

DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY



Mary Pappert
School of Music

Saturday, May 9, 2026
Ken and Laura Gormley Student Union



Dear Graduate,

Today is a special day for you and for your families as you receive your hard-earned diploma from Duquesne University of the Holy Spirit. On behalf of our entire University community, I extend my heartfelt congratulations. You have worked with determination to reach this moment, and I am incredibly proud of all that you have accomplished. From this University – with its 148-year tradition of excellence – you are prepared to go anywhere and achieve the highest levels of success. I look forward to watching you embark on bold new paths and transform the world in the years ahead. And today, I am honored to welcome you into a new place within our University family, as you officially join the ranks of more than 100,000 Duquesne alumni around the globe.

This year's commencement holds special meaning for me personally, as I transition into my new role as Duquesne's Chancellor after ten years as President. As I look back on the past years I have shared with you – witnessing your growth, your resilience, and your many achievements – I do so with deep pride and gratitude. And as I begin the Chancellor position and work alongside President-elect David Dausey – who will do a fabulous job – I look forward to continuing to support you, champion you, and celebrate all that you will accomplish as Duquesne graduates.

Congratulations – the entire Duquesne University family salutes your success!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Gormley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Ken Gormley
President, Duquesne University

DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY

MAY
COMMENCEMENT
CEREMONY



Saturday, May 9, 2026

May 2026 Commencement

DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDING

Kenneth G. Gormley, J.D.

University President

PRELUDE

Fanfare to "La Péri" Paul Dukas
arr. Wayne Barrington

OPENING OF CEREMONY **David J. Dausey, Ph.D., Ed.D.**
Executive Vice President and Provost

PROCESSIONAL

Pomp and Circumstance Edward Elgar
arr. Michael Green

THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER **John Stafford Smith**
arr. Garrett Hoffman
lyrics: Francis Scott Key

led by Joseph R. Atkinson^

INVOCATION **Rev. Raymond French, C.S.Sp.**
Senior Vice President for Mission & Identity

WELCOME **David Allen Wehr, M.M.**
Dean

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS **Kenneth G. Gormley, J.D.**

2026 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD **David Allen Wehr, M.M.**

Samuel R. Hazo
B.S. '88, M.S.Ed. '96

PRESENTATION OF GRADUATES..... Rachel Whitcomb, Ed.D.
Associate Dean; Associate Professor of Music Education

CONFERRAL OF DEGREESKenneth G. Gormley, J.D.

ALMA MATER..... Robert Traugh, M.M.
Words and Music on Page 4 lyrics: Kenneth G. Gormley, J.D.
arr. Benjamin Cornelius-Bates, D.M.A.

led by Joseph R. Atkinson^

BENEDICTION Rev. Raymond French, C.S.Sp.

RECESSIONAL

Ode to Joy Ludwig van Beethoven
arr. David R. Thomas

(The audience is requested to remain at their seats during the recessional)

MARY PAPPERT SCHOOL OF MUSIC MUSICIANS

Andrew David Taylor^, trumpet
Omar G. Martinez-Rosete^, trumpet
Zachary Frank, horn
Damon Webb^, trombone
Nicholas Phillip Todorov^, tuba
Benjamin Cornelius-Bates, organ
Joseph R. Atkinson^, vocalist

^Mary Pappert School of Music Graduate, May 2026

Music by Robert Traugh | Words by Ken Gormley
Inspired by Rev. John F. Malloy, C.S.Sp.

Al - ma Ma - ter, proud Du - quesne, guide, and friend of our youth - ful days.

9

17 $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 84$



for - ward e - ver_ Al - ma Ma - ter; famed Du - quesne with your

23 *rit.*.....

Hail to thee! Hail to thee! All hail to thee! Du - quesne.

4

Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient

Samuel Robert Hazo

B.S. '88, M.S.Ed. '96



Samuel Robert Hazo is a composer, conductor, lecturer, and educator. Hazo was the first, and remains the only, composer to be awarded both prestigious composition awards of the National Band Association. He has composed for every level of ensemble, from public school through professional. Hazo's works have aired on television and radio, and received notable performances twice at Olympic ceremonies and the Tournament of Roses Parade. His numerous commissions include a world premiere at Carnegie Hall by the University of Notre Dame Band, the National Honor Band of America, and memorials commissioned by both Virginia Tech University and the Newtown School District following their tragedies.

