



58TH COMMENCEMENT

UNIVERSITY | 10 A.M. SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2024
HIGH SCHOOL | 2:30 P.M. SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2024

BENTON CONVENTION CENTER | WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.



GREETINGS

FROM CHANCELLOR BRIAN COLE

DEAR STUDENTS AND GUESTS,

It is with great pleasure and excitement that I welcome you to the 58th Annual Commencement of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts.

This is my favorite time of year. I am lucky enough to see the culmination of a spectacular year of creativity, collaboration and camaraderie as we gather together one last time to send the next generation of artists off to their amazing futures.

Graduates, we recognize the incredible effort and perseverance you have shown throughout your time at UNC School of the Arts. You have successfully completed a challenging, intensive program, and today we honor your dedication, hard work and artistic vision. You are now equipped with the skills, knowledge and confidence to make your mark in the world, and we have no doubt that you will achieve great things.

Families and friends of graduates, we cannot thank you enough for the extraordinary impact you have had on these exceptional individuals. Your love, financial commitment and emotional foundation have been instrumental in helping them reach this momentous occasion.

I am forever grateful to the visionaries who founded UNC School of the Arts; to the N.C. General Assembly that realized the dream; to the Winston-Salem community that fought for the school; and to the UNC Board of Governors, the UNC School of the Arts Board of Trustees and our generous supporters who keep it thriving. I'm also thankful for the dedicated faculty and staff who have worked tirelessly to provide an outstanding education and experience to our students. Together, we share great pride in our graduates and how they will use their training not only to express themselves artistically, but also to leverage their art as a mechanism for positive change in our culture and society.

Graduates, as you move forward into the next phase of your artistic journey, we encourage you to use the creative voice that you have nurtured here to make a difference in the world. You have the power to lead the way toward a brighter future, to inspire, to provoke thought, and to bring healing and hope to our world.

Brian Cole
Chancellor

BIOGRAPHY OF BRIAN COLE

An innovative, experienced and bilingual arts leader, Brian Cole is the ninth chancellor of UNCSA. Cole leads approximately 1,300 students from high school through graduate school, as well as 700 summer and 500 community school students, and nearly 600 faculty and staff.

The UNC Board of Governors appointed Cole as chancellor on May 20, 2020. He had previously served as interim chancellor at UNCSA since August 2019. He first joined UNCSA as dean of the School of Music in 2016.

Since becoming chancellor, he has led the development of “UNCSA Forward: Our 2022-27 Strategic Plan.” The five-year plan is guiding UNCSA into the next era as it evolves to meet the demands of a transforming arts and entertainment landscape and helps its student artists ignite cultural change in the industry and society.

His initiatives in support of the strategic plan have included the launches of: a multiyear partnership with Dance Theatre of Harlem, to elevate educational and professional opportunities for student dancers; UNCSA Media, a mission-driven media publishing arm that features the creative projects of faculty and alumni; a partnership with Posse Arts, to identify and enroll talented students who might be missed through traditional avenues, conceived in collaboration with Broadway’s Lin-Manuel Miranda and the Miranda Family Fund; and “Premier Stage at UNCSA,” featuring performances by students and faculty and behind-the-scenes video on PBS North Carolina.

As chancellor, Cole has overseen several major capital projects including the completion of the Semans Arts and Administration Building, turning the old library into an event/meeting space, accessible leadership offices, and needed offices for faculty; the renovation of Freedman and Catawba theaters in the Alex C. Ewing Performance Place; and the completion of the Artist Village, a new residence hall to replace aging dorms and apartments. He is currently leading the long-awaited comprehensive renovation of the university’s largest performance and training venue, the Stevens Center in downtown Winston-Salem.

During his tenure, Cole has filled numerous key leadership positions, including the executive vice chancellor and provost, three vice chancellor positions, the vice provost of student affairs, and the executive director of the Thomas S. Kenan Institute for the Arts, as well as five deans, forming a talented team that is leading UNCSA into the next decade.

As a fundraiser, Cole provided leadership for the first comprehensive campaign at UNCSA in decades: *Powering Creativity: The Campaign for UNCSA*. He directed the school across the finish line to raise more than \$75 million, surpassing the original goal by \$10 million. As dean of the School of Music, he doubled merit-based scholarship resources through major gifts totaling \$4 million.

An accomplished conductor, Cole has led orchestras and operas throughout the United States, Europe, South America and the Caribbean. The 2023 production of “The Nutcracker” at Greensboro’s Steven Tanger Center for the Performing Arts marked Cole’s fourth time on the podium with the UNCSA Symphony Orchestra.

Prior to joining UNCSA, Cole served four years as the founding dean of academic affairs at Berklee College of Music’s campus in Valencia, Spain. Before that, he served seven years as associate dean of academic affairs at the Puerto Rico Conservatory of Music.

Cole was a doctoral student in orchestral conducting at the University of Cincinnati. He received his Master of Music in instrumental conducting from the University of Illinois and his Bachelor of Music in bassoon performance from Louisiana State University.



