

Phillips Exeter Academy
Music Department



Exeter Choral Union
Vocal Chamber Ensembles
Concert Choir

Sunday, May 25, 2025

4:00 PM

“the Bowld”

Forrestal Bowld Music Center

29 Tan Lan, Exeter, NH

Texts and Translations

Use this QR code for texts and translations.





Congratulations to our seniors!

Sam Benochi, Amelia Berger, Mari Chaparro, Bryan Chen, Elizabeth Christiansen, Aymeric Dauge-Roth, Ava Helbig, Preeti Jain, Lucy Jung, Rohit Kantamneni, Roy Liu, Max Mantel, Jordan McConnell, Anna Rissi, Ben Soriano, Paco Sze, Hemani Stallard, Pranavi Vedula, Kamara Williams



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!



Amelia Berger

I am a two-year senior from San Francisco, CA, and Houston, TX, and on campus, I live in Merrill Hall. I've been singing since I was 4, and it has remained an integral part of my life ever since. Before coming to Exeter, I sang with the San Francisco Girls Chorus, where I was fortunate to focus a lot on music theory in addition to the singing itself. Music and music theory have remained central to my life; I even wrote my senior meditation centered around a musical pitch interval. Outside of singing, I enjoy taking long walks around campus, reading interesting books, and playing Sudoku.



Bryan Chen

I'm a 4-year senior from Michigan, and on campus I live in Peabody Hall. I've played piano for as long as I could remember, and it was always a joy to have some music in my life. At Exeter, I began formally singing in my Upper year in Concert Choir, and I sang in theater performances as well. I had never created music with others before, and it was a transformative experience that taught me how music could create connections.



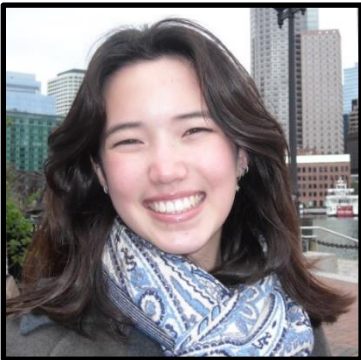
Elizabeth Christiansen

In my four years at Exeter, I have been a part of many impactful communities but few mean as much to me as Concert Choir. I started singing in ECU my prep year, and, thanks to Mr. Johnson's tireless tutelage, choir has become a huge part of my life. Thank you for everything, KJ, especially for bringing back Brahms this year.



Aymeric Dauge-Roth

I am a four-year senior from Bath, Maine. When I was little, I often sang and danced to ABBA for my family after dinner. I continued my passion for singing, performing in musicals, and discovering the joy of playing cello. I have always held a special place in my heart for the music department at Exeter. I joined my first orchestra here and got to tour in Puerto Rico and Italy with the Concert Choir. I also had the opportunity to help the Jazz Band last year with their tour in New Orleans. Traveling the world and sharing music with different communities, I find it so inspirational seeing firsthand how valuable this mode of expression is to how we understand one another.



Ava Helbig

I'm a 3-year senior from Hong Kong and New Jersey, on campus I live in New Hall. I've spent my last two years at Exeter learning voice, and I'm ecstatic to be performing today. Being in a vocal ensemble has been so incredibly enriching, and I'm so grateful to Mr Johnson and all my peers to have had this experience. Outside of school I love crocheting, knitting, songwriting and so much more!



Preeti Jain

I am a four-year senior from Northern California, and on campus I live in Wheelwright Hall. I have been singing since I was in first grade and choirs have always been an important community to me. I was in ECU for two years and Concert Choir for two years, both of which allowed me to grow as a singer. I especially loved being a part of "Singen mit Freunden", a chamber group which truly made me fall back in love with singing. Throughout my time at Exeter, Mr. Johnson has been such a positive presence and supportive conductor!



Lucy Jung

I'm a senior here at Exeter, and I've been part of Concert Choir all three years I've been an Exonian. Aside from singing the alto part in Concert Choir, I also sing in an eight-person Italian singing ensemble, Gli Scalatori (GS). Outside of the choral circle, I captain the Varsity Golf team, proctor Hoyt Hall, and help lead various Business-related clubs on campus. But returning to my experience singing at Exeter---it was an honor singing with Concert Choir and GS on our Italy Tour this past March break. My love for

singing goes back many years: I've enjoyed partaking in choral ensembles since first grade because I feel musical harmony helps form a special bond between those who make it. I'm grateful to Concert Choir, my fellow GS members, and most of all, to our choir director KJ for helping me continue this passion and love I have for singing at Exeter.



