What a season!

The SEK Symphony has been in full swing this season! Fall concerts included performances by PSU student winners of the annual Concerto & Aria competition. Aaron Metzger performed the stunning Arutunian Trumpet Concerto in September and Jonathan Gayman delivered Max Bruch’s Violin Concerto No. 1 beautifully. The concerts also featured the symphony in large-scale works such as Leonard Bernstein’s Candide Overture, Franz Schubert’s Unfinished Symphony, and not to mention Scheherazade of Rimsky-Korsakov.

The spring semester brings even more excitement to SEK Symphony audiences. This month the symphony performed Mendelssohn’s String Symphony No. 9 as well as Igor Stravinsky’s L’Histoire du Soldat. The latter piece featured a faculty ensemble comprised of Dr. Joanne Britz, clarinet; Dr. Russell Jones, bassoon; Robert Kehle, trombone; James Clanton, percussion; Sallie Lupis, double bass; Dr. Selim Giray, violin; and Nitai Pons-Perez, trumpet.

The Symphony will participate in the Centennial Celebration concert in April and the finale concert of the season will be at 7:30 p.m., April 23 at McCray Recital Hall. This concert includes two works by Beethoven: the Coriolan Overture and Symphony No. 8. The final Concerto & Aria competition winner, Debra Snodgrass, will perform Chopin’s Piano Concerto No. 2, Opus 21. Snodgrass (MM ‘07) is currently on faculty at MSSU.

More information regarding the SEK Symphony can be acquired by contacting the Department of Music, 620-235-4466, or www.seksymphony.org. Advance tickets are available through the PSU Ticket Office.

Centennial Reunion slated for April 13th

The year 2008 marks the 100th anniversary of the Department of Music at Pittsburg State University. Documents held in the Axe Library Special Collections indicate that while there is some inconsistency in documentation, for all intents and purposes the PSU Department of Music was officially recognized by the Kansas State Board of Regents as an official department in September 2008.

To celebrate this milestone, the faculty have undertaken the task of creating a Centennial Reunion Celebration. The schedule is as follows:

SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 2008

1-2 p.m. Open House—McCray Hall lobby. Historical exhibit on display. Tours of McCray Hall.

2-3 p.m. Faculty recitals and performances by past and present PSU composers.

3-4 p.m. Refreshments and reception. A great time to catch up with old friends!

4-5 p.m. Walter McCray Tribute Concert. Portions of the Messiah performed by the PSU Choirs, faculty and alumni soloists. SEK Symphony, and historical perspectives given by Randy Roberts, curator of the Axe Library Special Collections.

5:45-6:15 p.m. Pre-dinner music and reception—Pittsburg Memorial Auditorium.

6:15-7:15 p.m. Banquet dinner and collage of performances—Pittsburg Memorial Auditorium. Watch for ticket information at a later date.

7:30-9 p.m. Finale concert by the PSU Bands and Alumni Wind Ensemble, featuring alumni from the PSU Band Program.

We sincerely hope that many of you will choose to travel back to Pittsburg to celebrate this exciting occasion in the department. Good music, good food, and good fellowship will surely be the outcome. Watch for future mailings, announcements and Web site information to follow soon.
Greetings from the Chairperson

Happy New Year to you all! We are ready for the start of another rewarding semester here in the Department of Music and we sincerely hope that you will be able to join us for some of the outstanding concerts and events we have in store.

The past fall semester was again very successful in many ways. All areas of the program continue to excel and provide educationally sound experiences for the students involved.

Over the years there have been many changes to the department. However, this year we had the biggest change in the history of the department with the retirement of Linda Hoffman as administrative assistant after 38 years of service. Wow!

Our greatest news is the upcoming Centennial Reunion scheduled for April, where we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the PSU Department of Music. We truly hope many of you can come back to Pittsburg for this historic event.

Please keep in touch with us as we are always interested in the experiences of our alumni.

Dr. Craig Fuchs
Chairperson
Department of Music

Department adds new faculty

The Department of Music added two new faculty members this past fall semester. Kelly Samarzea was hired in the role of Assistant Professor of Music. Her teaching duties include Studio Voice and voice-related courses. Samarzea comes to us with eight years of university teaching experience, most recently at Ithaca College in Ithaca, NY. Her education includes a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Arkansas and a Master of Music degree from Indiana University. Samarzea is in the process of completing her doctorate, also from Indiana University.

The second new faculty member is Dr. Giuseppe Lupis, who has been hired on a one-year contract to replace Dr. Reena Berger who is on a leave of absence this academic year. Dr. Lupis is assigned the Piano Studio and piano-related courses, as well as overseeing the student accompanist program. Dr. Lupis comes to the department with a diploma in Piano Performance from the Niccolo' Piccinni State University Conservatory of Music in Bari, Italy, as well as a Doctorate in Musical Arts from the University of Georgia.

