

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

### Chris East '23

Chris East '23 is one of our recently graduated seniors from the School of Music (SOM)! Chris played bass in the Puget Sound Symphony Orchestra and Wind Ensemble and studied privately with Stephen Schermer. They graduated with a Bachelor of Music in Double Bass Performance and a Minor in French and Francophone Studies. We invited Chris to reflect on their experiences at Puget Sound and share them with our readers.

**SOM:** What are some of the most important skills you have acquired during your time in the music program?

**Chris:** I've learned how to create a space for myself in the world of music thanks to the combination of the musicology curriculum and the many performance opportunities the music program granted me. Attending such a small school allowed me to tailor my classes, lessons, and ensembles to my artistic and personal goals.

**SOM:** What will you remember the most about Puget Sound after you graduate?

**Chris:** What sticks with me about my time here at Puget Sound is the opportunities I've had to form meaningful musical and personal connections with professors and students alike. These connections indelibly color both my artistry and the way I live my life.



**SOM:** What are your current post-graduation plans?

**Chris:** After taking a gap year, I will attend graduate school for historical musicology.

**SOM:** In what ways will you continue playing bass after graduation?

**Chris:** Over the summer I'll be playing bass for the Tacoma Musical Playhouse's production of *Escape to Margaritaville*. Additionally, I will keep taking lessons with Professor Schermer during my gap year, and play in orchestra and wind ensemble in graduate school. I plan to keep playing for the rest of my life, whatever that might look like.

**SOM:** Do you have any advice for first-year students?

**Chris:** Don't be afraid to put yourself out there! Bring your entire self to every rehearsal, class, and lesson. Your professors and peers will match the effort and engagement you bring to every interaction.