Roy Liu

I'm a senior from Indiana, but I've also lived all over California and in Shenzhen, China. Music has always been special to me, but especially so at PEA. Music, without fail, brings me into community whether that be through a cappella, choir, or chamber groups. I want to thank Mr. Johnson, Mr. Walker, and Mr. Hiser especially for helping me through my journey and with my music school auditions. Outside of music, I enjoy being outside and being by the ocean.



Max Mantel

I am a four-year senior from California, and I live in Soule on campus. I've been a part of singing at Exeter since my prep year, and am grateful for the opportunities it has given me. Outside of music, I love to go on walks, workout, write, and watch movies.



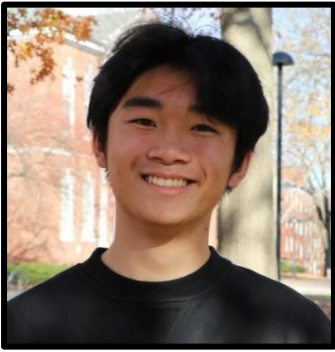
Jordan McConnell

I'm a two year senior in Cilley from Hanover, NH. I've been singing since first grade, and it's something I love spending my time doing. Outside of music, I'm usually playing basketball, doing the NYT games, and hanging out with friends.



Anna Rissi

I'm a four-year senior from Alexandria, VA, and I live in Wheelwright Hall on campus. I've been super interested in music since I first learned to play the violin when I was four, and since then I've grown to love playing viola and singing too. Music at Exeter and elsewhere has been such a huge part of my life and community. Outside of music, I love to bake, read mystery novels, and hang out with my friends in the sun!



Ben Soriano

I am a 4-year senior from Seattle living in Front St. Dorm! I started singing very recently at the beginning of my Upper year and have fallen in love with choir and acapella since. I've been playing piano since I was 5 years old and have enjoyed teaching myself other instruments like the guitar and drums. Outside of music, I love playing volleyball and making things in the design lab!



Hemani Stallard

I am a four-year senior from London, UK. Music-- singing in particular-- has held a special place in my heart since I was young. I was in my school's chapel choir from fourth grade until eighth grade and sang in a production of Carmen at the Royal Opera House. At Exeter, I have sung in the Concert choir for three years, and been involved with a cappella and the musicals.

Singing has always been a source of comfort for me, especially from the stress of academics. I really appreciate all the opportunities that Exeter (and particularly Mr. Johnson) has given me to pursue my passion for singing, and I hope I can continue in college.



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.”



Pranavi Vedula

I'm a 4-year senior and day student from Brentwood, New Hampshire. On campus, I'm affiliated with Dunbar Hall. I am part of the Exeter Choral Union. I like music because it's a wonderful way to immerse myself in cultures and traditions from around the world. Outside of music, I love creative writing, language learning, cooking, and sketching.



Kamara Williams

I am a four-year senior from Rye, NH. I'm a day student but am affiliated with Amen Hall on campus. I've loved singing for most of my life and have been a part of Concert Choir for the past two years! Music means a lot to me. Outside of singing, I love playing the flute and singing along to music as I drive to school each day!

Program

Scarborough Fair

arr. Michael Higgins

After the Rain

Sarah Quartel
(b. 1982)

Green Grow the Laurels

arr. Jason Meyer
(b. 2002)

Exeter Choral Union

Jacob Hiser, *piano and fiddle*

Earth Song

Frank Ticheli
(b. 1958)

Sing Gently

Eric Whitacre
(b. 1970)

Come and I Will Sing You

arr. Andrea Ramsey
(b. 1977)

ScrubbyThing

Jacob Hiser, *piano*
Milan Shah, *percussion*

Rise, My Soul

arr. Susan LaBarr
(b. 1981)

The Open Hand

LaBarr

The Nightingales

Jacob Hiser, *piano*

Anima Dolorosa
O dolce anima mia
Cor mio, non mori?

Claudio Monteverdi
(1567-1643)

Gli Scalatori

Dhire-dhire
If the River Leaves without me

Reena Esmail
(b. 1983)

Ava Helbig, Hemani Stallard, Max Mantel, *soloists*

Neue Liebeslieder Walzer, op. 65

Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)

