



## Faculty NEWS



**MARTIN BERGEE**, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, was the conductor of the 2015 **Kansas John Philip Sousa All-State Band**.

Students in grades 6-9 from across the state of Kansas auditioned to be in this 100-piece group. ■



**JACOB M. DAKON** and **ABBEY L. DVORAK**, Assistant Professors of Music Education & Music Therapy, presented their research

entitled "Teacher Perceptions of Memorization in String Instructional Settings: An Exploratory Study" at the **American String Teachers Association National Convention** in Salt Lake City on Mar. 20. The work is scheduled for publication in the



upcoming volume of the **Bulletin** of the Council for Research in Music Education. ■



**MICHAEL DAVIDSON**, Associate Professor of Trombone, performed at the 2015 **Colorado State University Brass Festival** in March in Fort Collins,

CO. Davidson is a member of the Drei Bones Trombone Trio with Dr. Tim Howe, University of Missouri-Columbia, and Dr. J. Mark Thompson, Northwestern State University of Louisiana. ■

*Cover Photo: Crowd begins to gather for the opening performance in newly remodeled Swarthout Recital Hall on March 30, 2015.*



**MARIANA FARAH**, Associate Director of Choral Activities, was a judge and clinician for the 2015 **Middle Level**

**Choral Festival** on Mar. 31 at Olathe Northwest High School. All nine Olathe middle schools performed at the festival (two choirs per school).

Farah also was a guest conductor and clinician for the **Shawnee Mission District Choral Festival** Mar. 10-12. This festival was an opportunity to hear the top choral ensembles in the Shawnee Mission District and to clinic each choir in their rehearsal setting in preparation for State Large Ensemble Contest. ■



**DEANNA HANSON-ABROMEIT**, Assistant Professor of Music Education & Music Therapy, wrote an article,

“A Conceptual Methodology to Define the Therapeutic Function of Music,” which will appear in the next issue of [Music Therapy Perspectives](#). It has been published online [here](#).

Additionally, Hanson-Abromeit is currently co-leading music therapy sessions with community partner play therapists at [Operation Breakthrough](#), a child development center serving children and families living in poverty in the urban core of Kansas City, MO. These sessions run twice a week (in 6-week cycles) in two of four infant classrooms, targeting infant-caregiver emotion regulation and attachment relationship. Dr. Hanson-Abromeit was awarded General Research Funds to partially support the in-depth study of the intervention characteristics, in preparation for a pilot study next year. ■



**CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON**, Professor of Music Education & Music Therapy, presented the paper “Effect of related instruction on student perceptions of behavioral characteristics and instructional patterns of expert teaching” at the Twenty-first [International Symposium for Research in Music Behavior](#) in Tallahassee, FL with Lindsey Williams, Rebecca Tast, and Melissa Brunkan. ■



**PAUL LAIRD**, Professor of Musicology, took part in a seminar called “I Won’t Dance, Don’t Ask Me: Disability in Musical Theater” at the [National Conference of the Society for American Music](#), which took place in Sacramento, CA Mar. 5-8. Laird’s contribution to the seminar was “Stephen Schwartz, *Wicked*, and Musicalizing the Disability Narratives for Two Sisters. ■



**STEVE LEISRING**, Associate Professor of Trumpet, appeared as guest artist with the Maryland Symphony Orchestra in their Masterworks Series in March, in a program entitled “Brothers on the Battlefield” with the [Rodney Marsalis Philadelphia Big Brass](#). The concerts featured a wide variety of special arrangements for this 6-piece brass group with symphony orchestra, from Bach to Copland, and from New Orleans Jazz to Earth

Wind and Fire. Leisring became an Associate Artist with

the Marsalis group in the spring of 2014 and to date has performed in six states, with other performances planned in the coming year. ■



**FORREST PIERCE**, Associate Professor of Music Composition, was profiled in an extended interview on [kcmetropolis.org](#)—Kansas City’s online arts journal, on Mar. 11, in preparation for the newEar contemporary ensemble’s performance of his work “Bison Circles.” Reviews of the performance called the piece “persistent and captivating, and the most emotional experience of the evening’s program.”

Click [here](#) for the interview. Click [here](#) to read the review.

Forrest Pierce’s solo work *Meditation on the Name of G\*d* was performed at the Eastman School of Music by oboist Lindsay Laird on Mar. 21. The piece has been performed more than 80 times.