Hazo's music has compiled over 30 million plays on streaming platforms, and performances include the Tokyo Kosei Wind Orchestra, Royal Belgian Wind Orchestra, Polish National Wind Orchestra, German Wind Philharmonic, Májovák Karviná of the Czech Republic, Orchestra Fiate Valle Camonica, Her Majesty's Royal Marine Band of Scotland, and the Combined Forces Band of the United States, along with each military branch's ensembles. Notable recordings include Eugene Migliaro Corporon's Klavier Wind Project, an all-Hazo compilation CD conducted by Dr. Jack Stamp (also by Klavier), Ensemble Liberté (Japan), and numerous university and professional releases. His global conducting invitations for professional and academic events include serving as the conductor of half of the 50 High School All-States in America. He completed the requirements for the Doctor of Arts degree in Music Education from William Carey University.

Samuel Hazo's connections to Duquesne University run deep. Holding two degrees from Duquesne, he was named the university's 1988 Outstanding Graduate in Music Education, was elected Duquesne's MENC President and State President of the Pennsylvania Collegiate Music Educators' Association, served on Duquesne's Board of Governors, and was the founding director of Duquesne's Marching Band in 1994, growing it to a full-time position. He was commissioned by Duquesne for three original compositions, for Dr. Robert Cameron, for the memorial of Professor Matthew Shiner, and for the installation of President Charles Dougherty, with all three compositions published internationally. As well, Samuel Hazo's mother Mary Anne served on Duquesne's Women's Advisory Board and moderated the Sigma Lambda Phi sorority in the early 1960s. His father, after whom he was named, concurrently moderated the Alpha Phi Delta fraternity, coached Duquesne's tennis team, served as Chair of Duquesne's English Department, taught English Literature for 43 years, organized a Duquesne Honorary Doctorate for Grace Kelly (Princess Grace), and retired as McAnulty Distinguished Professor Emeritus in 1998.

MARY PAPPERT SCHOOL OF MUSIC

David Allen Wehr, M.M., Dean

BACHELOR OF MUSIC

(Music Performance and Music Technology)

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN MUSIC EDUCATION

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN MUSIC THERAPY

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN MUSIC

DEGREE CANDIDATES GRADUATING WITH ACADEMIC HONORS

SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Connor V. Behary
*Olivia Hensley Bigler
*Kaytoya Priscilla Ichoku
Reese Joseph McCracken

Gabriel V. Pecar
Tabitha Sheyko
*Christian Anthony Matthias Sullivan
*Nicholas Phillip Todorov

MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Marley Marie Best
Ruth Lacerda
Amelia Stearns Lau
Abbigail Grace Mann

Bryn Henlee Nevins
Brian Cosmos Salipante
Benjamin Davis Schaible
Madeline Rose Westwood

CUM LAUDE

Ryan Gerad Comisky
Dino Roberto Iasella
Hannah Christine Oldham
Benjamin Theodore Randall
Mark Samuel Riggio

Keegan Perry Robertson
William James Ross
Nora Kathryn Teed
Brandon Scott Vallejo

GRADUATES OF THE MARY PAPPERT SCHOOL OF MUSIC

CANDIDATES FOR THE BACHELOR OF MUSIC DEGREE *(Music Performance and Music Technology)*

Connor V. Behary
Ryan Joseph Dean
Dino Roberto Iasella
*Kaytoya Priscilla Ichoku
Brandon Elliott Jukes
Caitlin Kaminski
Ruth Lacerda
Benjamin Theodore Randall
Mark Samuel Riggio
Keegan Perry Robertson

William James Ross
Brian Cosmos Salipante
Benjamin Davis Schaible
Gavin Keith Schlingheyde
Tabitha Sheyko
Nora Kathryn Teed
*Nicholas Phillip Todorov
Brandon Scott Vallejo
Fangrui Wang

CANDIDATES FOR THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN MUSIC EDUCATION DEGREE

Marley Marie Best
Ryan Gerad Comisky
Hailey Elizabeth Flood
Evan David Isenberg
Amelia Stearns Lau

Abbigail Grace Mann
Reese Joseph McCracken
Hannah Christine Oldham
*Christian Anthony Matthias Sullivan
Madeline Rose Westwood

CANDIDATES FOR THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN MUSIC THERAPY DEGREE

*Olivia Hensley Bigler
Bryn Henlee Nevins

CANDIDATES FOR THE BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE

Gabriel V. Pecar
Molly Katherine Sawdey

CANDIDATES FOR THE MASTER OF MUSIC DEGREE

Joseph R. Atkinson
Olivia G. Cuccaro
Alyssa Naomi Brandle
Luke J. Leone
Dongyue Li
Omar G. Martinez-Rosete
Anne Victoria Nasevich

