



HILLSDALE COLLEGE

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Hillsdale College Symphony Orchestra Performs Commencement Eve Concert

Sophia LaBonte and Samuel Jarzab, winners of the 2025 Student Concerto/Aria Competition, performed with the orchestra as soloists.

HILLSDALE, Mich. — The Hillsdale College Symphony Orchestra performed its Commencement Eve Concert in Christ Chapel on May 9. The concert featured solos by mezzo-soprano Sophia Labonte '26 and clarinetist Samuel Jarzab '26, two of the winners of the 2025 Student Concerto/Aria Competition.

The orchestra performed Giuseppe Verdi's Overture to "Nabucco," Bach's Passacaglia and Fugue in C Minor, and Paul Hindemith's Symphonic Metamorphosis of Themes by Carl Maria von Weber.

"This concert was an exciting finale to our orchestra season and a special way to celebrate our graduating seniors," said James Holleman, music director of choirs and orchestras. "I am looking forward to welcoming our students and audience members back in the fall."

LaBonte, a voice student of Emily Douglass, performed in "Ô ma lyre immortelle" from "Sapho" by Charles Gounod. Jarzab, a clarinet student of Andrew Sprung, performed in "Allegro" from Franz Krommer's Concerto for Clarinet and Orchestra in E-flat Major, op. 36.

"Sophia and Samuel's performances were outstanding, and the orchestra did an excellent job accompanying them," Holleman said. "It is rewarding to see how much the students have grown as musicians this season."

For recordings of Hillsdale College music performances, click [here](#). For photos from the concert, click [here](#). For photos from previous performances in Christ Chapel, click [here](#). For photos of

Hillsdale College, click [here](#). For a high-resolution copy of the Hillsdale College clocktower logo, click [here](#).

About Hillsdale College

Hillsdale College is an independent, nonsectarian, Christian liberal arts college located in southern Michigan. Founded in 1844, the College has built a national reputation through its classical liberal arts core curriculum and its principled refusal to accept federal or state taxpayer subsidies, even indirectly in the form of student grants or loans. It also conducts an outreach effort promoting civil and religious liberty, including a free monthly speech digest, *Imprimis*, with a circulation of more than 6.8 million. For more information, visit hillsdale.edu.

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