1. *Versicht, O Herz, auf Rettung*

2. *Finstere Schatten der Nacht*

3. *An jeder Hand die Finger*

Sam Benocchi, *soprano*

4. *Ihr schwarzen Augen*

Roy Liu, *baritone*

5. *Wahre, wahre deinen Sohn*

Anna Rissi, *mezzo-soprano*

6. *Rosen stecht mir an die Mutter*

Hemani Stallard, *soprano*

7. *Vom Gebirge Well' auf Well'*

8. *Weiche Gräzer im Revier*

9. *Nagen am Herzen*

Harini Venkatesh, *soprano*

10. *Ich kose süß mit der und der*

Ezequiel Martinez, *tenor*

11. *Alles, alles in den Wind*

Lauren Lee, *soprano*

12. *Schwarzer Wald, dein Schatten is so düster*

13. *Nein, Geliebter, setze dich mir so nahe nicht!*

14. *Flammenauge, dunkles Haar*

15. *Zum Schluß*

Concert Choir

Jacob Hiser and Adelyn Nelson, *piano*

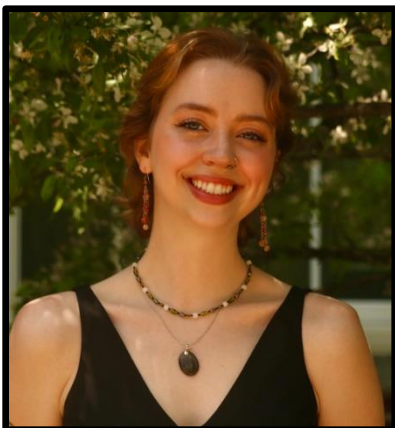
Collaborative Pianists



Jacob Hiser

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.



Adelyn Nelson is a pianist and music educator from Cornish, New Hampshire. Based on the Seacoast, she serves as piano faculty at Phillips Exeter Academy, as a collaborative pianist at the University of New Hampshire, and music director at the historic North Church of Portsmouth, NH. A versatile musician with classical roots, Adelyn is known for her expressive collaborative work with choirs, instrumentalists, singers, orchestras, and chamber groups throughout New England. As a performer and teacher, she explores a wide range of musical

traditions including Brazilian, Nordic, and Irish folk musics, performing on both piano and accordion. A dedicated educator and committed to providing accessible music education opportunities for young pianists and teachers, Adelyn serves as vice president of the New Hampshire Music Teachers Association and its Seacoast Chapter and maintains a vibrant private piano studio.

Personnel

Exeter Choral Union

Kristofer Johnson, *director*

Sopranos

Selasie Amemasor
Rezi Ifowodo
Berrak Karapinar
Avni Murarka
Audrey Zhou

Altos

Maryn Bowman
Samaiya July
Laurel Van De Water
Pranavi Vedula
Arisa Yoshino

Baritones

Sacha Charlier
Rohit Kantamneni
Amerson Liang
Alexander Luo
Gavin Lyle
Tobe Muoto
Ved Reddy
Abe Webb

Vocal Chamber Groups

Kristofer Johnson, *director*

The Nightingales

Mari Chaparro
Lilia Fecteau
Nina Figueroa-Crowe
Kateryna Horeva
Rezi Ifowodo
Chloé Lind
Muna Nwankwo
Ayana Okuneye
Ryan Ramos
Mathilde Senter
Harini Venkatesh
Faye Yang
Arisa Yoshino
Christina Zheng

ScrubbyThing

Bryan Chen
Aymeric Dauge-Roth
Audrey Dent
Amerson Liang
Roy Liu
Alexander Luo
Ezequiel Martinez
Tobe Muoto
Axel Pena
Ved Reddy
Ben Soriano
Paco Sze
Simon Taylor

Gli Scalatori

Sam Benochi
Aymeric Dauge-Roth
Ava Helbig
Kristofer Johnson
Lucy Jung
Roy Liu
Max Mantel
Jordan McConnell
Anna Rissi
Hemani Stallard

Concert Choir

Kristofer Johnson, director

Sopranos

Sam Benochi*
Amelia Berger
Elle Cohen
Lilia Fecteau
Eva Helbig
Lauren Lee
Anushka Noori
Hemani Stallard
Harini Venkatesh
Kamara Williams
Claire Xiao
Enya Yu

Altos

Chloe Bosma
Elizabeth Christiansen
Preeti Jain
Ayana Okuneye
Anna Rissi*
Ally Rubin
Mathilde Senter
Emerson Seymour
Natalie Sherman

Tenors

Bryan Chen*
Audrey Dent
Max Mantel*
Ezequiel Martinez
Mary Olasore
Axel Peña
Olivia Pierre

Basses

Bryan Cho
Aymeric Dauge-Roth
Roy Liu*
Jordan McConnell*
Anshul Noori
Ben Soriano
Simon Taylor
Karsten Vun
Max Webster
Henry Wise
Albert Zhu

* Denotes section leader

Concert Series Information

Visit <https://exeter.edu/academics/departments/music/concert-series/> for livestream links and program details for all performances

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