

KU SCHOOL OF MUSIC

QUICKNOTES

Welcome to the April/May 2012 KU School of Music QuickNotes!

In this issue we've captured the latest and greatest news and events from the past couple of months, and it has been a busy time for our students and faculty! Our graduates recently walked down the hill, and we are so proud of them and excited for what's to come! We send a hearty ROCK CHALK to our music grads and wish everyone a wonderful summer. See you all in the fall!

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35 instrumental and vocal students will soon visit Eutin, Germany, for another summer of music exchange. The students, joined by Dean Robert Walzel and Professor David Neely, will be in Eutin from June 15-August 20, where they will perform two operas, *Nabucco* and *Die Blume von Hawaii*. KU graduate and operatic tenor Hugo Vera, a performer with the Met Opera, will also be singing in *Nabucco*. Students will participate in 20 performances, three concerts and approximately 40 rehearsals while in Eutin.

Laura Potter, a doctoral student in tuba performance studying with Professor Scott Watson, was recently awarded a Fulbright grant to study new and innovative compositions written for tuba solo and tuba in chamber settings in Scandinavia since 1970. Potter will conduct this research at the Royal Danish Academy of Music in Copenhagen where she will also take lessons from Danish tuba virtuoso, Jens Bjorn-Larsen. She plans to introduce some of these new compositions to American audiences at her doctoral recital upon her return.



Dr. Debra Hedden, associate professor of music education and music therapy, received a Fulbright Scholars Award for fall 2012. Dr. Hedden will travel to Lithuania to work as a curriculum consultant, teacher and researcher at the Lithuanian University for Educational Sciences.

Kristen Doering, BM piano performance '12, was invited to join the collaborative piano class of Margo Garrett at The Juilliard School. She was awarded a scholarship and will begin her studies as a master's student in the fall of 2012. She studied piano with Professor Jack Winerock and was a vocal collaborative repertoire student with Professor Julia Broxholm.

Olivia Betzen, MM 2011 in voice performance studying with Professor Julia Broxholm, finished her first year in the specialist program at the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre and Dance. In the fall she will sing the role of Donna Anna in Mozart's *Don Giovanni* with the University Of Michigan Opera Theatre.



Professor Joyce Castle's recording of Menotti's *The Medium* (Joyce Castle, Patrice Michaels, Lawrence Rapchak conducting the Chicago Opera Theatre) recently made Ruth Bader Ginsburg's list of favorite recordings, as referenced in an article published by *The New Yorker*.

On April 26 Professor Joyce Castle sang William Bolcom's *The Hawthorn Tree* in NYC with Lincoln Center Chamber Music Society at the Kaplan Penthouse. On April 28 she sang *Home on the Range* with Professor Paul Tucker's singers for the official University of Kansas Capital Campaign

kick-off at Allen Fieldhouse.



Jacob M. Dakon, assistant professor of music education and music therapy, gave a presentation in March entitled, "Bringing the Sounds of South Africa to the String Classroom: Strategies for Enhancing Your Alternative Styles Curriculum" at the American String Teachers National Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. Dakon also presented a research poster entitled "An Examination of Aural and Visual Practice Strategies Exhibited by Beginning-Level String Students When Memorizing Music Material" at the National Association for Music Education Biennial National Conference in St. Louis, MO, March 29, 2012.

School of Music Ph.D. graduates in choral/vocal pedagogy continue to be sought after for tenure-track faculty appointments at prominent institutions. Kathy K. Price (Ph.D. '10, Lecturer, '11) will be joining the voice faculty at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, N.J., where she will teach applied voice and head the Westminster Voice Laboratory.

Melissa C. Brunkan (Ph.D. '12) has joined the faculty at the School of Music, Louisiana State University. Jeremy N. Manternach (Ph.D. '12) has accepted a faculty appointment at the University of Arizona's School of Music. Mary L. Cohen (Ph.D. '07) remains at the University of Iowa, where she is Area Head of Music Education, while Marvin L. Latimer (Ph.D. '07) continues at the University of Alabama's School of Music.

The division of music theory and music composition recently handed out numerous student awards. The recipient of the 2013 Edward Mattila Award to the Outstanding Electro-Acoustical Composer at KU was Matt Walsh. The winner of the 2013 Anthony Cius Award for the Outstanding Student Composer at KU was Ryan Woodhouse. And the 2012-13 Mingle Scholarship Awards to undergraduate student composers were awarded to Alexa Clements and Sam Parilla.



Graduate students at the University of Kansas were recognized at the annual Graduate Student Awards Ceremony, April 24, in the Kansas Union Ballroom. Awards were presented by Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Jeffrey Vitter and Dean of Graduate Studies Thomas Heilke. The Carlin Graduate Teaching Assistant Award was awarded to Jeremy Manternach (pictured), music education and music therapy. Kelly Huff received a Graduate Student Research Competition Presentation award. Huff is a graduate student in musicology and music theory and composition.



Vocal pedagogy student Matt Schloneger's research was recently described with the headline "Research from University of Kansas Broadens Understanding of Voice Medicine and Research" in *Health and Medicine Week*, an international reference source published by Gale Cengage Learning.

Seven members of the School of Music's vocal/choral pedagogy research group had research papers accepted for podium presentations at the Voice Foundation Symposium to be held in Philadelphia in early June: Melissa Brunkan, Ph.D. candidate in choral pedagogy; Sheri Cook-Cunningham, Ph.D. student in choral pedagogy; Melissa Grady, Ph.D. student in choral pedagogy; Jeremy Manternach, Ph.D. student in choral pedagogy; Heather Nelson, Ph.D. student in vocal pedagogy; Matthew Schloneger, Ph.D. student in vocal pedagogy; and Dr. Jim Daugherty, associate professor of choral/vocal pedagogy. The annual Voice Foundation Symposium attracts physicians, voice scientists, and voice teachers from around the world.