HEARING AND VISUAL ACCOMMODATIONS:

Use your phone’s camera to scan this code to view live captions of commencement and access a digital version of our program that can be enlarged.



School of Filmmaking, "If God is a woman, her name ain't Josie," 2022

ABOUT UNCSA

The University of North Carolina School of the Arts (UNCSA) is a top-ranked arts conservatory and America's first state-supported arts school. The nation's only public university with five arts disciplines on one campus, UNCSA prepares emerging artists for careers in dance, design and production, drama, filmmaking, and music. No other university in the country – public or private – offers the breadth of its training programs.

UNCSA awards diplomas and degrees at the high school, undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate levels. Along with rigorous arts training, students receive intensive academic instruction through a Division of Liberal Arts and a High School Academic Program.

Approximately 1,300 students are enrolled; they study with resident master teachers who have had successful careers in the arts and who remain active in their professions. Noted guest artists frequently bring lessons directly from the industry.

UNCSA provides industry-leading instruction in an inclusive environment where students are encouraged to leverage the arts as a mechanism for change. Interdisciplinary opportunities arising from the unique arts ecosystem on campus prepare artists to enter an evolving global arts and entertainment industry.

The unique premise upon which the school was founded came under the initiative of former Gov. and Duke University President Terry Sanford, guided by visionary writer John Ehle. Their creative alliance forged an institution unorthodox for its time.

Established by the N.C. General Assembly in 1963, the school opened as the North Carolina School of the Arts in Winston-Salem in 1965. The location of the school was decided when the citizens of Winston-Salem, known as the "City of Arts and Innovation" and home of the first municipal arts council in the nation, raised nearly a million dollars in a two-day telephone campaign to win the school for the city.

Composer Vittorio Giannini of The Juilliard School was the school's first president; subsequent chancellors have included Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Robert Ward, former Joffrey Ballet General Director Alex C. Ewing, world-renowned conductor John Mauceri, and media veteran Lindsay Bierman. The school became part of the University of North Carolina System when it was formed in 1972.

UNCSA alumni have performed in or behind the scenes of Broadway shows, film, television and regional theater, and are members of the world's finest symphony orchestras and opera and dance companies. They have won or been nominated for all of the major awards in the entertainment industry, including Emmy, Grammy, Oscar and Tony. Among the many alumni working in the arts today are Gillian Murphy, principal dancer, American Ballet Theatre; Paul Tazewell, costume designer, "Hamilton," Steven Spielberg's "West Side Story"; Mary-Louise Parker, actress, "How I Learned to Drive," "Fried Green Tomatoes"; Danny McBride, producer/writer/actor, "Eastbound and Down," "The Righteous Gemstones"; and Nia Franklin, composer and opera singer, former Miss America.

For more information about UNCSA, visit [uncsa.edu](https://www.uncsa.edu).

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2023-24 YEAR

PERFORMANCES

Last September, School of Music students performed **“Ten Thousand Birds,”** a work by Grammy Award-winning American composer John Luther Adams, on Daniels Plaza.

In celebration of the **20th anniversary** of the opening of its concert venue, **Watson Hall**, the School of Music expanded the **UNCSA Chamber Music Festival** to three concerts featuring faculty, students and seven distinguished guest artists last October.

Fourth-year Drama directing student **Vivian Farahani** directed **“Enron,”** a play by British playwright Lucy Prebble about the riveting financial scandal, last October.

School of Drama faculty member **Andy Paris** directed a musical adaptation of Shakespeare’s **“As You Like It”** featuring members of several local community groups as part of the cast and crew last October.

Alumnus and Music Director **Robert Franz** (M.M. ’92, B.M. ’90) of the **UNCSA Symphony Orchestra** conducted the final concert on Oct. 24, 2023, before the **Stevens Center’s** long-awaited renovation. It featured a group photo of the audience.

In December, the 2023 production of **“The Nutcracker”** set records for attendance and gross ticket sales during its performances at the **Steven Tanger Center for the Performing Arts** in Greensboro.

New in December was **“Holiday Suite: Home for the Holidays,”** a free event that offered an immersive journey into the sights, sounds and flavors of winter festivities celebrated across diverse cultures and communities.

In January, the A.J. Fletcher Opera Institute presented Donizetti’s bel canto masterpiece **“Maria di Rohan”** at the High Point Theatre, with **Steven LaCosse** directing and **James Allbritten** conducting.

In February, Drama faculty member **Cliff Odle** directed **“Barbecue,”** by American playwright Robert O’Hara.

In February, the UNCSA Symphony Orchestra and the UNCSA Cantata Singers performed the **Durufle Requiem**, conducted by faculty member **James Allbritten**, and a brass and organ program conducted by faculty member **Mark A. Norman** at **Centenary United Methodist Church**. They were joined by choirs from Wake Forest University.

