregrounds social theory and Black feminist aesthetics. Committed to deepening the discourse around Black contemporary art, Treasure's visual work is often coupled with original theory that she researches and authors herself. She recently completed her thesis "Sleep Under Ladders," a multimedia exhibition that explores the widespread misattribution of systemic oppression to individualized bad luck and voyeurism in the Black archive.

A resident of the Dudley Co-op and concentrator in Art, Film, and Visual Studies (AFVS) with a Secondary in Social Anthropology, *Tiff Rekem* is an experimental filmmaker, cinematographer, editor, writer, and curator. She directed five films during her time at Harvard, working across the fiction, nonfiction, and hybrid documentary-fiction forms. Her thesis film *Declarations of Love* premiered at the Maysles Documentary Center in New York City as an official selection in the 2022 Prismatic Ground Film Festival. At Harvard, Rekem wrote for *the Harvard Advocate's* Features Board, represented student voices as ambassador to the AFVS faculty and administration, and worked with the Harvard Film Archive to establish its first ever student-led film programming group, the HFA Student Cinematheque. She has received honors including the OFA Artist Development Fellowship (2020), Center for Jewish Studies Barry Shrage Fellowship, and David McCord Prize in the Arts. Rekem most recently served as assistant editor for the Chilean Pavilion's 2022 Venice Biennale installation *Turba Tol*. This year, she will lead film curation and educational programming at arthouse cinema and community center Centro de Cine y Creación in Santiago, Chile. Rekem will make her next work as a 2022-2023 Film Studies Center-Harvard Fellow.

**Rachel Share-Sapolsky** is the 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 and concentrator in Theatre, Dance, & Media (TDM), with a Secondary in Psychology and a Language Citation in American Sign Language (ASL), *Rachel Share-Sapolsky* is a performance artist with a focus in musical theatre. She has been involved as a performer in more than 20 theatrical productions in her time at Harvard, as well as a teacher, costumer, and puppeteer. As highlights, Share-Sapolsky played the leading role of Angie in the First-Year Musical *Hitched* and has appeared in numerous productions with the Harvard Radcliffe Gilbert & Sullivan Players (HRG&SP), including as the leading roles of Little Buttercup in *H.M.S. Pinafore* and Dame Carruthers in *The Yeomen of the Guard*. Share-Sapolsky also performed in the mainstage production of *Chicago* and productions of *Dogfight*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *The Tempest: A New Musical*, as well as in the OFA's annual ARTS FIRST Festival. In addition, she worked on Lowell House Opera's *Sweeney Todd*, and

performed in the A.R.T. productions of *Thumbelina: A Little Musical*, and *Ocean Filibuster*. Share-Sapolsky has also trained and performed as a puppeteer in the showing of *The Eye Which We Do Not Have* with Kate Brehm and her company. In addition to this performance work, Share-Sapolsky served on the board of Harvard College Musical Theater and worked on the costuming team of TDM productions *s.i.n.s.o.f.u.s.* and *and the grass grows*. Since her freshman year, Share-Sapolsky has served as a teacher and co-director for Harvard's STAGE program (Student Theater Advancing Growth and Empowerment), an after-school performing arts education program for elementary students in Greater Boston Public Schools. Share-Sapolsky recently completed her senior thesis, for which she staged an abridged adaptation of the musical *Fun Home* with a cast of both Deaf and hearing actors that put ASL at the artistic helm. As part of the process, Share-Sapolsky worked with the artistic team at Deaf West Theatre Company. Her thesis production ran in April 2022.

**Serena Chen '22** is the recipient of the Louise Donovan Award and the Alan Symonds Award.

The Louise Donovan 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).