The following students recently won awards from the Kansas City Musical Club Auditions: Connie Mak: Gladys Casford Memorial Scholarship (\$1000); Regina Tanujaya: Beatrice Liu Memorial Scholarship and Musical Club Scholarship (\$1000); David Chavannes: Musical Club Scholarship (\$500); David Ferneau: Marilyn Miller Scholarship for Brass (\$500).

Piano student Cong Cong Chai was accepted to the Piano Texas competition, and **Chaeyoung Park** took home first place from the Fite Family Piano Competition.



Steve Leisring, associate professor of trumpet, spent five weeks in China in March/April 2012 during his sabbatical. While there, he performed as guest principal trumpet with the HarBin, ShenZhen, and TianJin symphony orchestras.

Performances included Shostakovich's *5th Symphony* in the National Performing Arts Center in Beijing with the TianJin Symphony Orchestra, and an "All American Music Program" in ShenZhen, featuring Gershwin's *American in Paris*, as well as works by Copland, Bernstein, and Juilliard Composer, Eric Ewazen (who was also in ShenZhen for the

performance). Additionally, Leisring performed as soloist at an educational program at the National Performing Arts Center, and gave master classes, taught lessons, and conducted a rehearsal of the Wind Ensemble at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing. At the invitation of the TianJin Conservatory President Xu Changjun, Professor Leisring was joined by his wife, Dr. Peilien Wu-Leisring, and each gave master classes and performed a joint recital. In the last few years, Professor Leisring has performed in at least nine Chinese cities, and has taught at ten conservatories/universities in China and Taiwan. He is researching the needs of student and professional trumpet players in China to improve the overall quality of players that graduate from Chinese conservatories and is working on an instructional book for trumpet players in China to address these needs. *Photo caption: Professor Steve Leisring and Dr. Peilien Wu-Leisring with students and faculty of the TianJin Conservatory following their joint recital.*



Two University of Kansas music students recently took home top awards from the coveted *DownBeat* magazine's annual Student Music Awards. This marks the 35th year for the publication's notable contest. David von Kampen, a doctoral student studying for a music composition degree, won for his original composition/orchestrated work "Sneak Out" in the Graduate Division. Brian Scarborough, an undergraduate student pursuing a trombone performance degree, received the Outstanding Performance distinction in the Jazz Instrumental Soloist/Undergraduate Division. Both students study with Professor Dan Gailey, Director of Jazz Studies at KU. Under Gailey's direction, the program has received 12 DownBeat awards since 1992.

Evan Hunter, a senior studying music composition at the University of Kansas, recently won the George Lawner Prize for a new orchestral work by a KU student composer. Hunter won for his original work, *Overture Scintillante*. **Honorable Mention went to KU music composition and theory undergraduate student Nick Curry** for his work, *Landscape Paraphrase*. Each year the KU symphony orchestra reads new orchestral works submitted by KU composers for the George Lawner Prize, an annual adjudicated competition co-sponsored by the music theory and music composition division and the KU Symphony Orchestra.



KU School of Music musicians dominated at the 2012 Naftzger Young Artist Auditions, taking home each top prize. The auditions were March 23-24 at Friends University in Wichita. Top prize went to Crystal Lam (pictured), a doctoral student studying piano performance at KU. Lam won the coveted \$5,000 prize with performances of works by Rachmaninoff and Moré. Three other KU music students won \$2,000 prizes: Douglas Perry, a KU graduate student and marimba player, won the instrumental category; Etta Fung, a KU doctoral voice student (soprano), won the voice category; and Chi Kit Lam, a KU graduate piano student, won the piano category.

DMA student Leigh Miller has been appointed to the faculty at Washburn University as adjunct professor of bassoon. Miller studies with Professor Eric Stomberg.

Kelly Huff, doctoral student in musicology, won the humanities division of the Graduate Research Competition. She also was awarded a 2012 Summer Research Fellowship from the Hall Center to travel to Madrid and conduct research on documents pertaining to the last years of the composer Tomás Luis de Victoria.

Kevin Fullerton, doctoral student in musicology, will be presenting a paper at the annual conference of the Association of Recorded Sound Collections in Rochester, New York, on May 17.



Roberta Freund Schwartz, associate professor of musicology, will present at the annual conference of the Association of Recorded Sound Collections in Rochester. Her presentation is entitled "Uncle Sam and Aunt Beeb: American Roots Music on the BBC."



On April 29, at the Fourteenth International Conference of the Dutch-Flemish Society for Music Theory in Antwerp, Belgium, **Scott Murphy, associate professor of music theory**, presented an hour-long workshop entitled "Economies of Harmony and Voice Leading" on an approach to part-writing pedagogy that he has been developing for the last eight years through his teaching of sophomore theory.



Professor Stephanie Zelnick, clarinet, was recently selected to serve on the J. William Fulbright Commission Peer Review Committee, and recently returned from a week of performing and teaching in the Festcamera in Columbia.



And last but NOT least, congratulations to all of our **KU School of Music graduates!** We are so proud of you! ROCK CHALK!

SUMMER EVENTS-MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

June 6-July 13, 2012

KU Midwestern Music Academy
University of Kansas campus

July 8-27, 2012

International Institute for Young Musicians/IIYM
Summer Music Academy
University of Kansas campus

July 7, 9, 2012

IIYM Piano Competition
University of Kansas

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