In March, the UNCSA Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of new Jazz and Contemporary Department Chair **Steve Alford**, presented the first **Improvised Music and Jazz Spring Mini-Fest** at the Millennium Center in downtown Winston-Salem.

The spring edition of the **Chamber Music Festival** welcomed acclaimed guest artists **Pavel Nersessian**, **Robert deMaine** and Music alumna and violinist **Delphine Skene** (M.M. ’20, B.M. ’18).

In March, **Jason Bohon** directed **“Twelfth Night, or What You Will,”** a romantic comedy by William Shakespeare, which featured original music made especially for the production by Music students.

Spring Dance featured the iconic version of Stravinsky’s dazzling **“Firebird,”** created exclusively for Dance Theatre of Harlem (DTH) in 1982, with guest soloists **Alexandra Hutchinson** and **Derek Brockington** of DTH. Rounding out the program were premieres by Dance alumna **Trey McIntyre** (H.S. ’87) and **Jim Vincent** (’78), and a version of “The Rite of Spring” by Dance faculty member **Britt Juleen Gonzalez**.

AWARDS

Chancellor **Brian Cole** was honored by The Posse Foundation at “Posse’s Annual Gala – An Evening of Stars” last June in New York City.

Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost **Patrick J. Sims** was named one of Black Business Ink magazine’s Power 100 during the publication’s 20th anniversary awards ceremony last June in Greensboro.

Last fall, five violists from the School of Music – students **Joshua Forbes**, **Arina Komarova**, **Yiming Zhao**, **Hehe Qi** and **Julia “Jules” Rabinalek** – swept the Young Artist and Senior strings categories at the 2023 state competition of the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA).

In December, fourth-year Filmmaking student **Mary Louise Renegar** won the East Region Jury Award in the Best Women Student Filmmakers at the **Directors Guild of America 29th Annual Student Film Awards**.

In January, alumnus **Will Files** (B.F.A. Filmmaking ’02) won a Creative Arts Emmy for outstanding sound editing for a limited or anthology series, movie or special for his work on Hulu’s “Prey.”

In February, High School Music alumna **Mary-Mitchell Campbell** (HS Music ’92) won her first Grammy for her role as a producer on the Broadway musical “Some Like It Hot.”

In February, nine students from the UNCSA high school **Visual Arts Program** won 13 awards at the 2024 **Mid-Carolina Scholastic Art Awards**. The winning artwork was on display at the Mint Museum in Charlotte.

In March, School of Music High School double bass students **Gavin Hardy**, **Michael Stratford** and **Simon Vázquez-Carr** were selected to participate in

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2023-24 YEAR, Cont.

Carnegie Hall's prestigious National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America (NYO-USA) this summer.

This spring, several Design & Production students were honored by their industry. Recognized by the U.S. Institute for Theatre Technology, **Nathan Bowden** won the **Richard Hay Undergraduate Scene Design Award**; **Maki Niikura** and **Nikolas Serrano** were selected to present at the **Emerging Creatives Showcase**; and **Alex Magallanes** and **Abi Senthil** were selected for the Gateway Program. Students **Stephen Smart** and **Dominick Riches** were selected for the Annual Hemsley Lighting Portfolio Review Exhibit in New York; **Smart** was named a Hemsley Lighting Program intern.

In April, School of Music voice student **Bentley Dorics** was named the recipient of a U.S. Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship and Music voice student **Onyx Velez** was named the recipient of an Austria Fulbright U.S. Teaching Assistantship. School of Music students **Sarah Core** and **Robbie Raso** were semifinalists for Fulbright fellowships.

MILESTONES

Last July, Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Patrick J. Sims announced **Laurel Donley** as vice provost of student affairs at UNCSA.

Last August, **Peter Juran** of Winston-Salem was elected chair of the UNCSA Board of Trustees, Drama alumna **Rhoda Griffis** (B.F.A. '83) was elected vice chair and Music alumna **Nia Imani Franklin** (M.M. '17) was elected secretary.

Last September, the Thomas S. Kenan Institute for the Arts, in partnership with the School of Filmmaking, hosted an evening of conversation with award-winning author and screenwriter **Nick Hornby**, moderated by renowned Drama alumnus **Peter Hedges** (B.F.A. '84).

Last September, UNCSA launched its first-ever media publishing arm, **UNCSA Media**, a mission-driven recording label that features the creative projects of faculty and alumni and offers curricular opportunities for students to gain practical career skills in intellectual property and entrepreneurship, with support from the Thomas S. Kenan Institute for the Arts.

Last October, the School of Design and Production, in partnership with Mitchell County, N.C., produced a multiday interactive Halloween experience called **"Hilloween."**

In fall 2023, UNCSA and the Winston-Salem Symphony launched a two-year, graduate-level **Orchestral Fellowship** beginning fall 2024.

Last November, UNCSA launched **"Premier Stage at UNCSA,"** a weekly series on PBS NC.

Chancellor Brian Cole announced **Kory P. Kelly** as the new vice chancellor for strategic communications last December.