Natalia Cristina Mesa Perez
Kyle Francis Perea
Katie M. Phelps
Andrew David Taylor
Damon Webb
Kelli Rose Wright

CANDIDATE FOR THE MASTER OF MUSIC THERAPY DEGREE

Mikella Kae Leydig

CANDIDATES FOR THE ARTIST DIPLOMA

Montserrat Briceño Mezquita
Giulia Galante Golinelli
Kaixiong Jiang

Anderson Lacerda
Juanita Leal
Nathanael Robert Turner

The Academic Procession

The Provost/Academic Vice President serves as the Commencement Marshal, holds the University mace and presides over the Academic Procession while standing directly in front of the platform. The raising of the mace signals that the Commencement ceremony is ready to begin. As the processional music begins, the procession of first the candidates for degrees, then the faculty and finally the platform party will file in. The audience should rise and remain standing until after the invocation.

Candidates for undergraduate degrees may be identified by the color of the tassel on the cap—which signifies the discipline. If they are receiving an advanced degree, the color on the neck band of the hood signifies the field of study.

Colors Distinctive of the Disciplines

White: Arts

Light Blue: Education

Yellow: Sciences

Apricot: Nursing

Drab: Business

Purple: Law

Sage: Pharmacy

Royal Blue: Philosophy

Pink: Music

Orange: Engineering

Academic Vestments

The gown, the cap, and the hood, representing the *major* components of the academic dress, are a ceremonial inheritance from the medieval universities of the eleventh and twelfth centuries, where clothing was an outward sign of social privilege and responsibility. Our usage of academic regalia derives from the early English universities. Academic clothing was first introduced at St. Peter's College, Cambridge University, in about 1284 A.D. Each school or college in Cambridge and in Oxford developed different methods to signal the various levels of degrees and the awarding institution. In America, in 1894 an Inter-Collegiate Commission met to adopt a uniform style for all degrees for all colleges and universities. The resulting code stated that every undergraduate robe would be the same style; likewise, every master's robe and every doctor's robe. Thus the academic dress worn by those participating in today's academic procession symbolizes both the level of their academic attainment and the institution they attended.

Gown

Although the gown is more frequently black, certain universities have authorized the use of colored gowns. The bachelor's and master's gowns were originally fashioned from black serge wool; today they are often of synthetic fabrics. The yoke of the bachelor's gown is designed to be worn closed and features long, flowing and pointed sleeves. The master's gown is designed to be worn open or closed. The sleeves are very long with squared ends, and the front part has an arc cut away. The wearer's arms protrude through slits at the elbows. The gown for the doctor's degree is made of wool, serge, or silk with an open front faced with wide velvet panels running from top to bottom. The sleeves are loose and bell-shaped with three encircling bars of velvet in black or in the color of the discipline in which the doctorate was obtained.

Hood

The most outstanding feature of the academic dress is the hood. It is usually worn only for the master's and doctor's degrees. The doctor's hood is longer than the master's hood (four feet vs. three and one half feet) and has distinguished panels inside. The college or university granting the degree is indicated by the color of the hood lining. Here, the panels are blue and red. The velvet trim on the hood indicates the field in which the degree was granted.

Cap

The standard cap is the mortarboard—or the Oxford-type cap—which appeared at Oxford after 1769 and replaced the round soft beret-like cap still worn at Cambridge. Its shape is variously explained as like the scholars and their books, or as derived from the Master Workman's actual mortarboard, or from the quadrangle shape of the campus. It is usually the color of the gown—black. The tassel is the color of the school for the undergraduate and worn on the right side of the cap until the moment the degree is conferred by the president. Then it is swung to the left side. The tassel for the master's degree is black and worn over the left front quarter of the cap. The tassel for the doctor's degree is also worn over the left front quarter of the cap and is of gold thread.

Duquesne University Corporation

The members of the Duquesne University Corporation are members of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit, or Spiritans, which founded and continue to sponsor Duquesne University. The members work in conjunction with the Board of Directors to govern Duquesne University.

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Rev. William Christy, C.S.Sp.

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*Students whose names appear in the program are candidates for degrees
as of the printing of the Commencement Program.*

*Latin Honors (e.g., Cum Laude) listed in the program are based on cumulative
grade point averages at the conclusion of the fall 2025 semester and are therefore
tentative. Latin Honors are confirmed after the conclusion of the spring semester
and will be reflected on final official transcripts and University diplomas.*



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