



# Office for the Arts at Harvard

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## PRESS RELEASE

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## Office for the Arts Announces 2018 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 2018.

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: **Deborah Foster** (Chair), Senior Lecturer on Theater, Dance & Media; **Diane Borger**, Producer of the American Repertory Theater; **Federico Cortese**, Senior Lecturer on Music, Conductor of the Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra; **Jorie Graham**, Boylston Professor of Rhetoric and Oratory; **Jill Johnson**, Dance Director, OFA Dance Program, Senior Lecturer, Theatre, Dance & Media; **Sarah Lewis**, Assistant Professor of History of Arts and Architecture and of African American Studies; **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 '88**, Artistic Director, American Repertory Theater; **Matt Saunders '97**, Assistant 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; **Marcus Stern**, Associate Director, American Repertory Theater/MXAT Institute for Advanced Theater Training; **Yosvany Terry**, Senior Lecturer on Music, Director of Jazz Bands.

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**George Li '18, 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 concentrating in English enrolled in the Harvard/New England Conservatory dual-degree program for piano studies with Wha Kyung Byun, George Li is awarded this prize in recognition of his work as a pianist. Praised by the *Washington Post* for fusing “staggering technical prowess, a sense of command and depth of expression,” Li is a 2016 recipient of the Avery Fisher Career Grant for piano and a 2015 Silver Medalist in the International Tchaikovsky Competition. Li has performed for President Barack Obama at the White House in an evening honoring Chancellor Angela Merkel and made his Carnegie Hall debut in 2017. On Harvard’s campus, Li has performed with the Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra. Past and upcoming concerto highlights include performances with Gustavo Dudamel and the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Michael Tilson Thomas and the San Francisco Symphony, Hamburg Philharmonic with Manfred Honeck, a tour of Asia with the London Symphony Orchestra and Giandrea Noseda, St. Petersburg Philharmonic with Yuri Temirkanov, Philharmonia Orchestra with Long Yu, Oslo Philharmonic, Orchestre National de Lyon, Rotterdam Philharmonic, Malmö Symphony, Verbier Festival Orchestra, DSO Berlin, Seattle Symphony, Utah Symphony, Sydney Symphony and Frankfurt Radio Symphony. He frequently appears with Valery Gergiev and the Mariinsky Orchestra, including performances at the Paris Philharmonie, Luxemburg Philharmonie, and in various places throughout Russia. Li is an exclusive Warner Classics recording artist.

**Ariana Chaivaranon '18 and Stergios Dinopoulos '17, recipients of the Council Prize in Visual Art.** The prize recognizes outstanding work in the field of visual arts.

A resident of Adams House concentrating in Visual and Environmental Studies (VES), **Ariana Chaivaranon** is awarded this prize for her work in studio art. In tandem with her studio work, Chaivaranon has served as seminar leader for the Harvard Summit for Young Leaders in China (2016-2018) and has served as the Ayesha Bulchandani Undergraduate Education Intern at The Frick Collection (2017). She was awarded a Dmitri Hadzi Visual Arts Grant (2016) and is a Harvard College recipient from the Fitzie Foundation (2017). An art editor at *the Harvard Advocate* and member of the Signet Society, Chaivaranon has also served as a studio assistant to Jennifer Bornstein, 2016-17 VES Department Visiting Lecturer, and Tania Brugera, 2016-17 Radcliffe Institute Fellow. For the past three years, Chaivaranon has also worked as a student guide at the Harvard Art Museums, acting as a senior guide for the latter half. Her most recent work explores what is “human” and what is “post-human” in art, evincing a mix of attention to tradition and a life lived in the present.

An associate of Dudley Co-op and concentrator in VES with a secondary in English, **Stergios Dinopoulos** is awarded this prize for his work in filmmaking. His thesis film, *The Eye*, is a short drama linking refugee experiences across eras from WWII to the present, using photography and image making as a through-line to explore memory and representation of political and personal displacement. Dinopoulos, served as a research assistant to French filmmaker Philippe Grandrieux, was a Student Media Consultant at Lamont Library Media Lab and worked as

Photography Coordinator at a Canadian NGO serving refugees in Athens and Chios and teaching mentor at a workshop in photography for teenage refugees. In 2016, he was the winner of the Best Experimental Film for *The Digital Holocaust* at the Harvard College Film Festival and a recipient of a 2016 OFA Artist Development Fellowship, which supported the creation of a short film about Greek anarchical and revolutionary traditions in rural villages.