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 Pforzheimer House and concentrator in Integrative Biology, *Serena Chen* has worked as a staff member on a variety of undergraduate theater productions and as a technical assistant in both Farkas Hall and the Agassiz Theater. Chen has worked as a producer, technical director, and designer on a variety of undergraduate theater productions. She has worked as a staff member with organizations such as the Asian Student Arts Project (ASAP) on their spring 2019 production of the original musical, *The East Side* in Farkas Hall, the HRG&SP on their fall

2019 production of *H.M.S Pinafore* in the Agassiz Theater, and HCO on all four of their mainstage productions (*Cendrillon*, *Die Zauberflöte*, *Of Wink and Trance*, and *Le Nozze di Figaro*) during her time at the College. At the beginning of her Harvard career, Chen worked as the scenic designer on her First-Year Musical, *Cruising Altitude: The First-Year Musical* in the Agassiz Theater. Chen has served as a choreographer and publicity chair for The Noteables, a non-audition show choir on campus, and as the Gala Chair and Technical Liaison during her time on the board of HCO.

**Anne Lheem '22** is the recipient 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.

An affiliate of Eliot House and concentrator in Social Anthropology, *Anne Lheem* is a dancer and choreographer trained in classical ballet, contemporary, jazz, musical theatre, and modern styles of dance. She is also a dedicated scholar of embodiment and performance studies, incorporating her intellectual and creative passions in anthropology, cultural psychiatry, social medicine, gender studies, and dance to produce groundbreaking and original research on body politics and educational pedagogy through artmaking, performing, and writing. At Harvard, Lheem has performed as a company member of the Harvard-Radcliffe Modern Dance Company

(HRMDC) for four consecutive years, choreographed for HRMDC for the past four semesters, and was invited back as the featured guest choreographer for HRMDC's Spring 2022 show: *translations*. Lheem has also performed in productions for the Harvard Expressions Dance Company, was a member of TDM's Spring 2021 Harvard Dance Project cohort and has engaged in numerous self-directed and collaboratively produced independent dance projects within and beyond the Harvard community through special events, ongoing research endeavors, and informal showcases. Lheem is currently working on choreographing a dance performance series inspired by her senior honors thesis in Anthropology on plastic surgery, body politics, and feminist movements in South Korea, which she aims to publish through academic and public mediums in both the U.S. and in South Korea by the end of 2023. As an aspiring psychiatrist-anthropologist, Lheem is excited about incorporating her enthusiasm for dance choreography and performance into her everyday practice, research methodologies, educational pedagogies, and modes of critical knowledge production in ways that center love, care, and radical tenderness as ways of knowing and being in the world.

**Dara Badon '22 and Madi Fabber '22** are recipients 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 Mather House and concentrator in History & Literature, *Dara Badon* is an interdisciplinary artist and proud contributing member to a variety of art communities at Harvard College. Badon has served as a classroom teacher, Classroom Director, and one of the Executive

Directors for the arts education not-for-profit CityStep. While in these roles, Badon worked alongside other members of the CityStep Company to design and implement curriculum that promoted creative self-expression, youth empowerment, and accessibility to the arts. As a Co-Executive Director during the 2020-2021 school year, she collaborated with the rest of the Executive Board and greater Cambridge community to create performance opportunities for young people, teach, and continue the program's mission virtually. She currently presides as CityStep's Curriculum Director. Badon has also held a number of positions in the Harvard University Band, she previously serving as the clarinet section leader and the Band cinematographer. Badon recently completed her term on the Band's Senior Staff in the position of Drill Master, where she wrote the field show scripts; taught the formations for halftime performances; supported media, recruitment, and publicity efforts; maintained relationships with university departments and alumni networks alike; and fostered community spirit both virtually and in-person. Interwoven between these experiences, Badon has explored the hands-on production processes at WHRB on the Sound Engineering Board; aided in the editorial and publication efforts of *Tuesday Magazine*; and served for two summers as a pre-orientation leader for the First-Year Arts Program on its Creative Writing thread. Badon is currently employed as a Student Production Assistant and Venue Manager within the Office for the Arts (OFA), where she works to support and promote the artmaking pursuits of her peers at the College as well as that of Harvard and OFA faculty.