In January, the Thomas S. Kenan Institute for the Arts and UNCSA hosted the celebrated **Black Sacred Music Symposium**, a four-day conference dedicated to the study and performance of Black sacred music traditions.

In February, more than 600 students from across the state attended the UNCSA **Festival of Dance**.

In March, UNCSA announced the selection of Jenkins Peer Architects (JPA), based in Charlotte, and Steinberg Hart, based in Los Angeles, as the design team for Phase 2 of the **Stevens Center renovation**.

In April, **UNCSA** and **Dance Theatre of Harlem** (DTH) announced a multiyear partnership, which will create educational and professional opportunities for student dancers and provide opportunities to revitalize iconic works from the DTH canon as well as co-curate new works and creative projects. The partnership was made possible with funding and programmatic support by the Thomas S. Kenan Institute for the Arts.

In April, multiple projects with Filmmaking connections premiered at the **RiverRun International Film Festival** including faculty member **Julian Semilian's** "Fish Have No Psychiatrists" and student **Viktor Maverick's** "Red Bird."

RANKINGS

The Hollywood Reporter ranked the **School of Drama** No. 3 on its list of the "Top 25 Drama Schools in the World" last June.

Last August, the **School of Filmmaking** was recognized by **The Hollywood Reporter** as No. 9 on its list of 25 Top Film Schools in America and by **MovieMaker** magazine in its list of 25 Best Film Schools in the U.S. and Canada, which cited the school for its directing program.

Last November, the School of Filmmaking's graduate-level **film music composition program** was ranked by **The Hollywood Reporter** at No. 12 on its list of the Top 20 Programs in the World. **TheWrap** listed the Film school No. 11 on its annual list of the Top 50 Film Schools in the U.S. The **School of Drama** was also listed by the publication in its list of 20 Great Schools for Acting and Theater.

In February, The Hollywood Reporter ranked the School of Design and Production's **costume design program** in its Top 10 annual list.

In April, the Film school was recognized by **Variety** in its annual list of **"Top Film Schools in North America."**

HONORARY DOCTORATE RECIPIENT

TROY KOTSUR



Troy Kotsur is an Academy Award-winning actor whose groundbreaking role in “CODA” (2021) made him the first Deaf male actor to win the Oscar, BAFTA, Screen Actors Guild, Critics’ Choice, Independent Spirit and Gotham awards.

Directed by Sian Heder, “CODA” took home three 2022 Oscars: best motion picture of the year, best adapted screenplay, and Kotsur’s best performance by an actor in a supporting role. In the Deaf community, CODA stands for “children of Deaf adults.”

In April of 2023, Kotsur was appointed by President Joe Biden to the President’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities.

Kotsur’s first major film role was in 2007’s “The Number 23” alongside Jim Carrey, and in 2016 he had his first leading role in the independent feature “Wild Prairie Rose,” directed by UNCSA School of Filmmaking Dean Deborah LaVine.

Kotsur made his directorial debut with 2013’s “No Ordinary Hero: The SuperDeafy Movie,” which brought a positive message to Deaf children. In television, he gained recognition in the Star Wars universe for creating the Tusken sign language, which was used in both “Book of Boba Fett” and “The Mandalorian,” a series in which he also appeared as an actor.

Prior to “CODA,” Kotsur was most known for his successful and highly prolific theater career, which includes multiple roles in the Tony Award-winning run of “Big River: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn” on Broadway. In Los Angeles, he performed at the Mark Taper Forum and with Deaf West Theater, where he was the lead in productions including “True West” and “A Streetcar Named Desire,” both directed by Dean LaVine, “Cyrano,” and “Our Town,” and appeared in the 2015 Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award nominee “Spring Awakening.”

A native of Mesa, Arizona, Kotsur began acting in grade school, with some of his earliest performances including reenacting “Tom and Jerry” cartoon storylines to his classmates. He studied theater, film and television at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., and following graduation, toured with the National Theatre of the Deaf.

Kotsur’s appearance is made possible with generous support from the Thomas S. Kenan Institute for the Arts in honor of its 30th anniversary.

UNIVERSITY PROGRAM

PROCESSIONAL

The audience is asked to remain seated for the duration of the Processional.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Brian Cole *Chancellor*

GREETINGS AND REMARKS

C. Philip Byers *Member, University of North Carolina Board of Governors Representative, University of North Carolina System Office*

PRESENTATION OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

Paul Sharpe *Recipient*

GREETINGS AND REMARKS, Continued

Peter Juran *Chair, Board of Trustees*

Andy Paris *Chair, Faculty Council*

Jack Sargeant *Student Body President*

INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Chancellor Cole

AWARDING OF HONORARY DOCTORATE

Chancellor Cole

Patrick J. Sims *Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost*

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Troy Kotsur

Mr. Kotsur's ASL Interpreter: Justin Maurer

AWARDING OF UNIVERSITY DEGREES, DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES

Chancellor Cole

Provost Sims

Rachel Williams *Dean, Division of Liberal Arts*

Sharon Hush *Registrar*

Endalyn T. Outlaw *Dean, School of Dance*

Brenda Daniels *Associate Dean, School of Dance*

Michael J. Kelley *Dean, School of Design and Production*

Rebecca Pancoast *Scenic Art, School of Design and Production*

Scott Zigler *Dean, School of Drama*

Janine Hawley *Assistant Dean for Academics and Administration, School of Drama*

Deborah LaVine *Dean, School of Filmmaking*

Paul Razza *Associate Dean, School of Filmmaking*

Lauren Vilchik *Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies, School of Filmmaking*

Saxton Rose *Dean, School of Music*

David Winkelman *Associate Dean, School of Music*

CLOSING REMARKS TO THE GRADUATING CLASS

Chancellor Cole

RECESSIONAL

The audience is asked to remain seated for the duration of the Recessional.

PLATFORM PARTY

In addition to the persons listed previously, the Platform Party also includes:

Karen Beres *Vice Provost and Dean of Academic Affairs*

Jim DeCristo *Vice Chancellor for Economic Development and Chief of Staff*

Laurel Donley *Vice Provost of Student Affairs*

Wendy Emerson *Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration*

Lissy Garrison *Vice Chancellor for Advancement*

David Harrison *Vice Chancellor for Institutional Integrity and General Counsel*

Kory P. Kelly *Vice Chancellor for Strategic Communications*

B. Afeni McNeely Cobham *Associate Vice Chancellor and Vice Provost for Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging*

GIANNINI BRASS

Ken Wilmot *trumpet*

Rusty Smith *trumpet*

Robert Campbell *French horn*

Guy Kelpin *trombone*

Matt Ransom *tuba*

Tony Artimisi *drums*

UNIVERSITY CLASS OF 2024

MASTER OF FINE ARTS

DESIGN AND PRODUCTION

Catherine Roberts Alvord
Liv Bast
Henry Beard
Logan Benson
Alexandra Nicole Brown
Quincy Amelia D'Alessio
Brady Charles Flock
Nomi Frank
Tessa Hager
Teagan Rose Hamel
Jaedon Harpe
Becky Hicks
Domantas Karalius
Olivia Keserich
Ryan Phillip LeBlanc Lasich
Miles Maline
Sarah McElcheran
John Frederick O'Neil
Seavor Michael Roach
Cameron Russell
Paige Spizzo
Jordan Caroline Taylor
Mrinali Thanwani
Lyssa Troemel
Van
Emily Weinberger
Lauren Wieland
Megan Winkler

FILMMAKING

Mary Craven Adams
Julian Borges
Wesley Broome
Caleb Cannon
Eun-Kyoung Annette Cho
Lavelle Randia Curtis
Erwick D'Souza
Dimitri Dikhel
Julian London Glasthal
Autumn Karen
Dmitri Alexander Hunter
Atiba Ermina Jeffers
Lauryn Janae Massenburg
Wilton Earl Mitchell, Jr.
Lucy Moreno
Ellie Grace Pobis
Flint Steppenrock
Stephen Victoria Stone
Samuel Mason Tosto
Lucas Schrimsher Williams
David E. Williamson

FLETCHER OPERA PROFESSIONAL ARTIST CERTIFICATE

Thomas MacArthur Bradford
Robert Raso

PROFESSIONAL ARTIST CERTIFICATE

Gustavo Antoniacomi
Natalie Jane Barela
Adrian William Gonzalez
Jessica Christine Gulisek
Myles Duane Moore
Clara Lee Passmore
Nathan Alexander Campbell Thomeer
Julianne Zhu

MASTER OF MUSIC

René Barbera
Boroka Boisen
Ryan Keith
David Maize
Jacob Michael McCoy
Tai Mikulecky
Ivan Felipe Muñoz Vargas
Alexander Jean Robert Nelson
Alexandra Partridge
Danielle Romano
Gabrielle Small
Kevin Joseph Spooner
Christopher Chase Thornhill
Justin Robert Whitt
Marina Zimmermann

GRADUATE ARTIST CERTIFICATE

Fred McKinney

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS

DANCE

Nadia Avery
Ashtyn Elizabeth Babb+
Margaret Grace Bethune+
Isabella Campbell
Rose Ellen Castell+
Lily Chan+
Karley Childress
Dearion Ragin Clyburn
Destiney Daniels
Sara Elizabeth Goldfarb
Abi Gooch
Jarrod Miles Jason Harrell
Terra Hernandez
Courtney Cortez Hodges
Aimee Le+
Meghan Lensmeyer+

Santina Leone
Mackenzie Ireland Longley+
Vanessa Kate Meikle
Katherine Elizabeth Yumiao Nettles
Karl Huang Pil+
Abigail Grace Pontius
Kenzie Sawyer+
Elyse Nicole Scalia+
Claire Mee Eun Schiffer
Hikaru Sydney Smith
Skylar Olivia Tuttle+
Margaret Wilsch+