Department welcomes new administrative assistants

Jill Allen has been hired as the new full-time administrative assistant in the Department of Music. Jill comes to the department after working in the Office of Admissions for the past few years. A graduate of PSU, Jill is doing a great job of learning the many ins and outs of the department. Jill’s experience in the admissions process has provided new perspectives into some of our operations. Jill is married to Anthony and they have two children, Kennedy (5), and Arik (1).

In addition, the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences has graciously honored a request for an additional part-time clerical position to help cover the extensive workload during the academic year. Terri Blessent has been hired into this position. Originally from Winfield, Kan., Terri brings many valuable work experiences to the department. Terri will serve as a special projects secretary for such activities as music festivals, recruitment activities, and student records. Terri is married to David (BS ’87) and has two children, Ben (6), and Bethany (4).

Students selected to perform at KMEA

Nine PSU students have been selected to perform as members of the Kansas Intercollegiate Band at the Kansas Music Educators Association (KMEA) in February. They are Andrea Dinkel, Christa Weber, James Ryals, Ashley Curran, Aj Beu, Tiffany Shaffer, Ashley Hirt, Cheri Avery, and Lewis Hundle. These students will perform under the leadership of conductor Paula Crider, professor emeritus from the University of Texas-Austin.
FOCUS:

Hastings

SYMPHONY-Symphony, I see how a platform for learning room. The symphony members, faculty, and give the opportunity to play along side of performance faculty who experience. The students’ learning experience is heightened.

ING - to be up in front of a group performing with them. That includes learning the history of the score to rolling up my sleeves, with the music, and getting the symphony to sound their best. It’s the nuts and bolts of what I do.

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC - in our music department, I teach Music Theory in the best programs I’ve encountered. The leadership and expertise of Ross and Dr. David Harley help define excellence in the on, and history. So often prospective students and parents of music, only the performance. We are so lucky to have academics and performance. It takes the whole package to be successful.

Willa Hastings teaches Orchestra and Theory. She holds a degree of Kentucky and the University of Texas at Austin, with doctoral coursework. Contact Stella at shastings@ the SEK Symphony Web site at www.seksymphony.org.

New purchases enhance learning

The Department of Music is pleased to announce some major additions of equipment and technology. Through the use of a recently new funding source, the piano lab on the fourth floor that is used for class piano was entirely replaced with the latest and most up-to-date keyboards available on the market. The new Yamaha Clavinova electronic pianos have three pedals that function like those on a real piano. They also have built-in metronome systems.

Through an interesting acquisition from the College of Technology, the department has secured some acoustical treatment for the practice rooms on the third floor. This material is scheduled to be installed this spring and will provide treatment for three additional practice rooms.

Finally, funding has been allocated for the medianation of room 105. This room will be equipped with a laptop computer and ELMO and LCD projectors to be used for presentations and other teaching strategies.

ENDOWMENT PROVIDES VALUABLE FUNDING

The recent $600,000 endowment from an anonymous donor allows the department approximately $22,000 dividend per year to use for the tuning, maintenance, and upkeep of the pianos in inventory. Originally intended to provide funding for a full-time piano technician, the donor has graciously agreed to modify the gift to also provide for part-time professional accompanists. This generous gift will benefit the department for many years to come.

Faculty BRIEFS

ROBERT KEHLE, University Professor, has been selected to present a clinic/lecture at the International Trombone Festival in Salt Lake City, Utah, in May. The presentation is titled “Alto Trombone Literature with an emphasis on the Americas.”

DOUGLAS WHITTEM, Assistant Professor, sponsored several events in the PSU Tuba and Euphonium studio this fall. In October, the annual Octubafest performances were held. Mr. Whitten also organized and ran the annual TUBACHRISTMAS held at Northpark Mall in Joplin. More than 60 tuba and euphonium players attended. In addition, chamber groups from the studio performed at various events on campus, including the Art Department silent auction, the Arts & Sciences holiday party, and the Timmons Chapel concerts.

CRAIG FUCHS, Department Chairman & Associate Professor, served as an adjudicator for six marching band festivals this fall, including the Kentucky State High School Marching Band Championships held in Louisville, Ky. Dr. Fuchs also served as conductor/clinician for the Oklahoma Baptist University Honor Band event held in Shawnee, Okla., and has been selected to present a clinic in February at the annual KMEA Convention in Wichita, Kan. The presentation is titled “Strategies for Success at State Music Festival.”

MAYBELLE CIRCLE, BME ’66, MM ’71, was inducted into the Kansas Teachers Hall of Fame in Dodge City this summer. Circle is a music teacher in Marysville Elementary School. She was named a Master Teacher by the Marysville Education Association in 2005 in addition to many other honors during her career.

