



# Office for the Arts at Harvard

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## PRESS RELEASE

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## Meet the 2020 Artist Development Fellowship Recipients

### FIFTEEN UNDERGRADUATE ARTISTS AWARDED FELLOWSHIPS TO FURTHER ARTISTIC DEVELOPMENT

The Office for the Arts at Harvard (OFA) and the Office of the Dean for the Arts and Humanities are pleased to announce the 2020 recipients of the annual Artist Development Fellowships. The program supports the artistic development of students demonstrating unusual accomplishment and/or evidence of significant artistic promise. The program is administered by the OFA, the Office of Undergraduate Research and Fellowships, and the Office of Career Services, and is made possible with the support of the Office of the President at Harvard University.

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, Associate Director for Programs, Office for the Arts; Jack Megan, Director, Office for the Arts 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 (on leave); Ruth Stella Lingford, Professor of the Practice of Animation, Film Study Center Fellow (on leave); Diane Paulus '88, Artistic Director, American Repertory Theater; 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; Nora Schultz, Assistant Professor of Arts, Film and Visual Studies; Marcus Stern, Associate Director, American Repertory Theater and head of Directing for Theater, Dance and Media; Yosvany Terry, Senior Lecturer on Music, Director of Jazz Bands. The program is open to all undergraduates currently enrolled in Harvard College. For further application information, visit the OFA at [ofa.fas.harvard.edu](http://ofa.fas.harvard.edu) or the Office of Undergraduate Research and Fellowships at [uraf.harvard.edu](http://uraf.harvard.edu)

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## 2020 Artist Development Fellowship Recipients

### LITERATURE

**Sahil Handa '21**, a resident of Cabot House concentrating in Social Studies and Philosophy with a secondary in English. Handa is a columnist for *The Harvard Crimson*, a writing tutor at the Harvard Writing Center and a Creative Writing Proctor for the First-Year Arts Program (FAP). He is an active member of the Theater and Dance Communities. Handa is on the board of Harvard's Centrist Society and a co-founder of a Podcast Platform startup called Project Valentine.

**Cassandra Luca, '21**, an affiliate of Quincy House concentrating in English with language citations in French and Italian. Luca is a former editor-in-chief of *Let's Go* travel guides, publishing the series' 2019 Europe edition and was the Fiction Board editor for *The Women's Issue*, a special edition of *The Harvard Advocate*. She is the books executive for *The Harvard Crimson*, and is a research partner to poet Joan Naviyuk Kane at the Radcliffe Institute for Advance Study.

**Sophia Mautz '21**, a resident of Mather House, concentrating in English with a secondary in AFVS. Mautz is the recipient of the Joan Gray Untermeyer Poetry Prize (2019) awarded annually for the best original poem or group of poems by a Harvard undergraduate in any given year. She was also a 2019 Pushcart Prize Nominee and has had her work included in *The Harvard Advocate*, *VoiceCatcher Journal* and the *Best Teen Writing of 2016*. Since 2018 she has served as a Poetry Board Member of *The Harvard Advocate*, has been a Freshman Representative at the Harvard College Women's Center (2017-2018), and is a Harvard First-Year Outdoor Program Leader.

### MULTI-DISCIPLINARY

**Xóchitl Morales '22**, a resident of Mather House concentrating in History and Literature. Morales has been active as a music instructor and producer, poet and filmmaker. She has performed at the Hollywood Bowl and Carnegie Hall (Mariachi Mestizo) and is a research fellow for Boston-based artist, writer, and organizer Anthony Romero, a current Fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study. She is the Political Action and Civil Engagement Chair for *Fureza Latina* and is active as Community Organizer and documentarian for the Harvard Ethnic Studies Coalition.

**Jessica Shand '21**, a resident of Kirkland House enrolled in the Harvard/NEC joint five-year AB/MM program joint concentrating in Mathematics and Music with a secondary in Computer Science. A flutist, Shand has been featured as a solo artist on NPR's From the Top and Colorado Public Radio, and with such ensembles as Harvard's Brattle Street Chamber Players, Pikes Peak Philharmonic, and the Denver Young Artists Orchestra. As an orchestral player, she has performed principal roles under the batons of Valery Gergiev, Christoph Eschenbach, Marin Alsop, Ludovic Morlot, Vasily Petrenko, and others. Shand currently studies with international soloist Paula Robison.

### MUSIC

**Miranda Agnew '21**, a resident of Kirkland House enrolled in the Harvard/NEC joint five-year AB/MM program concentrating in Anthropology with a secondary in Music. Agnew, a trumpet player, has attended the Banff Centre's International Workshop in Jazz and Creative Music, as well as the Summer Jazz

Academy at Jazz at Lincoln Center. On campus she has been featured in performances at the Harvard Artlab (student of Professor Claire Chase) and the ARTS FIRST Festival Creative Music Showcase (student of Professor Vijay Iyer). Agnew plans to pursue a music career in composition and performance.

