

University Senate
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences: Humanities Division
Election to the University Senate 2026
Candidates' Statements
(Candidates Listed in Alphabetical Order)

There are 2 candidates in this election to one open seat in the University Senate:

1. **Jonathan Crompton** | PhD Candidate, Music
2. **Anna Tarasheva** | M.A. Student, English and Comparative Literature



Jonathan Crompton

PhD Candidate

Department of Music

Jonathon Crompton is a PhD candidate in Music Theory in Columbia's Music Department, and a Senior Lead Teaching Fellow in the Center for Teaching and Learning.

Jonathon will build on the Senate's ongoing work concerning campus quality of life: advocating for opening the gates and genuine campus accessibility; pushing for more affordable dining and housing options for graduate students; and following through on the poor conditions at Dodge Fitness. He also wants to expand student access to Columbia's performance spaces and restore library hours where they've been cut.

Beyond these projects, Jonathon will be a voice for the humanities at a moment when universities are moving toward mere professionalization. He believes the core responsibility of universities, and of the humanities especially, extends far beyond economic utility alone, with far more at stake than that narrow view allows. He will be a passionate voice in the Senate reflecting that perspective.

As a working musician and pedagogue based in New York City for over a decade, Jonathon brings both classroom and practicing-artist perspectives to the seat, and looks forward to working alongside SAC and the GSAS Humanities student body.



Anna Tarasheva

M.A. Student

Department of English and Comparative Literature

I am eager to be the next Humanities GSAS Senator at Columbia. At my previous undergraduate institution in the UK, I was elected as the student representative for my program for three consecutive years, acting on behalf of 300 students. Developing an understanding for the mechanisms at work within institutional decision-making bodies, and working directly with senior faculty, including the head of my program, I addressed student engagement and well-being concerns, increased access to learning materials, reformed assessment structures of core undergraduate lecture courses, and spearheaded initiatives to strengthen our alumni network and foster community within both students and faculty members. I hope to bring the determination, resilience and passion for advocacy I developed at my undergraduate institution to my new community at Columbia. Moreover, I believe I am well-positioned to advocate for issues regarding international student support, and policies on affordability, engagement and access. As a Bulgarian, born in the US and educated in the UK, I find my return to the US even more enriched by my international experiences and outlook. I hope my multicultural background will enable students to feel supported as I advocate for administrative, financial and cultural matters faced by all students, regardless of background.