Enjoy this month’s QuickNotes and get a glimpse into the world of our busy and highly exceptional students and faculty! And don’t forget to visit our website at http://music.ku.edu for the most updated list of KU School of Music news and events. Rock Chalk!

MUSIC.KU.EDU

Faculty News

Robert E. Foster, professor of music education and former director of bands, was recently named president and CEO of the John Philip Sousa Foundation at the Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago.

ROK, Inc., Smithyman and Zakoura Chartered and the Zakoura Family Foundation are commissioning a new song cycle for Julia Broxholm, KU associate professor of voice, and Russell Miller, pianist and professor of vocal coaching and repertoire at Eastman School of Music. The commission will be executed by Lori Laitman, a very prolific and lauded composer, with two operas, more than 200 songs, an oratorio and many choral works to her credit. Visit: artsongs.com for more information. The work is planned for inclusion as the centerpiece of a new recording of American song literature, a project Russell and Broxholm began last summer, with initial recording sessions in Kilbourn Hall at Eastman School of Music.

Matthew Smith, associate director of bands, is in the middle of his second year at KU. This spring semester is proving to be just as busy as the fall marching band season. In January he conducted one of the Kansas John Philip Sousa Junior High School Honor Bands. In February he will conduct at the Cyclone Honor Band Festival at Iowa State University, and clinic middle school bands in Shawnee Mission. He will also travel to the Eastman School of Music after being selected to participate in the Frederick Fennell Memorial Conducting Masterclass with the Eastman Wind Ensemble and Wind Orchestra. In addition, his analysis of Joel Puckett’s "It Perched for Vespers Nine" was published this past fall in the Journal of Band Research.
Larry Rice, who has taught double bass at KU since 1994, will retire at the end of the current academic year.

**Student News**
Bassoonist **Jessica Findley** won the 2012 KUSO Concerto Competition with Mozart’s “Bassoon Concerto.” JoAnn Doll, flute, was chosen as an alternate. Findley will be the featured soloist at the KU Symphony Orchestra performance on February 18.

**Tara Curtis**, Joyce Castle’s student, is one of the four winners from the Metropolitan Opera National Council District Auditions, which took place on January 20 in K.C. She will go to the regional competition in St. Louis on February 2. She sang the witch's aria from *Hansel and Gretel* and “O Mio Fernando” from Donizetti’s “La Favorita.”

**The KU Trumpet Ensemble** recently performed in President Obama’s Inauguration Parade on Monday, January 21. The ensemble was the only group from the state of Kansas to perform in the parade. The ensemble was directed by **Steve Leisring**, associate professor of trumpet and division director of brass and percussion. **Sharon Toulouse**, assistant director of bands, assisted Leisring and also performed.

**Michael Mapp**, doctoral student in wind conducting, was recently named assistant director of bands at Washburn University.

**Andy Newbegin**, MM, trombone performance, was selected through blind audition as one of three national finalists in the recent Big XII Bass Trombone Solo Competition held at Texas Tech
University in mid-January. The competition was sponsored by Edwards Instruments. Andy placed third in the finals competition.

**Jamie Sanborn**, senior BM in horn, won the MTNA Regional Solo Competition in Young Artist Brass on January 11. She performed the first movement of “Horn Concerto No. 4” by Mozart, the “Horn Concerto No. 1” by Richard Strauss, and an unaccompanied piece called “España” by Vitaly Buyanovsky. She advances to the National Finals in Anaheim, CA on March 11th to perform the same works. The winner will perform on a concert with the other division winners (strings, woodwinds, pianists) on March 12.

Follow the **KU Wind Ensemble** as they prepare for the performance of a lifetime at Carnegie Hall by visiting [http://www.ku.edu/carnegiehall](http://www.ku.edu/carnegiehall). They will perform the world premiere of “In the Shadow of No Towers” by Mohammed Fairouz at Carnegie Hall on March 26. An encore performance will be held at the Lied Center on April 2. This work was commissioned by Reach Out Kansas, Inc., and Smithyman & Zakoura, Chartered.

**Recent Graduate News**

**Olivia Betzen**, KU MM ’11 with Julia Broxholm, took 3rd place in the junior women's division of the Antonin Dvorak International Singing Competition in Karlovy Vary, Czech Republic in November, 2012. This was just after performing the role of Donna Anna in Mozart's *Don Giovanni* with the University of Michigan School of Music Opera Theater. Betzen will complete her Specialist Degree in Voice at U-Michigan this spring.

**Jeremy Wohletz**, KU DMA ’12, will teach a full clinic at the upcoming KMEA Conference in Wichita.

**Reminders**

The Kansas City Musical Club is holding scholarship auditions (scholarships range from $500-$1,000) on Saturday, Mar. 9 at Grant Hall on the UMKC campus. Only the first 30 applications will be accepted. Applications must be postmarked by February 28. For more information, contact: Marilyn S. Miller, scholarship chairman, at 913.262.5555 or rlanemillerm@sbcglobal.net.

Faculty portraits in Crafton-Preyer Lobby, Wednesday, February 13 and Thursday, February 14: More details will come from the KU Marketing Communications office in the next week or two.

Please remind your students about the School of Music’s Facebook and Twitter pages for information about upcoming events/performances.

Christina Fountain is the new student web designer this semester. She is available Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays. For updates to your pages, please e-mail: musicweb@ku.edu.

**Upcoming Events**
Feb. 1st (F) Wind Ensemble & Jazz Ensemble I
7:30 PM Lied Center
Call 785-864-2787 or go to lied.ku.edu for tickets

Feb. 1st (F) VAS Christopher Marks, organ
Bales Artist Series
7:30 PM Bales Recital Hall
Call 785-864-2787 or go to lied.ku.edu for tickets

Feb. 3rd (Sun) Prairie Winds Concert
1:00 PM Lied Center
Admission Free

Feb. 4th (M) FRS Joyce Castle, mezzo-soprano, & Mark Ferrell, piano
7:30 PM Swarthout Recital Hall
Admission Free

Feb. 10th (Sun) VAS Brian Gnojek, clarinet
2:30 PM Swarthout Recital Hall
Admission Free

Feb. 10th (Sun) Faculty Virtuosi Series
7:30 PM Swarthout Recital Hall
Admission Free

Feb. 13th (W) KU Brass Ensembles
7:30 PM Swarthout Recital Hall
Admission Free

Feb. 15th (F) FRS Sunho Kim, violin
5:00 PM Swarthout Recital Hall
Admission Free

Feb. 15th (F) Baroque Song Project
5:00 PM TBD
Admission Free

Feb. 15th (F) FRS Stephanie Zelnick, clarinet
7:30 PM Swarthout Recital Hall
Admission Free

Feb. 18th (M) VAS Todd Graber, tenor
5:00 PM Swarthout Recital Hall
Admission Free

Feb. 18th (M) KU Symphony Orchestra
7:30 PM Lied Center
Call 785-864-2787 or go to lied.ku.edu for tickets
Feb. 25th (Mon) Instrumental Collegium Musicum
7:30 PM Swarthout Recital Hall
Admission Free

Feb. 27th (W) Graduate Honor Recital
7:30 PM Swarthout Recital Hall
Admission Free

Visit MUSIC.KU.EDU for a complete list of events!