Meet the Next Early-Career Musician in Residence

Violinist Robyn Bollinger breaks down barriers to classical music
Groundbreaking young violinist Robyn Bollinger, who garnered praise from critics in the New York Times and Boston Globe, begins the Early-Career Musician Residency in September. The residency provides time and resources to young composers and musicians who show promise in transmitting traditions of classical music to younger generations. Bollinger rose to national attention through regular performances on Public Radio International and NPR. Her award-winning multimedia recital program and CD/DVD, CIACCONA: The Bass of Time, traversed 300 years of music through solo violin music, animations, and short documentaries. Learn how Bollinger plans to use her residency to explore musical “bonbons” and historical controversies, helping make classical music accessible to all in the process.

Dumbarton Oaks at the International Congress of Medieval Studies This Month

Sponsored events on hagiography, Hypatia, numismatics, Ovid, and more

Experience thought-provoking discussions on devotional inscriptions and cross-cultural
hagiography, receptions, a movie screening, and other events sponsored by Dumbarton Oaks at the International Congress on Medieval Studies this month. On Friday, May 10, examine Byzantine views on hagiography and piety at sessions “Hagiography South and North, East and West: The Movement of Saints’ Lives across Cultures,” “Personal Piety and Devotional Inscriptions in Byzantium,” and “Sanctity and Hagiography in the Byzantine World: Papers in Honor of Alice-Mary Talbot.” In the evening, attend a reception with hosted bar followed by a screening of Agora (2009). The next day, Saturday, May 11, a roundtable led by Dumbarton Oaks director Jan Ziolkowski considers “Agora and the Reception and Reputation of Hypatia of Alexandria.” Also on Saturday, explore the sessions “Reading and Writing Ovid in the Middle Ages” (cosponsored by the Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library) and “Topics in Byzantine Numismatics.”

Digging into DOML

Experience composition 101 at a medieval university with the Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library
Student life probably looked a lot different in the Middle Ages—although there were likely still some naps—but then as now, textbooks played an important part in college education. Now one of the most important textbooks in 15th-century England has been translated into English for the first time. For the next installment in our series exploring Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library books new and beloved, managing editor Nicole Eddy introduces *Tria sunt*, a guide to rhetoric—the art of writing beautiful and effective poetry and prose. Learn how to “verb” words, draft ideal letters, and avoid faults in composition in a volume translated from Latin and edited by Martin Camargo.

Discover the Secrets of Byzantine Seals

New exhibit opens later this month

Later this month, visit the first exhibit in more than 30 years solely focused on Byzantine seals from the 17,000-strong Dumbarton Oaks collection. In the Byzantine world, metal seals identified owners and protected things, such as securing a string that kept a letter closed. The display reveals how Dumbarton Oaks researchers played detective to solve an 800-year-old mystery involving a broken seal and a mysterious and powerful person from the 12th century. A
number of other important lead seals—including one commissioned by a Byzantine empress—are also on view. Located across from the museum shop, the Byzantine seals case launches a new series of temporary displays highlighting recent discoveries and new acquisitions.

**Everything's Coming Up Roses**

**Admire hundreds of blooms soon filling our Rose Garden**

Heavily inspired by English designs, landscape architect Beatrix Farrand intended for the Rose Garden to form a wash of color, beginning with pinks and reds, transitioning into salmons with yellow tones, and culminating in yellows. Later this month, experience the magical scene for yourself. Gardeners have maintained Farrand’s design intent while gradually renovating the Rose Garden: replacing declining roses with more disease-resistant varieties, implementing a healthier custom soil mix, and inoculating new roses with a beneficial microbe. The aim is to produce more vigorous blooms and sustainable gardening practices. After winter work refurbishing the flagstone walkways, there is no better time than late spring and summer to visit our riotous variety of roses. Visit the garden from 2 to 6 pm, Tuesday through Sunday.
Scholars in the Spotlight

Catch up with our recent speakers and their research

Annemarie Weyl Carr tracks the Virgin Mary’s journey from a core figure in Byzantine faith to the romantic beloved of medieval knights to the inspiration for female ascetics, and much more. Weyl Carr is professor emerita of art history at Southern Methodist University.

Sarah Klassen uses high-tech tools to analyze medieval Cambodian landscapes, climate change, and social upheaval at Angkor and beyond. Klassen is a postdoctoral fellow at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver.

Digital Tools and Online Treasures

Athena Ruby Byzantine inscription font

Unlocking messages inscribed on coins, seals, and other objects from the Byzantine world can reveal important stories about economics, politics, beliefs, daily life, and more. To support this goal, Dumbarton Oaks, in a project spearheaded by Joel Kalvesmaki, developed a single, comprehensive font for use in the scholarly publication of Byzantine inscriptions. Winner of the 2013 Type Directors Club
Design Award, the font Athena Ruby is compatible with all major operating systems (it’s OpenType, and Unicode-compliant). Learn more about Athena Ruby and try a demo. Experts working in digital content, publications, and Byzantine museum collections at Dumbarton Oaks collaborated to create Athena Ruby, building on decades of groundbreaking digital font development at the institution. Most recently, Humanities Fellow Charles Webb developed a new browser keyboard for easy typing in the font. We invite epigraphers, Byzantinists, and classicists to test the keyboard and submit their feedback.

Ongoing Programs

Special Exhibition:

Written in Knots
Written in Knots: Undeciphered Accounts of Andean Life puts on display a remarkable communication system. Portable and precise, it has complexities that have challenged and inspired decipherers. Long before the arrival of the Spaniards, the people of the Andes shared information using khipus—textiles that encoded economic, political, and perhaps narrative data in their cords, knots, and colors. Written in Knots is the first exhibition to bring together such records that cover more than 1,300 years of South American history, from the Wari civilization to the Inka empire to the Spanish colonial period. The exciting collection of never-before-seen khipus on display includes the largest, most complex Wari specimen known to museums and the latest research into what stories the knots might tell.

Special Displays:

Piety and Pleasure, A Nobility of Matter, and Beyond Knotting

Now on view for a limited time only are three exhibits showcasing new acquisitions to the Ephemera Collection as well as rarely seen Asian art and Pre-Columbian textiles. Piety and Pleasure: Western Travel to the Holy Land uses postcards, posters, magazines, rare books, and more to examine the Western pilgrims, tourists, and scholars who made the Holy Land a popular
destination at the turn of the 20th century. *A Nobility of Matter: Asian Art from the Bliss Collection* explores Chinese art collected by the cofounders of Dumbarton Oaks, beginning with finely crafted Song dynasty vessels. *Beyond Knotting: Wari and Inka Tunics from the Collection* is an installation of luxurious tunics from the Andes—some more than 1,000 years old. It appears in conjunction with *Written in Knots*, examining the relationship between two major components of the Andean woven world.

### Upcoming Programs

**Friday, May 10, 3–4 pm and every other Friday**

*Written in Knots Curator Tours*

Explore a South American information technology.

**Saturday, May 18, 2–3 pm**

*Shades of Meaning: The Nexus of Color, Knots, and Fiber in the Dumbarton Oaks Khipus*  
(WAITING LIST ONLY)  
Lecture by Professor Jeffrey C. Splitstoser
Saturday, August 31, 2019–Sunday, January 5, 2020
Woven Interiors: Furnishing Early Medieval Egypt
Cocurated exhibition of vibrant and rare decor at the Textile Museum

Tuesday, September 10, 2019–Sunday, January 5, 2020
Ornament: Fragments of Byzantine Fashion
Special exhibition showcasing dress textiles, bodily vestiges, modern aesthetics