**Julian Miltenberger '22**, a drummer and resident of Quincy House enrolled in the Harvard/NEC joint five-year AB/MM program concentrating in Music. Miltenberger is a member of the Harvard Monday Jazz Band conducted by Yosvany Terry, and also performs with a combo in the Harvard Jazz Combo Initiative coached by Don Braden '85. During the Winter of 2019, Miltenberger performed at Duc Des Lombards in Paris with the Yosvany Terry Quartet. Miltenberger also regularly performs at venues around Boston, including a long-standing weekly residency at Wally's Jazz Café.

**Sydney Penny '22**, a resident of Quincy House joint concentrating in Comparative Literature and Germanic Languages & Literature. Penny was the winner of the Fidelity Young Artist Competition in 2018 performing with the Boston Pops, and has been a member of the Tanglewood Chorus. She was seen in the lead role of the Harvard-Radcliffe Gilbert & Sullivan Players' (HRG&SP) 2018 production of *Patience* and studies with Sharon Daniels at Boston University.

**Benjamin P. Wenzelberg '21**, is a resident of Leverett House concentrating in English with a secondary in Music and a language citation in Spanish. Wenzelberg is a conductor, countertenor, composer, pianist, and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts. Among his accolades are his conducting debut with the Boston Pops at Symphony Hall, and, in 2020, the Japan premiere of his composition *Heroic Dreamscape Fantasy, inspired by a theme of Beethoven* with the Hyogo Performing Arts Center Orchestra. Wenzelberg is music director/conductor of Harvard College Opera, assistant music director of Lowell House Opera, conductor of the Mozart Society Orchestra, and member of the University Choir. He has performed as a soloist and been commissioned to compose for the Harvard Baroque Chamber Orchestra, and regularly performs as a collaborative pianist on campus.

## THEATER

**Ruva Chigwedere '21**, a resident of Mather House a joint concentrating in Theater, Dance & Media (TDM) and History & Literature. Chigwedere has appeared in plays as well as musicals including *For Colored Girls* at the Loeb Experimental Theater, *Cendrillon* at Agassiz Theater and *The Tempest: A New Musical* at Adams House Arts Space. Chigwedere is a member of The Kuumba Singers and was an Artistic Intern at the American Repertory Theater during the Summer of 2019.

**Frederick-Tyler Macbruce, '21**, a resident of Cabot House concentrating in English with a secondary in TDM. Macbruce has appeared in a number of productions at Harvard including *Electra*, *Proof* and *Absinthe*. He has also studied at the Atlantic Acting School and the Stella Adler Studio of Acting in New York.

**Molly Peterson '21**, a resident of Cabot House joint concentrating in TDM and English. Peterson has been featured in a number of productions on Harvard campus including *Romeo and Juliet*, *Minotaur*, *Love Letters*, *Electra*, *Sweeny Todd* and *Hasty Pudding #172, Man Ghoul*s. She has taken acting classes with Remo Airaldi, Lecturer on Theater, Dance & Media at Harvard and is a member of the Harvard-Radcliffe Collegium Musicum.

## VISUAL ARTS

**Ashley Akaeze '21**, a resident of Winthrop House joint concentrating in Art, Film and Visual Studies (AFVS) and History & Literature. Akaeze, a member of the Signet Society, has been a Pedagogy Fellow at the Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning since 2018, was a semi-finalist in the National Amateur Poetry competition and has had photography shown in a group photography exhibition via *Light Leaked* magazine.

**Alexandra Kim '22**, a resident of Mather House concentrating in Psychology with a secondary in AFVS. Kim has taken extensive classes at the Harvard Ceramics Studio and the Arts, Film and Visual Studies Department and has had work featured multiple times in the annual Harvard Student Art Show and in local shows at the Dorothy and Charles Mosesian Center for the Arts in Watertown, Massachusetts, and at the New Art Center in Newton, Massachusetts. Kim is also a contributor to *The Harvard Crimson* Arts Section and a curatorial art board member of *The Harvard Advocate*.

**Tiffany Rekem '21**, a resident of Eliot House concentrating in AFVS (Film/Video Track) with a secondary in Social Anthropology. Rekem has directed, shot and edited several short films. Her docufiction short *Bye bye* was selected to screen at the 2020 Boston Student Film Festival. She also serves as a Student Ambassador to the AFVS faculty and a Features Board Member of *The Harvard Advocate*. A performer as well, Rekem was featured in the HRG&SP production of *The Gondoliers*, choreographed *Hitched*, the 2018 first-year musical, and is a two-time winner of the U.S. Open Swing Dance Championships.

**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).

**The Office of Undergraduate Research and Fellowships** serves Harvard College undergraduates seeking to supplement their formal education with research and fellowship opportunities during term time, over the summer, or after graduation. For more information on research and fellowships at Harvard, call 617.495.5095 or visit [uraf.harvard.edu](http://uraf.harvard.edu).

**The Office of Career Services (OCS)** is dedicated to educating, advising, and connecting students to opportunities for summer and post-graduation in order to foster their intellectual, social, and personal transformations. OCS serves students of Harvard College, Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, and Harvard Extension School degree programs. For more information on research and fellowships at Harvard, call 617.495.2595 or visit [ocs.fas.harvard.edu](http://ocs.fas.harvard.edu).

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