DEANNE BILES and her husband, Bob, BS ’77, have recently moved to Tacoma, Wash. Before moving, Deanna enjoyed performing with the Little Rock Wind Symphony.

KATHRYN PARKE, BM ’87, MM ’90, has recently completed another set of commissioned liner notes for a CD on the British Chantos label. This disc, comprised entirely of choral music of Josef Gabriel Rheinberger, features performances by the Phoenix Bach Choir and the Kansas City Chorale, under the direction of Charles Bruffy.

MICHAEL BRANDEL, BM/BME ’95, and his wife, Jayne, currently reside in Lawrence with their five children, Tabitha, Jessica, Donald, Annika, and Sophia. Michael is in his seventh year at McLouth schools as a K-12 vocal music teacher.

REBECCA PENNINGTON GRONDAHL, BGS ’97, and her husband welcomed a son, Finnegan Cian, to the family in January 2007. Currently a stay-at-home mother in Kansas City, Rebecca is working with other mothers to start a music group for kids to enjoy musical playtime.

DALLAS BAYLESS, MM ’88, is being published by TRN Music.

(continued on next pg.)
Alumni NOTES (continued)

His first piece is a grade 2 march entitled Zundelowitz March. Dallas is a band director in Burk Burnett, Texas. He lives with his wife, Jamie, and four children in Lawton, Okla.

JEREMIAH NICHOL, BME '02, and his wife, Annie, are proud parents of Madeline Claire, born January 6, 2008.

VALERIE ADAMS, BSE '03, is teaching 2nd grade at Creekmoor Elementary in Raymore, Mo. She and her husband, Cory, BSE '03, have a daughter, Chloe Renee, born on April 2, 2007.

DANICA (ROBBINS) GIBSON, BME '04, MM '06, and Shane Gibson, BS '07, were married June 30, 2007 in Pittsburg. Danica is in her second year as the band director at Pittsburg Middle School. Danica and Shane reside in Galena, Kan.

IN MEMORIAM
GRACE OSADCHUK, former Elementary Music Education Specialist. Grace was married to former orchestra conductor and cello instructor, Walter Osadchuk.

REBECCA ROUSE-MCDANIEL, BME '73, MM '74.

Calendar

2-19 SCMS Enrico Elsi piano* , 7:30 p.m.
2-21 Wind Ensemble Concert, 7:30 p.m. – Memorial Aud.
2-26 Pasamba (cello) & Kinsella (piano), faculty cello, 7:30 p.m.
3-4 SCMS Cihat Askin, violin*, 7:30 p.m.
3-7 PSU Jazz Festival, all day – Memorial Aud.
3-7 PSU Jazz Festival Concert with Jon Faddis & Chicago Jazz Ensemble*, 7:30 p.m. – Memorial Aud.
3-9 PSU Choirs, 3 p.m.
3-11 PSU Mu Alpha Concert, 7:30 p.m.
3-13 Chamber Winds, 7:30 p.m.
3-28 SCMS Piffero, a Renaissance band*, 7:30 p.m.
3-31 PSU Percussion Ensemble, 7:30 p.m.
4-2 Jonathan Waburton, guest bass trombonist, 7:30 p.m.
4-4 Opera Scenes, 7:30 p.m.
4-6 Opera Scenes, 3 p.m.
4-8 Chamber Orchestra Concert, 7:30 p.m.
4-10 Wind Ensemble Concert, 7:30 p.m. – Memorial Aud.
4-11 Public Library Chamber Concert, 3:30 p.m. – Pittsburg Public Library
4-13 Centennial Celebration (see front pg.)
4-14 Waddill Chamber Concert, 7:30 p.m.
4-14 Symphonic Band Concert, 7:30 p.m. – Student Center
4-23 Southeast Kansas Symphony*, 7:30 p.m.
4-27 PSU Choirs Oratorio Concert, 3 p.m. – 1st United Methodist Church
4-29 Jazz Ensemble Concert, 7:30 p.m. – Memorial Aud.
5-1 4-State Band Festival, all day – Memorial Aud.
5-1 4-State Band Festival concert, 7 p.m. – Memorial Aud.

Unless otherwise noted, all concerts are in PSU’s McCray Hall at Broadway & Lindburg Street.

*Ticket(s) required. They may be purchased at the door. All other concerts are free.

SCMS: Solo & Chamber Music Series; SEK: Southeast Kansas Symphony.

Call the PSU Music Department at 620-235-4466 for more information, possible schedule changes, and to confirm concert(s). A complete listing of performances, including senior recitals, visit www.pittstate.edu/music/calendar.html.

Please keep us informed
We welcome news of our alumni and friends at any time. Please use this form to report changes of address, changes of employment, or any other news you’d like to share.

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