DESIGN AND PRODUCTION

Vallye Catelynn Adams
Kai Aguirre
Mahalet Andargachew
Maya Batshoun
Andrew Beauregard
Lucas Becker
Tahtiana Danette Bellins (Fall 2023)
Nathan Bowden
Tierney Ailish Brennan
Renee Chasey
Garrett Deutsch
Megan Gannie DeVolder
Chase Dietrich
Grace DiMaio
Hannah Ferkol
Isabelle Flores
Chai Freedman
Elizabeth Anne Furman
Sage Green
Patrick Robert Hearn
Jasmine Hernandez
Adriaen Shi Hobgood
Marquita Horton
Courtney Danielle Jones
Trevor Kirschenheiter
Sydney Elizabeth Knowland
Jennifer Marie Kroon-Nelson
Olivia Kayo Kurima+
Kenzie Lawson
Chloe Lupini
Kai Machuca
Alexandra Isabella Magallanes
Jamie Martinsen
Abbey Laryn Maruyama
Molly McGill
Kira Miller
Ella Moffly
Maki Niikura
Evie Anne Nootenboom
M Nottke
Madison Pattillo
Kasey Lynn Paulson
Megan Peck+
Brayden Lee Pilson
Kay Raff

UNIVERSITY CLASS OF 2024

Harrison Reilly Reid+
Dominick Zayne Riches
Clara Rimes
Graham Savage
Alkh Schoolfield
Eva Schramm-Hesse+
Justin Seithel
Abirami Senthil
Nikolas Raul Serrano
Liz Shekhterman-Baklar+
Stephen Joseph Smart Jr.
Jasper Somers
Franklin Omar Sosa Burgos
Ashley Spear
Kristoffer Spersrud
Isabella Sherise Tapia
Mara Milena Trefzger
Olivia Alane Venable
Jake Taylor Wales
William Wharton
Talia Whitehead

DRAMA

Vittoria Alonso
Aphrodite Armstrong
Mikenzi Masiah Barrow
Sofie Arden Berg
Ferin Renae Bergen
Miles Blue
Christian Ahmad Brown
Natasha Dvorak
Jack Zubieta Elliott
Vivian Farahani
Abigail K. Garcia
Jasmine Hurt
Kennedy Victoria-Geneva Jackson
Dara Kovacevic
Harvaniya Krishnan
Sam Lee Baladejo
Daniella Denisse Macre Rodríguez
Maya Mays
Kiara Mazariegos
Hunter Mccoy
Seth Ajani McLaughlin
Nina-Grace Quintanilla+
Logan Salas
Santiago Sepulveda
Grace Elizabeth Steckler
Isabel Stewart
Ryleigh Walker

FILMMAKING

John Charles Abb
Mia Albanese
Kenzie Arters
Paris Arthur
Camilla Zaidee Bennett
Ashley Rose Binger
Lillian Bradford

Anderson Burrus
Joshua Campbell
Mayra Noemi Coronilla Campos
Soren Christopher Candell
Alexandria Lauren Castillo
Emma Chandler+++
Franz Criscione
Emma Helen Webb Czoty
Destiny DeJames
Jillian Renee Dengate
Sky Dexter
Zoe Michala Dion
Willie Curtis Dixon III
Emily Doran
Declan Duggan
Alanna Farr
Ana Gabriela Fisher
Alexia Forsythe
Joseph Boyd Frazer-Mohler
Nico Glass
Emma Kathleen Groce
Elizabeth Joy Guenther
Joey Harmon
Leela Becker Hoerschelmann
Joseph Albert Hurtado
Stewart Franklin Jeffers
Caleb Jordan
Aidan Kinser
Shelby Lail
Brianna Lynn Lanzen
Clay Ambrose Laplante+++
Nathan Lathroum+++
Conor Patrick Lawler
Alyssa Lee
Alejandro Lucas Fritts+
Kayla Luther
Jamie Marano
Brandon McGee
Eva Marie McKeon
Chandler Mitchell
Madison Lee Morris
Nidhi Mundra
Conner Nyberg+
Cheyenne Cathleen Oxendine
Cameron Panone
William Parham
Mary Louise Reneger
James Conlon Rice
Joshua Robinson
Cassidy Scott
Timothy Gene Shibles
Gavin Holmes Smith
Michael Ji-Min Staley
Trent Tuttle
Matthew Valledor Cruz
Benjamin Wanko
Jonathan Todd Weaver
Priscilla Nicole Witt+++
Cameron McCall Wofford

BACHELOR OF MUSIC

Jojo Di Norcia++
Bentley Dorics++
Michael Lee Drusdow (Fall 2023)
Joshua Forbes
Avery Greene
Jillian Hope Griffey++
Olivia Jean Grocott
Andrew Johnson
Joshua Jones
Ruth Kelley
Gabriel López
Sophie Lyman
Nhan Quy Mai
George Mobley
Hayden Lucas Neumann
Jackson Ray
Madelyn Rose Sealey (Fall 2023)
Sterling David Tilley III+
Ruslan Usaev
Onyx Vélez++
Elijah White++

+Denotes Graduating with the Arts Entrepreneurship Minor

++Denotes Graduating with the German Studies Minor

+++Denotes Graduating with the Creative Writing Minor

Students who are wearing red, white and blue cords are veterans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Since this program was printed several days in advance of commencement, a student's name in the program does not guarantee completion of all degree requirements, and late applicants may not appear.



