



CLEVELAND  
INSTITUTE OF MUSIC

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## Barrier-Breaking Harpist Ann Hobson Pilot to Speak at CIM Commencement

New York Philharmonic Concertmaster Frank Huang and  
El Sistema USA Executive Director Kathryn Wyatt  
to Receive Alumni Awards



*From left: Ann Hobson Pilot, Frank Huang, Kathryn Wyatt*

**March 14, 2018 – Celebrated harpist Ann Hobson Pilot – widely recognized as the first African-American woman to hold a principal position with a major orchestra – will address graduates at the Cleveland Institute of Music’s 93rd Commencement Ceremony on Saturday, May 19.** The school will confer an Honorary Doctorate upon Pilot at that time. Pilot graduated from CIM in 1966 after studying with the legendary Alice Chalifoux.

**During Honors Convocation on Friday, May 18, Frank Huang, Concertmaster of the New York Philharmonic, will accept CIM’s Distinguished Alumni Award,** which honors alumni who have attained the highest stature in their field. **Kathryn Wyatt, Executive Director of El Sistema USA, will accept the Alumni Achievement Award,** which recognizes significant professional contributions to their field. Both will address graduates, students and community members at the annual celebration.

“Ann Hobson Pilot is a legend among harpists and in the orchestra field,” said **Paul W. Hogle, President & CEO of CIM.** “She blazed a trail for women and for African-Americans in classical music during the Civil Rights Movement and throughout the 1970s, and she describes some unbelievably difficult challenges

along the way. As our graduates venture out into orchestras, into additional education, into freelance careers and into entrepreneurial pursuits, Ann's perspective is inspirational. Through her persistence, grace, creativity and exceptional musicianship, Ann overcame countless challenges to earn her rightful place in the classical music pantheon, and her advice in navigating the path ahead will be invaluable."

"CIM is also so pleased to recognize Frank Huang and Kathryn Wyatt, two of our many accomplished alumni who exemplify the musicianship, mentorship and community engagement that are the hallmarks of a CIM education," added **Dr. Judy Bundra, Chief Academic Officer and Dean of the Conservatory**. "From his position in the New York Philharmonic, Frank inspires the next generation of orchestra players who fill CIM's halls today. Katie is both a talented musician in her own right and a model of the entrepreneurial spirit that we're infusing into the school through the Center for Innovative Musicianship (known as CIM<sup>2</sup>). We look forward to Frank and Katie sharing their advice with our graduates and the community at Honors Convocation."

### **The Honorees**

**Ann Hobson Pilot** was harpist for the Boston Symphony Orchestra from 1969-2009, serving as principal from 1980 until her retirement. She was previously principal harp of the National Symphony Orchestra. She served on the faculty of the New England Conservatory and Boston University, and continues to direct the Young Artists Harp Program for the Boston University Tanglewood Institute. Pilot has performed with many American orchestras as soloist, as well as with orchestras in Europe, Haiti, New Zealand, and South Africa. She has several CDs available on the Boston Records label, as well as on the Koch International and Denouement labels.

Pilot was the subject of two documentaries, "A Musical Journey" which chronicled her visit to South Africa in 1997, and more recently "A Harpist's Legacy: Ann Hobson Pilot and the Sound of Change." She received the Gold Baton Award, the League of American Orchestra's highest honor, in 2017 for her "immense impact on the orchestra field."

**Frank Huang** joined the New York Philharmonic as Concertmaster, The Charles E. Culpeper Chair, in September 2015. He previously served as concertmaster of the Houston Symphony, was first violinist of the Ying Quartet, and won the 2003 Walter W. Naumburg Foundation and 2000 Hannover International violin competitions. Solo engagements have included The Cleveland Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, Indianapolis Symphony, and NDR Radio Philharmonic orchestras. He is a member of the New York Philharmonic String Quartet and has toured with Musicians from Marlboro.