Two Pierce works for saxophone were announced to be on the program of the World Saxophone Congress in Strasbourg, France, this summer. *The Kansas Rapture*, a major new work for saxophone quartet, will be premiered at Strasbourg by the h2 quartet, and *O My Dove*, for two saxophones, will be presented by h2 members Jeffrey Loeffert and Jonathan Nichol. ■



**SCOTT WATSON**, Professor of Tuba/Euphonium (Principal E-flat Tuba) and KU music education major Jon Heaver (BB-flat Tuba) were members of the Fountain City Brass Band that was crowned [North American Champions](#) in the championship division at the North American Brass Band Championships in Ft. Wayne on Mar. 6-7. The band performed both *Spiriti* by Thomas Doss and *The Divine Right* by Phillip Harper,

winning the 1st prize with a commanding score of 291.3 points out of 300.

Both Watson and Heaver are regular members of the FCBB, the 7-time US Open champions, 5-time North American champions, and the only American band to ever win a major championship on UK soil, the 2009 Scottish Open Championship.

With this win, Fountain City becomes the band with the



**most championships won** in American brass band history. Professor Watson is a charter member of the FCBB, being with the band since its inception in 2002. ■



**KETTY WONG**, Associate Professor of Ethnomusicology, presented the paper “Current Cultural Interactions between China and Latin America” on Mar. 30 at The **Nao Now Conference** organized by the Lawrence Arts Center and the KU centers for East Asia Studies, Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Global and International Studies, and the KU Global Awareness Program. Scholars, artists, and art entrepreneurs were invited to discuss the historic

and cultural connections and exchanges across the Pacific Ocean. ■



The trio *Allégresse*, with flutist **ANNIE GNOJEK** (KU alumna), oboist **MARGARET MARCO**, Associate Professor of Oboe, and pianist **ELLEN SOMMER**, Lecturer in Piano, was in residency at the **Universidad de Costa Rica** from Mar. 15-19. The trio members taught intensive master classes for university

students each day and ended the week with a recital at the Sala Maria Clara Cullell at the Escuela de Artes Musicales, Universidad de Costa Rica. Joined by KU alumnus Isabel Jeremias, who is the Professor of Bassoon at the UCR, “*Allégresse Plus One*” performed world premieres of three new works. *Allégresse* commissioned the work *Live Wire* by Anne Guzzo and *Cuando me acuerdo de ti* by Vinicio Meza for flute, oboe, bassoon and piano to commemorate the nearly 60-year partnership between the University of Kansas and the Universidad de Costa Rica. *Cathedral Grove* for solo oboe by KU Composition Professor Forrest Pierce received its world premiere. Other works on the program were by Horst Löhse, Elaine Fine and Miguel del Aguila. The four musicians hope to repeat the program in Tokyo at the International Double Reed Society Conference in August. ■

## Student NEWS

**ERIN BONIFIELD**, Music Education, **CHLOE GILLIGAN**, Tuba Performance, and **ANDREW MOSS**, Tuba Performance, competed at the **North American Championships** with the Fountain City Youth Academy Brass Band. ■

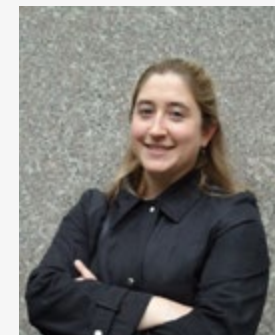


**SARAH MILLER**, DMA student in Tuba Performance, was named Trombone Professor and Assistant Director of Athletic Bands at **Washington State University**. Miller is a student of Mike Davidson, Professor of Trombone, and Scott Watson, Professor of Tuba/Euphonium. ■



**ANDRÉS MOJICA**, DMA student in Organ, and **Ana María Hernández-Candelas**, DMA student in Flute Performance, will play a recital on Apr. 17 at 12:10 p.m. as part of the

**Westport Center for the Arts Brown Bag Concert Series**. The performance will be held at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1700 Westport Rd., Kansas City, MO. The recital is titled “From Bach to Piazzolla, the Mojica-Hernández Duo in Concert.” ■



**ELIZABETH SALLINGER**, PhD student in Musicology, presented her paper “The Whole Town’s On Its Feet: The Electric Guitar and *Jesus Christ Superstar*” at the conference “The Electric Guitar in Popular Culture,” held at **Bowling Green State University** on Mar. 27-28. Sallinger is working on a dissertation on the introduction of rock instruments

into Broadway pit orchestras around 1970. Her advisor is Paul Laird, Professor of Musicology. ■



**CHRISTOPHER SMITH**, DMA student in Choral Conducting, was recently named Assistant Artistic Director for **Kantorei of Kansas City**, a professional choir in Kansas City. Smith has sung with the group since summer of 2014. The Artistic Director is Chris Munce. To learn more click [here](#). ■

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YING TANG, DMA student in Piano Performance, won the Grand Prize of \$5,000 of the **Naftger Competition** sponsored by the [Wichita Symphony](#), which is the most important competition in Kansas.