School of Dance, Spring Dance, "Firebird," 2024



HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

PROCESSIONAL

The audience is asked to remain seated for the duration of the Processional.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Brian Cole *Chancellor*

GREETINGS AND REMARKS

Peter Juran *Chair, Board of Trustees*

Jeff George *Vice Chair, Faculty Council*

Chlo Webster *High School*

Student Government President

SENIOR CLASS SPEAKER

Madi Bianco *Contemporary Dance*

SENIOR AWARD RECIPIENT

Timire Leak *Drama*

INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Chancellor Cole

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Troy Kotsur

Mr. Kotsur's ASL Interpreter: Justin Maurer

AWARDING OF HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS

Chancellor Cole

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High School Academic Program*

Brock Snyder *Associate Dean,
High School Academic Program*

Sharon Hush *Registrar*

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Brenda Daniels *Associate Dean, School of Dance*

Michael J. Kelley *Dean, School of Design and
Production*

Will Taylor *Director, Visual Arts Program,
School of Design and Production*

Scott Zigler *Dean, School of Drama*

Maggie Anderson *Director, High School
Drama Program*

Saxton Rose *Dean, School of Music*

David Winkelman *Associate Dean,
School of Music*

CLOSING REMARKS TO THE GRADUATING CLASS

Chancellor Cole

RECESSIONAL

The audience is asked to remain seated for the duration of the Recessional.

PLATFORM PARTY

In addition to the persons listed previously, the Platform Party also includes:

Karen Beres *Vice Provost and Dean of
Academic Affairs*

Jim DeCristo *Vice Chancellor for
Economic Development and Chief of Staff*

Laurel Donley *Vice Provost of Student Affairs*

Wendy Emerson *Vice Chancellor for
Finance and Administration*

Lissy Garrison *Vice Chancellor for Advancement*

David Harrison *Vice Chancellor for
Institutional Integrity and General Counsel*

Kory P. Kelly *Vice Chancellor for
Strategic Communications*

B. Afeni McNeely Cobham *Associate Vice Chancellor
and Vice Provost for Equity, Diversity, Inclusion
and Belonging*

GIANNINI BRASS

Ken Wilmot *trumpet*

Rusty Smith *trumpet*

Robert Campbell *French horn*

Guy Kelpin *trombone*

Matt Ransom *tuba*

Tony Artimisi *drums*

HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2024

SCHOOL OF DANCE

Madigan Kathleen Bianco
Valadie Alexa Cammack
Audrey Elizabeth Cannon
Ella Lindsay Champion
Nadia Chudzik
Siobhan Michelle Cogley
Harry Gordon Cooper
Reese Danielle Dailey
Tove Catherine Davies
Jacob Edward Duehring
Elsa Ruby Herr
Liam Vincent Hutt
Melayna Rose King
Ava Rose Lanzas
Karis Yong Hee Lim
Emma Kate Monroe
Nifa Aulo Omondi
Julian David Pecoraro
Ryan Loretta Pecorella
Seth Ryan Roberts
Nyla Simone Ruffin
Hailey Anna Salter
Mariella Saunders
Sophia Lynn Schreiber
Ava Colette-Garcia Strickland
Jirahgon Alison Supitux
Olivia Grace Tarlton
Olivia Renee Vorhis
Chloe Carol Webster
Bridget Leeann Woolley
Hayden Ellis Wright

SCHOOL OF DRAMA

Adair Addison
Kaleb Montrez Bell
Laylah Coy Cooper-Holman
Elliott Ware Daggett
Grace Jax-Erin Gervasio
Ye-On Hong
Sai Samanvitha Kuncharapu
Timire Nazire Leak
Davis Matthew Lensch
Cohen Ryleigh Messer
Brea Marie Nahaj-Taylor
Mia Rose O'Brien
Richmond Henry Parris
Nicole Ayana Pereira
Carletta Terese Shaner
Kelsey Rose Thacker
Auguste Paul Thielemann
Hazel Rose Thompson
Bowie Werran
Satiya Serene Williamson

