

to appeal to students with diverse musical backgrounds and aspirations. Requirements for concentrators, previously anchored in theory and Western music history, have become significantly more flexible. And in a department that previously offered few performance-focused courses, Chase is among a newly arrived cluster of eminent faculty performers, including pianist and composer Vijay Iyer (Harvard Portrait, March-April 2015, page 23), saxophonist Yosvany Terry

(Harvard Portrait, January-February 2016, page 25), and vocalist and bassist Esperanza Spalding. Significantly, none of these performers—including Chase—is a Western canon traditionalist; both their substantive expertise and their methods offer the department something new. For Chase, this shift is fundamentally about “embracing the practice and not just the scholarship around the practice.” In the concert hall and in the classroom, she is equally attuned to “the art

of doing, and also the play of doing and the rigor of doing,” she explains. “I think about those three things—the art, the play, and the rigor—as inseparable.”

The relationships among aesthetic experimentalism, music pedagogy, and social change can be tricky to pin down. Assertions of music’s transformative potential sometimes have a quixotic ring. But Chase’s practice and her department’s paradigm shift reflect a broader rethinking of what it means to

Off the Shelf

Recent books with Harvard connections

The Efficiency Paradox: What Big Data Can’t Do, by Edward Tenner, JF ’72 (Knopf, \$27.95). The author, a long-time contributor to these pages and now an independent scholar associated with the Smithsonian and Rutgers, reminds those agog about algorithms, AI, etc., that efficiency is “wonderful, until it isn’t.” Carrying the mania too far backfires (“even an excess of water can be lethal”), especially if good old-fashioned human judgment is overshadowed.

Metamorphosis: How to Transform Punishment in America, by Robert A. Ferguson ’64, J.D. ’68, Ph.D. ’74 (Yale, \$35). The late, multi-talented Woodberry

professor of law, literature, and criticism at Columbia looked beyond changes in sentencing, solitary confinement, and more to challenge the entire basis of the U.S. penal system. The argument seeks to pivot from retribution and

humiliation toward reform and change—hence the resonant title, from Ovid.

When-government-worked department: **The Fears of the Rich, The Needs of the Poor: My Years at the CDC**, by William H. Foege, M.P.H. ’65, S.D. ’97 (Johns Hopkins, \$24.95 paper). Narratives about public health refracted through the Centers for Disease Control, by its former director (who is not stained, like a recent successor, by trading tobacco stocks). In **A Blueprint for War: FDR and the Hundred Days that Mobilized America**, by Susan Dunn, Ph.D. ’73 (Yale, \$27.50), the Massachusetts professor of humanities at Williams recounts how a masterly lead-

er rallied the nation for strategic leadership of a world threatened by catastrophic war—without engaging in a single Twitter contest with the fascist opposition.

Not Enough: Human Rights in an Unequal World, by Samuel Moyn, J.D. ’01 (Harvard, \$29.95). The author, professor of law and of history at Yale (and previously at Harvard), traces the origins of the notion of human rights—and its simultaneous decoupling from socioeconomic justice and equality in an age of ascendent neoliberal capitalism. An important argument about how “Human rights became our highest ideals only as material hierarchy... worsened”—an “immense reversal” in “an unequal world.”

Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9, by Alexander Rehding, Peabody professor of music (Oxford, \$14.95 paper). Forget the sedate title. This reinterpretation for a new millennium takes off from Norwegian conceptual artist Leif Inge (who knew?) and his 9 *Beet Stretch*, and includes photos, inter alia, of flash mobs doing their thing.

From the wards: **You Can Stop Humming Now**, by Daniela J. Lamas ’03 (Little, Brown, \$28). Exceptionally humane, and well-crafted, essays by an instructor in medicine and critical-care doctor at Brigham and Women’s Hospital—a medical reporter before training for her current career—who recounts how it feels when, for instance, “my patient told me that he was done” and set a course to die peacefully at home. In **Indefinite Postponement** (Pressed Wafer, \$15, paper), psychiatrist John P. Williams ’90 presents,

Battle hymn: surmounting the Berlin Wall, November 10, 1989, to the tune of “Ode to Joy,” a setting Beethoven scarcely imagined



PETER KNIEFEL/AP IMAGES

study music at Harvard, who can do so, and why it matters. From this perspective, music is not only a potential resource for social change, but a model of social relationships.

This idea is perhaps more easily experienced than explained. On a chilly evening in early spring, the organizers of the September protest held a concert in Memorial Church. Part of the DACA Seminar, an event series convened to educate the University community about U.S. immigration policy,

the concert was intended as a celebration of solidarity after a day of workshops and talks. Chase's contribution included a brief live performance, followed by a 2016 composition by Iyer called *Flute Goals: Five Empty Chambers*. The piece upended the expectation that the soloist is the primary focus of a solo performance. In a subtly symbolic inversion of the composer-performer relationship, Iyer created the piece using an array of improvised sounds that Chase per-

recorded on five flutes. Uncanny and riveting, these sounds careened, collided, and whirled with propulsive energy. Chase introduced the piece from the stage, but as the recording played, she went to join Iyer in a pew. Most people listened quietly, while a few children chattered, and conversations floated in from the entryway; everything became part of the sonic mix.