Tang also won first place at the 2015 American Protégé International concerto competition. ■

The KU Interdisciplinary Jazz Studies Group, led by Professor of American Studies Sherrie Tucker, held a colloquium entitled **“Improvising in Place”** on Mar. 2. Several KU School of Music professors and graduate students presented papers at the event: Musicology Professors Paul Laird and Roberta Freund Schwartz, Composition Professor Kip Haaheim, and Musicology PhD students Kevin Fullerton and Ashley Hirt. The symposium took place in conjunction with the KU Jazz Festival, directed by Dan Gailey, Professor of Jazz Studies. ■



The KU Opera Ensemble (left) and KU Men's Glee Club (below) performed free concerts at the **Kansas State Capitol Rotunda** as part of a series of concerts entitled “KU at the Capitol”.

The Opera Ensemble is directed by **MARK FERRELL**, Musical Director, KU Opera, and the Men's Glee Club is directed by **CHRISTOPHER SMITH**, DMA student in Choral Conducting.



Funding for the concert series is provided by Reach Out Kansas, Inc., The Law Offices of Smithyman & Zakoura, and The Zakoura Family Fund, a Fund of the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation. ■

## Alumni NEWS

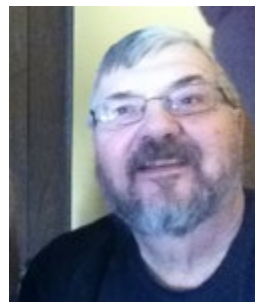


ASHLEY BENES, BM in Voice '08, and MM in Opera '13, was offered a management internship with the prestigious Aspen Music Festival. Ms. Benes is currently pursuing a masters degree in arts administration at George Mason University and working for Wolf Trap Opera. Benes was a student of Julia Broxholm, Associate Professor of Voice. ■



ERICA BROOKS, BME '13, was awarded the 2015 Young Teacher of the Year Award by the Kansas Chapter of the American String Teachers Association. The award was given for exemplary work teaching string orchestra classes in the Olathe elementary schools. ■

ANNA HOARD, BM in Voice '09, sang the role of Meg in Mark Adamo's *Little Women*, the spring opera production at the University of Missouri - Kansas City Conservatory, where she is pursuing a masters degree in voice. Hoard was a student of Julia Broxholm, Associate Professor of Voice. ■



JON KING, KU Marching Band '66, Midwestern Music & Art Camp '63, recently published “Jazz Sketches: Musical musings on the mother lode,” a light-hearted tribute to the author's favorite music and musicians (available on Amazon.com). ■

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**BRIAN SCARBOROUGH**, BM '13, won the 2015 American Trombone Workshop's National Jazz Competition. The American Trombone Workshop (formerly the Eastern Trombone Workshop) is hosted by the US Army Band "Pershing's Own" in Fort Myer, Virginia (Washington DC), and is one of the two biggest trombone conferences in the world. He also performed in a finals round for the American Trombone Workshop's

National Jazz Solo Competition, and was named the winner and featured during a performance by the U.S. Army Blues. Click [here](#) to learn more. ■

### KU MUSIC ALUMNI - SEND US YOUR NEWS!

KU Music alumni, we would love to hear about the great work you're doing in the world of music. Please send us your music-related news - jobs, awards, photos, etc. - to [musicnews@ku.edu](mailto:musicnews@ku.edu). We would love to hear from you! ■

## Concert SERIES

The School of Music is pleased to announce three additional concert series during the Spring 2015 semester.

**JOHNSON COUNTY CONCERT SERIES**, with performances at Johnson County Community College and the KU Edwards Campus.

**KU AT THE CAPITOL**, featuring ensemble performances in the Kansas State Capitol Rotunda.

**SWARTHOUT RECITAL HALL REOPENING CELEBRATION SERIES**, featuring eight performances in the newly remodeled recital hall.

Most of the concert series are open to the public and free of charge. Funding for these concert series is provided by Reach Out Kansas, Inc., The Law Offices of Smithyman & Zakoura, and The Zakoura Family Fund, a Fund of the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation.