A resident of Winthrop House, *Madi Fabber* is a senior concentrating in Theater, Dance, & Media and English with a secondary in Folklore & Mythology. Fabber works in collaborative art communities, mainly choral and theatrical. She is the current president of the Radcliffe Choral Society, having sung with the group since her first-year fall and served on the group's executive committee since her freshman spring. In the theater community, Fabber has served in a variety of roles from actor, designer, writer, advisor, dramaturg, and producer. During her time at Harvard, she has held positions on several executive boards and committees, including: the Harvard-Radcliffe Dramatic Club, the Hyperion Shakespeare Company, HRG&SP, the TDM Building Community Committee, and the Harvard Ballroom Dance Team. Fabber has also served as a First-Year Arts Program Proctor and as a staff writer for the Arts Section of the Harvard Crimson. Fabber works for the Office for the Arts as an Arts First producer, Tech Assist, and Venue Manager. Her senior thesis is a creative playwriting project on the portrayal of the final girl trope in the horror genre.

**Andrew Li '22** is the recipient 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 Dunster House, a concentrator in Human Evolutionary Biology (HEB), and a student in the Harvard-NEC dual degree program, *Andrew Li* is a pianist who has performed in many concerts across the US. He has won prizes at numerous international piano competitions, such as the Cooper International Piano Competition, the Hilton Head International Piano Competition, and the Minnesota Piano-e-Competition. Li has previously performed with the Boston

Symphony, Minnesota, Hilton Head Symphony, Lexington Symphony orchestras, and has performed in venues such as Boston's Symphony Hall and Jordan Hall, Minneapolis' Orchestra Hall, Warner Concert Hall, Shalin Liu Performance Center, and the Vancouver Playhouse. At Harvard, Li has collaborated with other musicians in classes, performing in various accompanimental and chamber music roles. As part of Harvard ARTS FIRST 2021 virtual Performance Fair, he performed Stravinsky's *Trois Mouvements de Pétrouchka*. Li is also an avid member of Harvard-Radcliffe MIHNUET, a club that performs music at nursing homes to provide therapy and conversation to residents. Along with Rachel Chau, he helped create MIHNUET's *The Show Must Go On*, a 2020 project aimed at providing music to nursing homes affected by the COVID-19 pandemic by sending student-created music recordings and friendly messages to nursing homes. Li continues his studies as a senior at Harvard and studies with Professor Wha Kyung Byun at NEC.

**Shirley Chen '22** is the recipient of the Jonathan Levy Award. This prize recognizes the most promising undergraduate actor at the College.

A resident of Quincy House and joint concentrator in TDM and History & Literature with a focus in Asian American Studies, Shirley Chen is an actor for the screen and stage. She was the female lead in the Sundance 2020 feature film *BEAST BEAST*, (executive produced by Alec Baldwin) and her performances have screened at the Tribeca Film Festival and the South by Southwest Film Festival (recipient of the "Special Jury Recognition for Acting" award). At the Geffen Playhouse, Shirley performed in *Man of God* and will return for its 2022 theatrical production. In her first year at Harvard, she was one of the first six women cast in the Hasty Pudding Theatricals, the company's first co-ed production in its nearly 200-year-long history (HPT 171: *France France Revolution*). Chen has also performed in *The Flick* as "Rose" (Adams Pool Theater), *and the grass grows* (Farkas Hall), and *A Very Potter Musical* as "Cho Chang" (Loeb Ex). She served as co-director of HRDC/ASAP's *M. Butterfly* in the Loeb Ex, ASAP's Associate Board Member and Outreach Chair, and comedic improviser in Harvard's On Thin Ice troupe. She is developing and performing a one-woman play on the Miss Chinatown USA beauty pageant set in 1960s in San Francisco's Chinatown.

**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, mentors and fosters student artmaking, 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).

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