**Brian Ge '18, 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 Mather House concentrating in Computer Science, Brian Ge is awarded this prize for his work in musical theater productions as music director, pianist, and programmer. Ge has worked as music director for both Harvard-Radcliffe Dramatic Club (HRDC) productions as well as productions at the American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.). Most notably, Ge was the music director and conductor for HRDC's production of *Into the Woods* at OBERON (dir. Jake Stepansky '17, recipient of the Radcliffe Doris Cohen Levi Prize) and the ART's *The Pirate Princess* (dir. Allegra Libonati) on the Loeb Mainstage. He was also the assistant music director for the premiere run of the A.R.T.'s *Burn All Night* at OBERON (dir. Jenny Koons). Ge has worked as an accompanist for various events on Harvard College campus including Office for the Arts Master Classes with artists Laura Osnes, Ryan Scott Oliver, and Lindsay Mendez.

**Madison Deming '18, Darius Johnson '18, and Eliza Mantz '18, recipients 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 Quincy House concentrating in Cognitive Neuroscience and Evolutionary Psychology with a secondary in Theater, Dance and Media, **Madison Deming** has contributed to the theater community as a producer, director, and administrator. Deming has worked on more than twenty undergraduate theatrical productions in various capacities. Most notably, Deming has produced *'Tis Pity She's a Whore*, *Jogging: Theater in Process*, *Polaroid Stories*, *SHE*, *Nine: The Musical* and has acted in many productions including, *Dryside*, *Our Voices*, *Into the Woods*, *Clybourne Park*, and *Much Ado About Nothing*. Deming served as the Vice President/Mainstage Coordinator on the HRDC Board (2016-17) and has worked as a Production Assistant at Farkas Hall (2017-18). Deming was awarded an Artist Development Fellowship (2017) to study administration and programming of a select number of children's theaters in London. She recently made her directorial debut on Harvard's campus with the spring 2018 production of *Proof* at the Loeb Experimental Theater (Loeb Ex).

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A resident of Leverett House concentrating in Theatre, Dance & Media with a secondary in African American Studies, **Eliza Mantz** has been heavily involved in the theater community, once staffing over 15 shows in three semesters. Recent work as a director includes Mantz's thesis production, *'Tis Pity She's a Whore* in the Loeb Ex, and *Fit for a King* in the Leverett Library Theater. As a member of the 2016 HRDC Executive Board (Ex Coordinator), Mantz formed a crucial relationship between HRDC and the Office of Sexual Assault & Prevention (OSAPR). They have worked as a Marketing Department Intern at the A.R.T., served as a Proctor for the Freshman Arts Program (FAP), and attended the Moscow Art Theatre School through Harvard's Theater, Dance & Media department. Mantz was awarded a 2016 Artist Development Fellowship to attend the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts. As an actor, Mantz has recently performed as Catherine in David Auburn's *Proof* in the Loeb Ex (dir. Madison Deming) and as the Baker's Wife in Sondheim's *Into the Woods* at OBERON (dir. Jake Stepansky '17, recipient of the Radcliffe Doris Cohen Levi Prize). Mantz plans to pursue a career in theater.

A resident of Adams House concentrating in Philosophy, **Darius Johnson** is being recognized for their work as a director, producer and stage manager. In their time at Harvard, Johnson directed four pieces, including an original work in the Loeb Ex and *Bootycandy* in Farkas Hall. They also led BlackCAST for three years as Freshman Representative, Vice President and the President, striving to bring Black students and communities to the forefront. Recent work as a director include *Songs of the Harlem River* in the Loeb Experimental Theater (Loeb Ex), *Bootycandy* in Farkas Hall, and *Vanity Lane* in Farkas Hall. As a writer, Johnson has co-authored two BlackCAST productions: *Black Magic* and */underground*. Whether writing, stage-managing, or directing, they have collaborated on many productions and helped galvanize important conversations surrounding race, sexuality, and gender identity.

