Tufts University
Medford/Somerville
Massachusetts

Tufts

The Baccalaureate Ceremony

Saturday, May 22, 2021
The Baccalaureate Ceremony of the Class of 2021
Saturday, May 22, 2021

Coordinated by the University Chaplaincy

Please find the prerecorded ceremony at:
go.tufts.edu/baccalaureate2021

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As we join together today,
we recognize that the land
on which the Tufts community has lived and learned for nearly 170 years
is on the traditional, unceded lands of the Massachusett tribe.
We acknowledge with gratitude that the Massachusett tribe and
the Aquinnah and Mashpee Wampanoag peoples
still steward this beautiful land.
We acknowledge in sorrow the countless injustices
yet to be repaired.
We acknowledge in solidarity
that they live today by their own strength and traditions.
ORDER OF THE CELEBRATION

Unless otherwise noted, all musical accompaniments are performed by Thomas B. Dawkins, University Chaplaincy Music Director and Organist

Countdown to the Baccalaureate Ceremony

MUSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT
Paul Dukas: Fanfare from La Péri arr. Robert Gower

Words of Welcome and Greetings of Peace
Reverend Elyse Nelson Winger, University Chaplain

Senior Interviews
Alice Dempsey, A21
Yasmin Farah, A21
Jacob Fried, A21
Carlos Irisarri, A21
David Massart, A21
Arjun Padalkar, A21
Uzair Sattar, A21
Alex Schnur, A21

MUSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT
Florence Price: Adoration for organ

Introduction of the Wendell Phillips Speaker
Walker Bristol, Humanist Chaplain

The Wendell Phillips Address
Atrey Bhargava, A21

Musical Performance
Samuel Coleridge-Taylor: Deep River arr. Iverson Eliopoulos

Julia Moss, A21, viola
Iverson Eliopoulos, A21, cello
Talia Kee, A22, violin
Andrew Zhang, E22, violin

Introduction of the Baccalaureate Speaker
Kayleigh Ford, A21

The Baccalaureate Address
President Anthony P. Monaco
A Time for Thanks and Joy

Sean Moushegian, E21 and Akshita Rao, E21

In this moment, we offer thanks and joy for our years together in this place and for the values that Tufts University at its best imparts: a love of learning and of truth; a commitment to service and justice; an understanding of the unity of human knowledge and of humankind; a sense of community, self-respect and respect for others; an appreciation of friendship, creativity and beauty; and a reverence for those who have accompanied us.

We offer thanks and joy for the intellectual skills that Tufts hones and sharpens: the ability to think logically and make sound judgments, to willingly doubt and challenge accepted wisdom, to move from conformity to creativity, from concrete to abstract, and to understand diverse historical and cultural contexts.

We offer thanks and joy for all of the ways we’ve each discovered our own passions and callings as scholars, leaders, and citizens. For the times when we felt our studies and career aspirations aligned with our deepest values; for the times when we used our voices and took action for equity and justice; for all the experiences that illumined who we are and who we are becoming.

We offer thanks and joy for the conversations that helped us understand ourselves, that made us realize that we are not alone, that entertained, stimulated and challenged us, conversations that broadened our understanding—in classrooms and residence halls, at identity centers and student events—that enabled us to mature, think, act, and grow.

We offer thanks and joy for the trips on planes, on buses and bikes, on foot or on the T, that took us away from here, and then brought us back, each time with new confidence and insight to explore our neighborhoods and discover the world. For the new places that intrigued our curiosity, and for the familiar, usual places that made us comfortable, for new people and the places we met and shared, for all the ways our world became both larger and more known with each new adventure.

We offer thanks and joy for the images and memories of this place that will flash in our minds for the rest of our lives—walking up the Memorial Steps, looking out from Tisch roof, staying up for yet another all-nighter, walking to Davis Square, sitting by Mystic Lake, gathering on the Academic Quad. For gatherings, planned and spontaneous, that brought us together: picnics on the Prez Lawn, performances in Distler, Spring Flings and Winter Balls. For relationships with each other, ones that lasted long and even the ones, so important at the time, which are vivid no more, yet still remembered.
We offer thanks and joy for all those who have helped us on our way: for the guidance and support of our faculty and advisors, for the compassion and encouragement of our chaplains and mentors, for the love and patience of our families and friends. We offer thanks for the often-unsung heroes across the Tufts community who have made our lives possible day by day: staff and administration, dining workers and custodians, counselors and health care workers.

Finally, we offer thanks and joy for the resilience, vision, and perseverance that our class and the Tufts community have shown in these unprecedented times. For each act of kindness and creativity that enabled us to connect virtually; for every in-person activity and class made possible amidst social distancing; for moments to lament and support and times to dream, and, importantly, hope for the future.

For all these things and more, we offer thanks and joy!

MUSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT
Improvisation on Bunessan (“Morning Has Broken”)

Words of Blessing and Sending
Reverend Elyse Nelson Winger, University Chaplain
Preeta Banerjee, Hindu Advisor
Reverend Daniel Bell, Protestant Chaplain
Rabbi Naftali Brawer, Jewish Chaplain
Walker Bristol, Humanist Chaplain
Lynn Cooper, Catholic Chaplain
Imam Abdul-Malik Merchant, Muslim Chaplain

Illumination: The Class of 2021

Closing Credits
Including Names of Graduates

MUSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT
Florence Price: Festal March for organ

The Tufts University Chaplaincy uses the religious and philosophical symbols on the cover page to represent traditions honored within the Tufts community. For more information about the symbols, please visit chaplaincy.tufts.edu.

Om: Hinduism
Wheel of Dharma: Buddhism
Menorah: Judaism
Cross: Christianity
Crescent and Star: Islam
Flaming Chalice: Unitarian Universalism
Happy Human: Humanism
Nine-Pointed Star: Baha’i Faith
Torii: Shinto
Yin-Yang: Taoism
Li: Confucianism
Abhaya Mudra: Jainism
Khanda: Sikhism
Faravahar: Zoroastrianism
Feather: Native Traditions
Pentacle: Paganism

For more information about the Tufts University Chaplaincy, please visit chaplaincy.tufts.edu.