

MAJOR: BIOLOGY
MINOR: MUSIC
PIANO & CONDUCTING

PRIMARY FACULTY: I STUDY INSTRUMENTAL CONDUCTING WITH PROF. VERENA MÖSENBICHLER-BRYANT, AND I STUDY PIANO WITH PROF. IEVA JOKUBAVICIUTE AND PREVIOUSLY WITH PROF. RANDALL LOVE. I ALSO SPENT A LOT OF TIME TALKING WITH MY ADVISOR, PROF. HSIAO-MEI KU, WHO HAS SUPPORTED ME THROUGHOUT MY TIME AT DUKE.

DISTINCTION PROJECT:
MY DISTINCTION PROJECT IS A PIANO-CONDUCTING JOINT RECITAL. FOR THE PIANO HALF, I'M PLAYING ÉTUDES-TABLEAUX AND PRELUDES BY RACHMANINOV AS WELL AS A PIECE COMPOSED BY BRITTANY GREEN, A TALENTED GRADUATE STUDENT AT DUKE, FOR PIANO AND FIXED MEDIA. FOR THE OTHER HALF OF THE RECITAL, I CONDUCT CHARLES GOUNOD'S *PETITE SYMPHONIE* AND HAVE THE GREAT PLEASURE OF WORKING WITH AN ALL-STAR ENSEMBLE FEATURING ANGEL SHI, MIRYAM RUDOLPH, GORDON HE, THOMAS POMBERGER, ANGUS LI, ERIC XU, PRESTON BOWMAN, KEVIN KAUFFMAN AND CAROLINE TANG.

ADVICE: DUKE MUSIC DEPARTMENT HOMES NOT ONLY TALENT, CREATIVITY, AND WONDERFUL MUSICIANSHIP, BUT ALSO THE MOST SUPPORTIVE PEOPLE WHO ENCOURAGE AND INSPIRE. THE MUSIC COMMUNITY HERE DOESN'T JUST ACCEPT YOU-- THEY CELEBRATE YOU. I'D STRONGLY ENCOURAGE YOU TO GET TO KNOW THE PROFESSORS, THE GRADUATE STUDENTS, AND OTHER UNDERGRADUATES IN DUKE MUSIC. YOU'D BE SURPRISED BY THE MENTORSHIPS AND FRIENDSHIPS THAT COME OUT OF THESE INTERACTIONS.

AFTER DUKE: I WILL BE PURSUING A BIOLOGY PHD.



ALINA XIAO

BIDDLE HIGHLIGHTS:

My first time conducting a full orchestra was in Bone Hall in Biddle. I still remember the magic feeling that when I moved my hands a certain way, I could hear sounds! Rehearsals for the Viennese Ball, my all-time favorite event at Duke, also took place in Bone Hall.

One of my favorite classes in the music department is "Modern Women Making Music" taught by Meredith Graham. Learning about the works and life experiences of extraordinary women musicians, particularly contemporary classical composers such as Missy Mazzoli, Unsuk Chin, and Meredith Monk, I realized that the standing history of male domination does not justify its continuation in classical music. Meredith's class made me see the feminist space that these women musicians fought hard to create, and it taught me to be aware of and active in contributing to a safe collaborative space for women musicians in my own distinction project. Thank you, Meredith, and thank you to all the inspiring women making music here at Duke.