

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Temple Honors Announces First Honors Distinguished Alumni Award in Celebration of 30th Year

Philadelphia, PA, March 12, 2018 - The Temple University Honors Program is presenting Dr. Mena Mark Hanna with its inaugural Honors Distinguished Alumni Award. The award will be presented at the Honors 30th Birthday Gala on Saturday, April 21, 2018.



Photo Credit: Celestine Johnson

The award is given to a Temple Honors alumna or alumnus who exemplifies the key pillars of the program's mission statement: intellectual curiosity, social courage, leadership, and integrity. Winners are chosen by the Honors Alumni Council based upon nominations, personal statements, recommendation letters, and supporting materials.

Hanna is a summa cum laude 2006 graduate of the Temple University Boyer School of Music and Dance and Marshall Scholar, now the Founding Dean and Professor of Musicology and Compositions at the Barenboim-Said Akademie in Berlin. In addition to his work at the Akademie, Hanna serves as an advisory board member for HiArt! And the Children's Arts Initiative, the Mahler Foundation, and the Houston Grand Opera. He is also a trustee for the Ginkgo Library.

He says of his time in Honors, "Temple Honors has taught me how to define my future, my notions of identities and art, and my sense of responsibility." He added that by the end of his time at Temple, he realized he was a "composer with the intense belief that art can speak truth to power."

Friday, April 20, Hanna will give a talk about the inspirations for his work "decolonizing" classical music and his journey from North Philadelphia, to Oxford (for his Ph.D.) then on to Berlin. The talk will be held at the Tuttleman Learning Center, Temple University, 7:00-9:00 p.m. and is open to the public. Refreshments will be served following his talk in the Honors Lounge, 204 Tuttleman.

The Honors 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday Gala is Saturday, April 21, at the Ruba Club, 416 Green Street, Philadelphia. Tickets are available through [honors.temple.edu/gala](http://honors.temple.edu/gala).