**Julia DeAngelo '17, 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 Leverett House and concentrator in Sociology, **Julia DeAngelo** is a featured performer in all three of the commissioned works for Harvard Dance Project (HDP) this spring, as each choreographer was drawn to her abilities and deep commitment to the creative process. In addition to past performances with HDP, DeAngelo has studied improvisation and composition with Jill Johnson, and Gaga movement language and repertoire with Mario Zambrano. DeAngelo's scholarly interest in dance – with a particular focus on the work of William Forsythe and Ji í Kylián – further developed throughout college, and she graduates with the talent level required of a professional dancer. DeAngelo cares deeply about far-ranging questions including those around the opportunities, realities, and satisfaction of workers, and the beliefs and practices of communities of faith. After graduation, she will continue in her passion for public service, this time in the fields of youth employment and public radio.

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**Emily Bergquist '18, 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 Government, Emily Bergquist is awarded the Robert E. Levi Prize for her extensive work in theater. Bergquist has been involved in over twenty-six shows on campus, producing more than ten, and she stage managed four productions including the inaugural Theater, Dance and Media Department show *The Man Who* (2016), and also served as the production advisor for many shows. She served on the Executive Board of the HRDC as President (2017) and Technical Liaison (2016), has been a Venue Manager since 2015 for the Office for the Arts, and served on the Freshman Arts Board (2014-15). Additionally, Bergquist has worked as a Programming Intern at OBERON (A.R.T.'s second stage), an Artistic Intern at both ART and Ars Nova, and she was the Associate Producer for the 2016 production of *Ragtime* on Ellis Island (dir. Sammi Cannold). With the A.R.T., she assisted on the world premieres of *Waitress* (2015, dir. Diane Paulus) and *Burn All Night* (2017, dir. Jenny Koons).

**Eden Girma '18, 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 the Dudley Co-Op joint concentrating in Astrophysics and Mathematics with a secondary in Music and enrolled in the Harvard/New England Conservatory dual-degree program for Jazz Performance, **Eden Girma** is awarded the Robert Levin Prize in Musical Performance. Girma has performed extensively with and assumed leadership positions within Voxjazz and Kuumba. They also co-founded Renegade, an arts advocacy collective for artists of color, served as music director for the HRDC's production of *Dryside*, and worked as a proctor for the Freshman Art Program (FAP). Girma has worked with a variety of student musicians and composers on independent projects and participated in a spring master class with the vocalist Jill Scott held at Lowell Hall. As a 2018 OFA Artist Development Fellow recipient, Girma plans to attend the Banff International Workshop in Jazz and Creative Music this coming summer.

**Chloe Brooks '19, recipient of the Jonathan Levy Award.** This prize recognizes the most promising undergraduate actor at the College.

A resident of Quincy House concentrating jointly in English and Classical Languages and Literature with a secondary in Theater, Dance & Media, **Chloe Brooks** has appeared in numerous productions at a variety of venues across campus and at the A.R.T., including the Loeb Ex, Mainstage, Cambridge Queen's Head Pub, OBERON, Farkas Hall, The Fogg Art Museum, and (most dynamically) a Harvard Shuttle bus driving around Cambridge. Roles performed include

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Sally Bowles (*Cabaret*), Mrs. Lovett (*Sweeney Todd*), Mabel (*Violet*), Persephone (*Polaroid Stories*), Rose (*The Room*), Galileo in Brecht's *Life of Galileo* and Marie in *Woyzeck*. She has also appeared in a number of student films. A 2017 OFA Artist Development Fellow, Brooks interned as an assistant director to Daniel Kramer during a production of Dmitri-Korsakov's *SADKO* at the Vlaamse Opera in Ghent, Belgium. She appeared this spring in Theater, Dance & Media's production of *Three Americanisms*, directed by Paul Lazar, and as Antigone in a production of *Antigone* slated to take place at the Harvard Football Stadium during ARTS FIRST weekend. She plans to pursue a career as an actor.

**Catherine Polik '18, 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 Eliot house, concentrating in Earth and Planetary Sciences, **Catherine Polik** is awarded this prize for her contributions as a Technical Director. Polik has served as the technical director on a number of HRG&SP productions including *HMS Pinafore*, *The Sorcerer* and *The Pirates of Penzance*. In addition to her work with HRG&SP she has also been tech or assistant tech director for a number of productions in various venues on campus including *Dogfight* (Loeb Ex), *Bat Boy* and *Noises Off* (Farkas Hall), *Wastelanders-The Freshman Musical* (Adams House Pool) and *Middletown* (Loeb Mainstage). Polik has also served as stage manager for the Farkas Hall productions of *Alice* and *The Giver*.

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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)