

# Phillips Exeter Academy Music Department



## Spring Term Student Showcase Concert

**Friday, April 25, 2025**

7:00 PM

**“the Bowld”**

Forrestal Bowld Music Center

29 Tan Lan, Exeter, NH



## **Congratulations to our seniors!**

Sam Benochi, Ethan Ding, Michael Lu  
& Paco Sze



### **Sam Benochi**

I am a senior from D.C., but on campus I live in Dunbar Hall (the best dorm). I've always loved singing, but never did it seriously until I came to Exeter. In prep year I started singing in 9th grade with the Exeter Choral Union, not knowing just how much it would shape my life. What began as a new experience quickly grew into a real passion, leading me

to add more and more ensembles to my schedule over time. Singing has become one of my favorite ways to connect, express, and find joy, and I'm so excited to share that with y'all tonight!



### **Ethan Ding**

I'm a four-year senior originally from Canada, but a long-term resident of Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

Growing up in an environment without much of a classical music presence meant learning to play the violin was difficult, but making and sharing music was so special to me that I worked to ensure my violin would always be a constant in my life.

Through meeting people and cultures at Exeter, I've learned to think of music as a powerfully universal

language—that even small artistic decisions I make can communicate surprisingly vivid images and feelings for people. I've had the good fortune to play with PEA's Chamber and Symphony Orchestras, the Boston Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, and now, for you. I'm very grateful to share this most recent chapter in my musical journey with you—I hope you'll enjoy it as much as I will.



### **Michael Lu**

I'm a four-year senior from Detroit, MI, and on campus I live in Ewald Hall. I've been playing piano since I was six, and I also played the baritone in middle school. I love making music, playing card games with friends, and having fun with my dog Bella!



### **Paco Sze**

I'm a four-year senior, and I call Front Street Dormitory and Hong Kong home. I began to sing at Exeter, namely in Concert Choir, A Cappella, Chamber (*Mortis Vocantes in perpetuum vivat!*), and in musicals such as *The Addams Family*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and *James and the Giant Peach*.

At first, I understood music—and singing more specifically—as a source of refuge: a dimension oblivious to the crushing burden of grades, homework, and college. Like Orwell admiring roses and gardening, I've only now begun to understand music as the language of the unquantifiable—love, nature, tranquility—perhaps even that little wisp of fire in our eyes which we call hope. As I'm constantly reminded by my favorite musical, *Hadestown*: “To the world we dream about, and the one we live in now.”

Enjoy.

# Program

Conundrum

Peter MacLeod  
(1879-1965)

Andrew Su, *bagpipes*

*En Priere*

Gabriel Faure  
(1845-1924)

Samaria Benochi, *soprano*  
Jacob Hiser, *piano*

*Raghuvamsa Sudha*

Patnam Subramaniya Iyer  
(1845-1902)

Anika Sivarasa, *veena*

Cello Concerto No. 1 in A minor, Op. 33  
*I. Allegro non troppo*

Camille Saint-Saëns  
(1835-1921)

Albert Lu, *cello*  
Jacob Hiser, *piano*

Ramrod Splintering

Mardian Kamarga  
(b. 2008)

Mardian Kamarga, *piano*

*Và Godendo*

George Frideric Handel  
(1685-1759)

Elle Cohen, *soprano*  
Jacob Hiser, *piano*

Julia Florida

Agustín Barrios Mangoré  
(1885-1944)

Nathaniel Frary, *classical guitar*

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Sonata for Viola (or Cello)<br>I. <i>Impetuoso</i>       | Rebecca Helferich Clarke<br>(1886-1979) |
| Tristan Price, <i>cello</i><br>Jacob Hiser, <i>piano</i> |   |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Blackbird  | Paul McCartney, John Lennon<br>(b. 1942), (1940-1980) |
| Kelly Ugbala, <i>guitar</i><br>Ryan Ramos, <i>vocals</i> |   |

|   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Somewhere (from West Side Story)                      | Leonard Bernstein<br>(1918-1990) |
| Katie Hu, <i>soprano</i><br>Jacob Hiser, <i>piano</i> |                                  |

|   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Violin Sonata No. 5 “Spring”                          | Ludwig van Beethoven<br>(1770-1827) |
| Ethan Ding, <i>violin</i><br>Michael Lu, <i>piano</i> |                                     |

|   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Concerto in G major<br>I. <i>Allegro moderato</i>         | Domenico Dragonetti<br>(1763-1846) |
| June Koh, <i>double bass</i><br>Jacob Hiser, <i>piano</i> |                                    |

|  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Preludes Op. 28 No. 8 in F# Minor<br>and No.13 in F# Major | Frédéric Chopin<br>(1810-1849) |
| Roger Guo, <i>piano</i>                                    |                                |

|   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| Vanilla Ice Cream   | Jerry Bock<br>(1928-2010) |
| Harini Venkatesh, <i>soprano</i><br>Jacob Hiser, <i>piano</i> |                           |

Maria

Paco Sze, *tenor*  
Forrest Zeng, *piano*

Bernstein

Flute Concerto in D major, K.314/285d  
*III. Rondo, allegro*

Nico Crevier, *flute*  
Jacob Hiser, *piano*

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
(1756-1791)

*Intermezzo* Op. 117 no. 2

Claire Xiao, *piano*

Johannes Brahms  
(1833-1897)

No One Else

Celine Zhang, *mezzo-soprano*  
Jacob Hiser, *piano*

Dave Malloy  
(b. 1976)

Ballade no. 4 in F Minor, Op. 52

Forrest Zeng, *piano*

Frédéric Chopin

## Jacob Hiser, Collaborative Pianist



Jacob Hiser is a versatile pianist and violinist who performs and studies a variety of musical traditions. Born and raised in southern Missouri, he grew up playing bluegrass, blues, and classical music, eventually discovering jazz and graduating from Missouri State University with a bachelor's degree in Jazz Studies. In 2014, he moved to Boston to attend New England Conservatory's

Contemporary Improvisation program, graduating with his master's degree in 2016. While there, he studied with Ran Blake, Bruce Brubaker, Joe Morris, and Frank Carlberg, and performed in ensembles and concerts coached/directed by John Zorn, Jason Moran, Tanya Kalmonovitch, Anthony Coleman, and Simon Carrington.

With jazz groups, country bands, choirs, Korean folk music ensembles, and classical cellists, Jacob has performed all over the United States, as well as Canada, France, Germany, Hungary, and Australia. In summer 2019, he was accepted into the International Workshop in Jazz and Creative Music at Banff Centre for the Arts in Alberta, Canada, where he spent 3 weeks creating music with 45 other improvising musicians from around the world and working closely with faculty Vijay Iyer, Steph Richards, Tyshawn Sorey, Okkyung Lee, and many others. Outside of Phillips Exeter Academy, he is a pianist for Boston Children's Chorus and a freelance musician. During the summers, he is a faculty member at Missouri Fine Arts Academy: a two-week summer residential program for high school student artists in visual arts, theatre, dance, creative writing, and music. He has released one album, "Seconds", comprised mostly of original jazz compositions for quintet and trio.

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