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Noah Benjamin Anderson
Daya Laine Asokan
Emerson Marshall Baylor
RoKem Christian Bayne
Sara Nell Danforth Chase
Elizabeth Erin Clemente
Lincoln Josiah Crosby
Luke Miller Cunningham
Christina Marie Demetropoulos
Ellie Dixon
Céleste Dominique Driscoll
Jonah Beach Foster
Augustus McDermott Giegengack
Samuel James Han
Gavin Hardy
Aubrey Layne Hinton
Ryan Thomas Holland
Diego Guadalupe Infanzon
Lucas Isaiah Ingle
Nicholas Townsend Jackson
Madyson Brielle James
Jared Michael Janpol
Thompson Allen Jones
Gabriel Gospodin Kostov
James Owen Hill Majcher
Jackson Clay Martin
Caitlin Nicole Maurer

Stella Blue Nester
Alex Nunley
Isabella Okhotina
Zach Olsen
Isabelle Parker
Claire Magdalen Patana
Micah Gregory Sullivan Philipp
Kate Elizabeth Rampel
Garrett Gene Reider
Noah Smith Sabourin
Chloe Ann Scarola
Aiden Harrison Sowers
Drake Richard Stewart
Gracyn Leigh Strickland
Simon David Vazquez-Carr
Mason Wright Waterman

VISUAL ARTS

Shya True Chakeres
Randy Leigh Cleaver
Max Jewell Cram
Ellie Creech
Addi Grace Crowder
Olivia Reid Dagenhart
Ashe Noel Thomas Denny
Marianna Estupiñán
Makayla Lynn George
Lily Jane Scarlet Guerin
Josephine Dare Jakubecy
Sophia Wren Karner
Shaun Marshall Kawalec
Elijah Scott Kimball
Finch Milo Kortus
Beatrice Pearl McLellan
Lilly Kate Pesakoff
Naia Renwick
Annalee Joyce Shaffer
Sidney Michelle Steene
Fongei Gabsia Tohnya
Alexander Jeffrey Turpin
Tanisi Rao Venkannagari
Lynn Zawistowski

Since this program was printed several days in advance of commencement, a student's name in the program does not guarantee completion of all diploma requirements, and late applicants may not appear.



2024
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AWARD RECIPIENT

PAUL SHARPE

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Paul Sharpe, professor of double bass at UNCSA since 2007, currently serves as assistant dean for recruitment and enrollment. He is active internationally both as an orchestral and chamber musician and as a soloist. He has performed and taught throughout the world: in Germany at Villa Musica and the International Chamber Music Academy of Southern Germany; the International Double Bass Encounter in Brazil; the Paris Conservatory; Poland's World Bass Festival; and in Italy at the Orfeo Music Festival. In the United States, he has given master classes and performed recitals at many conservatories and universities, including the Cleveland Institute, the University of Iowa, the University of Michigan, University of North Texas, University of Denver and Shenandoah Conservatory.

As soloist, he has performed with the UNCSA Wind Ensemble, Winston-Salem Symphony, Boise Philharmonic, Anchorage Symphony, Orquestra de Camara Teatro Sao Pedro (Porto Alegre, Brazil), Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival Orchestra, Lubbock Symphony Orchestra, Dallas Chamber Orchestra and Aspen Young Artists Orchestra.

He greatly enjoys performing with the eclectic bass quartet Bad Boyz of Double Bass, and his work as a member of the unique cello-bass duo Low and Lower has pushed him from the traditional role of a classical double bassist into singing, acting, composing, arranging and more.

Alumni from his UNCSA double bass studio have recently won positions in the Philadelphia Orchestra, Charlotte Symphony, Hyogo Performing Arts Center Orchestra in Japan, Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra and El Paso Symphony. In eight of the last nine years, at least one member of his UNCSA High School studio has been appointed to the National Youth Orchestra-USA or NYO2 orchestras, including three this year.

Prior to joining the faculty at UNCSA, Sharpe was a tenured professor at Texas Tech University; adjunct faculty at University of North Texas; and an instructor at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois, and the Preucil School of Music in Iowa City.

Sharpe holds a Bachelor of Music in performance from Northwestern University in Illinois and a Master of Arts in music from the University of Iowa. His principal teachers are Jeff Bradetich and Diana Gannett.



School of Filmmaking, motion capture in The Cube, 2023

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*In Memoriam

Photo by Wayne Reich



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Maria Serkin *School of Music*

Paul Sharpe *School of Music*

Mikhail "Misha" Tchoupakov *School of Dance*

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Aaron Willey *High School Academic Program*

Kim Zubick *School of Filmmaking*

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Brenda Gonza *School of Design and Production*

Terry Harmon *Information Technology*

David Jones *Facilities Management*

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Suzanna Watkins *Community and Summer Programs*

Scott Zigler *School of Drama*

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for Strategic Planning and Operations
Managing Director of Commencement*

Julie Rundell *Production Manager*

Ella Colbus *Lead Stage Manager*

Arden Jakubovic *Lead Stage Manager*

Marissa Derrick *Assistant Stage Manager*

Timothy Duggins *Assistant Stage Manager*

Kiley Mullins *Assistant Stage Manager*

JerFilm *Livestream*

Natalie Shrader *Director of Digital Media*



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