

## Noted Optical Scientist Eyed for Leadership Role at Imperial College London

**Ian Walmsley '86** (PhD), a pioneer in ultra-fast and quantum optics and a former faculty member of Rochester's Institute of Optics, has been named provost at Imperial College London, effective September 1, 2018.

He is currently pro-vice-chancellor for research and innovation and Hooke Professor of Experimental Physics at the University of Oxford.

At Oxford, Walmsley has overseen the university's relationships with its research

funders and has worked to engage wider audiences with scientific research.

Elected a fellow of the American Physical Society in 2001, Walmsley has helped advance the fields of spectroscopy, cryptography, quantum computing, and precision measurement. He joined the Institute of Optics faculty in 1988 and became director of the Center for Quantum Information Systems, established in 1999 with a Department of Defense grant and drawing together faculty from Rochester,

Cornell, Harvard, Rutgers, and Stanford. He led the Institute during a period of transition in 2000.

A dedicated teacher, Walmsley won the Goergen Award for Distinguished Achievement and Artistry in Undergraduate Education from Arts, Sciences & Engineering in 1999.

He is an undergraduate alumnus of Imperial College, having earned a BSc degree with first-class honors in physics. —Karen McCally



**MEDIA MAESTRO:** Composer Ko combines aural, visual, and tactile elements.

### ACCOLADES

## Multimedia Composer of 'Tactile Performance' Recognized with Guggenheim Fellowship

Composer **Tonia Ko '10E** has continued to rack up honors ever since winning the Eastman composition department's award for excellence, the Louis Lane Prize, three out of her four years as a student.

Her latest accolade is a 2018 Guggenheim fellowship, a testament to her past achievements and continued creative promise.

Ko, who was born in Hong Kong and raised in Honolulu, incorporates a variety of media into her compositions, bringing aural, visual, and tactile elements together. In her ongoing project "Breath, Contained," for example, Ko transforms stretches of bubble wrap into a versatile musical instrument. In "Whistling Tree,"

sculpture serves as both visual art and a sound installation. She writes, "I have developed a mode of tactile performance—techniques that reveal a material's potential as both art and sound object. For example, bubble wrap's buoyancy, transparency, and inherent rhythm determine its sonic identity and the performer's physical movements. I investigate the space where pressure meets friction."

Ko's works have been performed at such venues as Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center, and at the Tanglewood, Aspen, and Santa Fe chamber music festivals. From 2015 to 2017, she was composer-in-residence for Young Concert Artists. —Karen McCally

## Flutist Named Yamaha Young Performing Artist

Flutist **Abby Easterling '18E** is one of 11 winners of the 2018 Yamaha Young Performing Artists Competition. The competition, in its 30th year, recognizes young artists ages 18 to 22 with exceptional promise in jazz, classical, and contemporary music.

As an award winner, Easterling will travel to a celebration weekend at Ball State University in June, during which she'll deliver a live performance that will be professionally recorded and photographed and attend workshops on launching a professional career.

Previously, Easterling was the winner of the National Flute Association Masterclass Competition. In summer 2014, just prior to beginning her studies at Eastman, the Dallas-area native was selected as part of Carnegie Hall's National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America.

—Karen McCally



**FIRST-RATE FLUTIST:** Easterling wins an elite early-career award.