Chase delights in works that require her to act, vocalize, and otherwise heighten the drama of a performance. “It matters where you’re needed.” The advice catalyzed a clear connection between her musical and her social-activist endeavors. She was also exposed to works that require her to act, vocalize, and otherwise heighten the drama of a performance.

At Harvard, Chase cultivates an environment where peer-to-peer learning thrives. “A king rules over willing subjects,” wrote the influential sixteenth-century Scottish scholar George Buchanan, “a tyrant over unwilling.” The institutions of a free society are designed to ward off those who would govern, as Buchanan put it, not for their country but for themselves, who take account not of the public interest but of their own pleasure.”

Under what circumstances, Shakespeare asked, does evidence of mendacity, crudeness, of people knowingly accept being lied to? How does a figure like Richard III or Macbeth ascend to the throne? Such a disaster, Shakespeare suggested, could not happen without widespread complicity. His plays probe the psychological mechanisms that lead a nation to abandon its ideals and even its self-interest. Why would anyone, he asked himself, be drawn to a leader manifestly unsuited to govern, someone dangerously impulsive of people knowingly accept being lied to? How does a figure like Richard III or Macbeth ascend to the throne? Such a disaster, Shakespeare suggested, could not happen without widespread complicity. His plays probe the psychological mechanisms that lead a nation to abandon its ideals and even its self-interest. Why would anyone, he asked himself, be drawn to a leader manifestly unsuited to govern, someone dangerously impulsive of people knowingly accept being lied to? How does a figure like Richard III or Macbeth ascend to the throne? Such a disaster, Shakespeare suggested, could not happen without widespread complicity. His plays probe the psychological mechanisms that lead a nation to abandon its ideals and even its self-interest. Why would anyone, he asked himself, be drawn to a leader manifestly unsuited to govern, someone dangerously impulsive of people knowingly accept being lied to? How does a figure like Richard III or Macbeth ascend to the throne?