This was music that noisily forged togetherness.

with commentary, the anonymous suicide-recovery diary of one of his adolescent patients. Haunting reading, published in the hope of heading off other suicides.

In **Hype**, by Nina Shapiro, M.D. '91, with Kristin Loberg (St. Martin's, \$26.99), a UCLA surgeon draws on her training and her interactions with anxious patients ("informed" by the Internet and media accounts) to sort out the medical wheat from the considerable chaff among competing claims, miracle cures, and just plain rotten advice. From within biomedical science, **Cancerland: A Medical Memoir**, by David Scadden, Jordan professor of medicine and professor of stem cell and regenerative biology, with Michael D'Antonio (Thomas Dunne/St. Martin's, \$27.99), recounts doing the work of discovery during much of the era of the "war on cancer." For a current battlefield report, see "Targeting Cancer," page 35.

Universe in Creation, by Roy R. Gould, associate of the Harvard College Observatory (Harvard, \$24.95). A sweeping overview of how the universe came to be the way it is, by a gifted expositor. For example, recalling a childhood brush with morning glories, he writes, "We can at least fathom how a seed might create a living sculpture of flowers and leaves" (cells, DNA). But how did "the infant universe," devoid of experience and structure, a "jumble of disorder and chaos," come to organize and array itself—and create us?

Urban prospects. In **Uneasy Peace** (W.W. Norton, \$26.95), Patrick Sharkey, Ph.D. '07, professor and chair of sociology at New York University, thoroughly deconstructs the real causes of "great crime decline"—the transformation that, bloody-shirt political rhetoric to the contrary, has

made cities so much safer and magnetic to so many—and dispels other myths about policing, its benefits (most often to the poor who are crime victims), and more. A landmark analysis. **Building and Dwelling**, by Richard Sennett, Ph.D. '69 (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, \$30), in a way sums up a lifetime of studying and thinking about cities—and again, why the great ones are great, in this era of humans' most intense urbanization. The author now professes at the London School of Economics.

You Don't Own Me, by Orly Lobel, S.J.D. '06 (W.W. Norton, \$27.95). Intellectual-property law made vivid, via an engaging narrative about the litigation surrounding, of all "people," Barbie.

Calm Clarity, by Due Quach '00 (Tarcher, \$17 paper). A recovered management consultant and private-equity investor applies her business savvy to neuroscientifically informed ways to "rewire your brain for greater wisdom, fulfillment, and joy" (to adapt the subtitle), which she helps effect through a social enterprise with the same name as her book. On a less organizational basis, **The Two Most Important Days**, by Sanjiv Chopra, professor of medicine, and Gina Vild, associate dean for communications and external relations, Harvard Medical School (Thomas Dunne Books, \$24.99), is a book on inspiration and inspired living (subtitled "How to Find Your Purpose—and Live a Happier, Healthier Life")—a contribution to a popular genre by an atypical pair of authors.

A More Beautiful and Terrible History, by Jeanne Theoharis '91 (Beacon Press, \$27.95). A passionate reinterpretation of civil-rights history ("the endless misuses of Rosa Parks" jumps off the page),

An unheralded role for Barbie, in intellectual-property litigation

the "uses and misuses" to which it is put, by a distinguished professor of political science at Brooklyn College-CUNY. **May We Forever Stand**, by Imani Perry, J.D.-Ph.D. '00 (University of North Carolina, \$26), drills down deep into "Lift Every Voice and Sing," the de facto black national anthem—ignorance of which in other quarters tells something about divisions among Americans. The author is Hughes-Rogers professor of African American studies at Princeton.

Law and Legitimacy in the Supreme Court, by Richard H. Fallon Jr., Story professor of law (Harvard, \$39.95). An argument for good faith in constitutional interpretation, proceeding from elements that underlie "originalism" to the rationale for justices making refinements arising from the challenges presented by new cases. This work of jurisprudence and legal philosophy resonates in the era of highly politicized rulings and weaponized confirmation processes.

The Transformation of Title IX: Regulating Gender Equality in Education, by R. Shep Melnick '73, Ph.D. '80 (Brookings, \$35.99 paper). How did a law aimed at gaining girls and women equal access to sports (and other programs) become the determinant of sexual-harassment and transgender-rights programs? The author, a Boston College political scientist, analyzes, and critiques, the evolution of "equal educational opportunity" against a backdrop of heated culture wars.



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