For more information, click [here](#). ■

## Upcoming Events

**APR. 9** *Reach Out Kansas, Inc. presents...*  
**VISITING ARTIST SERIES:  
 LAWRENCE BROWNLEE, TENOR  
 & MARTIN KATZ, PIANO**  
 7:30 p.m. Swarthout Recital Hall  
*Admission free*

**APR. 13** **FACULTY RECITAL SERIES:  
 CHUNG-HOON PETER CHUN, VIOLA**  
 7:30 p.m. Lied Center Pavilion  
*Admission free*

**APR. 14** *Reach Out Kansas, Inc. presents...*  
**VISITING ARTIST SERIES:  
 ERIC EWAZEN, COMPOSER**  
 7:30 p.m. Swarthout Recital Hall  
*Admission free*

**APR. 15** **SAXOPHONE QUARTETS**  
 7:30 p.m. 130 Murphy Hall  
*Admission free*

**APR. 16** **VERONIQUE MATHIEU, VIOLIN  
 & VIOLIN STUDIO**  
 7:30 p.m. 328 Murphy Hall  
*Admission free*

**APR. 18** **KU CHOIRS: CHAMBER SINGERS AND  
 MEN'S GLEE**  
 7:30 p.m. Bales Organ Recital Hall  
*Admission free*

**APR. 18** **VISITING ARTIST SERIES:  
 PAOLO OLIVEIRA, PIANO**  
 7:30 p.m. 328 Murphy Hall  
*Admission free*

**APR. 18** **GOD BE MY GUIDE:  
 KU PRESENTS A GOSPEL CELEBRATION  
 OF KANSAS ROOTS FEATURING  
 BRANDON MCCRAY**  
 1:30 p.m. lecture; 2:30 p.m. concert  
 Lied Center  
*Admission free*

**APR. 19** *Reach Out Kansas, Inc. presents...*  
**KANSAS VIRTUOSI**  
 2:30 p.m. Swarthout Recital Hall  
*Admission free*

**APR. 24, 26  
 30, MAY 2** **KU OPERA PRESENTS...  
 LE NOZZE DI FIGARO**  
 7:30 p.m. (Apr. 26, 2:30 p.m.)  
 Crafton-Preyer Theatre  
*Call 785-864-3982 for tickets*

**APR. 26** **COLLEGIUM MUSICUM**  
 7:30 p.m. 328 Murphy Hall  
*Admission free*

**APR. 26** **PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE**  
 7:30 p.m. 130 Murphy Hall  
*Admission free*

**APR. 27** *Reach Out Kansas, Inc. presents...*  
**VISITING ARTIST SERIES:  
 DAVID SHIFRIN, CLARINET  
 & BORROMEO STRING QUARTET**  
 7:30 p.m. Swarthout Recital Hall  
*Admission free*

- APR. 28**      **JAZZ COMBOS I-VI**  
7:00 p.m. Lawrence Arts Center  
*Admission free*
- APR. 29**      **TUBA EUPHONIUM CONSORT**  
7:30 p.m. 130 Murphy Hall  
*Admission free*
- MAY. 1**      *Reach Out Kansas, Inc. presents...*  
**VISITING ARTIST SERIES:**  
**DEBORAH BROWN, VOCALIST**  
with **KU JAZZ STUDENTS**  
7:30 p.m. Swarthout Recital Hall  
*Admission free*
- MAY 3**      **UNIVERSITY BAND**  
**& JAZZ ENSEMBLES II & III**  
7:30 p.m. Lied Center  
*Lied Center Ticket Office | 785-864-2787 | lied.ku.edu*
- MAY 5**      **SYMPHONIC BAND**  
7:30 p.m. Lied Center  
*Lied Center Ticket Office | 785-864-2787 | lied.ku.edu*

- MAY 5**      **KU CHOIRS: BALES CHORALE**  
7:30 p.m. Bales Organ Recital Hall  
School of Music students FREE  
*Lied Center Ticket Office | 785-864-2787 | lied.ku.edu*
- MAY 6**      **FACULTY RECITAL SERIES:**  
**ED LAUT, CELLO**  
7:30 p.m. Swarthout Recital Hall  
*Admission free*
- MAY 7**      **KU YOUTH CHORUS**  
5:15 p.m. 328 Murphy Hall  
*Admission free*
- MAY 7**      **JAZZ ENSEMBLE I with GUEST SOLOIST:**  
**ADDISON FREI, PIANO**  
7:30 p.m. Lawrence Arts Center  
*Admission free*  
*Lied Center Ticket Office | 785-864-2787 | lied.ku.edu*

All events subject to change. Please visit **music.ku.edu** for the latest event information.



## *Swarthout Recital Hall* REOPENING CELEBRATION

The University of Kansas celebrated the beginning of an era with the first of eight opening concerts celebrating the renovation of Swarthout Recital Hall, the primary performance venue for the KU School of Music.

Read more about Swarthout Recital Hall [here](#).

See a video history of Donald Swarthout [here](#).

Below: On April 1, a special performance featuring more than 50 KU Alumni took place in the newly remodeled recital hall.