Huang was born in Beijing and moved to Houston at the age of seven. He enrolled in CIM's pre-college Young Artists Program at the age of 16, and earned his bachelor's degree in 2002, studying with Donald Weilerstein; he also attended The Juilliard School. He served on the faculties of The Shepherd School of Music at Rice University and the University of Houston, and currently serves on the faculty of The Juilliard School.

In July 2016, **Kathryn Wyatt** became the first Executive Director for El Sistema USA, the national network supporting the US movement of El Sistema, based on the international phenomenon of music

for social change that began in Venezuela. She is an adjunct faculty member at Duke University and performs with chamber groups and orchestras across North Carolina.

In 2010, Wyatt co-founded Kidznotes, a Raleigh-Durham nonprofit with a mission to change the life trajectory of underserved children through orchestral training. She was recently honored as a Kennedy Center 2017-18 Citizen Artist Fellow, a national award recognizing her work in citizen artistry and community development through the arts. She was a keynote speaker for the League of American Orchestra's National Conference, and has led seminars and consulted in music and social entrepreneurship internationally. Wyatt holds bachelor degrees from Indiana University and, in 2005, she earned a master's degree from CIM, where she studied with Stanley Konopka.

### **CIM's Honorary Doctorate**

The Institute has awarded 90 Honorary Doctorates since 1965 when the practice began. Among the musical luminaries to receive this distinction are conductors Christoph von Dohnányi, Kurt Masur and Franz Welser-Möst; composers Donald Erb, Pierre Boulez and Malcolm Arnold; violinists Josef Gingold, Itzhak Perlman and Robert Mann; vocalists Frederica von Stade and Tony Bennett; and pianists Van Cliburn and Leon Fleisher.

### **Commencement and Honors Convocation**

Honors Convocation is open to the public, and reservations are not required. Convocation takes place in CIM's Mixon Hall on Friday, May 18, at 4pm.

Due to space limitations, only invited guests may attend Commencement in Kulas Hall on Saturday, May 19, at 10am. Both events will be livestreamed; visit [cim.edu/commencement](http://cim.edu/commencement) for more information and links to the live streams once they're available.

### **About CIM**

The Cleveland Institute of Music, founded in 1920 with composer Ernest Bloch as the founding director, is one of just seven independent conservatories of music in the United States, one of three devoted exclusively to classical music performance and the only one nestled in America's heartland. CIM's campus – in the world-class center of innovation in healthcare, education and arts & culture known as University Circle – offers an incomparable environment for learning, study and artistic development.

CIM's graduates command the most celebrated and revered stages in the world as soloists, chamber musicians and ensemble members; compose meaningful, award-winning new repertoire; and are highly sought-after teaching artists, administrators and thought leaders. More than half of the members of The Cleveland Orchestra are connected to CIM as members of the faculty, alumni or both. The Institute's diverse talent tapestry uniquely positions CIM as the future of classical music.

All CIM students benefit from access to world-renowned visiting artists and conductors, intensive study with CIM's stellar faculty and the rich curriculum offered by CIM's partner Case Western Reserve University. CIM's Center for Innovative Musicianship (known as CIM<sup>2</sup>) embraces the school's mission to empower the world's most talented classical music students to fulfill their dreams and potential by offering extensive experiential opportunities for students to foster the practical skills necessary for a seamless transition into a professional career.

CIM is an integral part of Cleveland's arts community, presenting nearly 600 free performances and master classes on campus each year, and hundreds more at locations throughout the region, including Severance Hall, which is widely regarded as one of the world's finest concert halls. Students and faculty engage with partners including The Cleveland Orchestra, Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland Institute of Art and other cultural, educational and community organizations to create classical music that is as vibrant and varied as the city of Cleveland.

Explore [cim.edu](http://cim.edu) to learn more.

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**Editors please note:**

[Download high-resolution photos](#) of the honorees.

Interviews with Pilot, Huang and Wyatt can be arranged upon request.

Frank Huang photo by Chris Lee.