Music Prep Program off to a great start

As announced in the last issue of Music Notes, the Department of Music has reformed the Music Preparatory School and the program enjoyed great success this spring. With the mantra "Learn to Teach, Teach to Learn," more than 30 area students were enrolled in the program ranging in age from three to 70. Weekly private lessons were given by the Music Prep School instructors, all of whom completed an intensive three-hour workshop in January to prepare them for the experience. This workshop was prepared and presented by faculty in the department who are committed to the success of the program.

In total, the numbers in the various areas were: Wind and Percussion-10; Keyboard-9; Voice-4; Guitar-3; Musikgarten-7. Of special note was the offering of "The Cycle of Seasons" through the Musikgarten program, delivered by Dr. Carol Deats, elementary music specialist in the department. This program will be expanded to two sessions this fall due to the interest level in the program.

Alumni perform at the World Harp Festival in France

DeMaris Gaines and DeMaris Celeste Herrera were invited to perform in France at the World Harp Festival last October. They were asked to honor Indian Way as last year the festival honored music of Africa. Both performers are graduates of PSU. Gaines received a master's degree with emphasis in performance (pipe organ) in 1969 and Herrera, her granddaughter, received her bachelor's degree in 2006. Gaines was a harp instructor at PSU for six years and Herrera served as principal harpist for six years with the Southeast Kansas Symphony and PSU Wind Ensemble. Gaines was also a music instructor at Northeastern Oklahoma College in Miami, Okla., for 30 years before retiring in 1998.

The following is an excerpt of an article from the French newspaper La Provence.

In Perfect Harmony—Two Indians in town
The one has eyes like two lakes reflecting the sky and hair like the wing of a raven. The other one has the color of honey. DeMaris Gaines and her granddaughter, baptized with the same first name, DeMaris Celeste Herrera are the first time on European soil and on stone pavement in Arles. It is not without emotion that the grandmother talks about her own great-grandmother in love with a French settler in 1860. A number of Indians are of mixed blood, in particular French—Cherokee like herself. Granddaughter, good looking young woman with the look of ambers has on her father's side Comanche origin mixed with Hispanic-American blood. Both come from the Northeast corner of Oklahoma where in 1850's nine Indian tribes were forcefully gathered by violence. DeMaris is the president of the present consortium of the Nine Tribes Educational Forum which is located in this territory.

DeMaris stated, "I have founded a Harp Department more than 30 years ago and since then have contributed to preserve both the music and language of our communities." She fell in love with harp and followed the teaching of the school of Salzalgo, a French musician who came over at the end of the 18th century. Her granddaughter, DeMaris Celeste, is now an accomplished young musician. She plays piano, harp, and Indian flute. "Thanks to our education and our sense of community, our future is Indian," declares her grandmother, "but our demands are wise. Thanks to our lawyers, engineers, etc., we are organized and can assist and contribute to our own infrastructure. We do not look to obtain back ancient territories; we only want that the treaties formed over a century are honored."
Greetings from the chairperson

Another great year in the Department of Music has come to end. What a wonderful time it is to see our graduates move into the next stage of their lives, and our current students finishing another year in the progress towards their degree. I know the faculty are having a great summer and many of them have exciting projects and performances ahead of them.

The highlights of this year include the completion of the McCray Hall renovation project, the Chamber Winds performance at KMEA, the collaboration of the PSU Choirs and the SEK Symphony with the performance of the Mendellsohn St. Paul oratorio, and another successful Jazz Festival.

I wish you all the most wonderful summer and fall. Please keep in touch with us, as we are always interested in the experiences of our alums.

Dr. Craig Fuchs
Chairperson
Department of Music

Competition winners scheduled to perform

The Southeast Kansas Symphony held its 2009 Concerto & Aria Competition in April of 2009. Judges were Bernard Nero, former principal trumpet of the Austin Symphony and Austin Lyric Opera; Brian Fronzaglia, percussion instructor from Missouri Southern State University; and Susan Laushman, Fine Arts coordinator for Pittsburgh USD 250. The winners selected to perform with the SEK Symphony in 2009-2010 are Salvador Prado performing the Concerto for Marimba and Orchestra by Ney Rosauro and Ramiro Miranda, performing Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 3, K. 216. Visit www.seksymphony.org for future concert listings!

Student accomplishments

Rebecca Cutler, violin, was accepted to Illinois State University as a graduate teaching assistant and as a member of the Faculty String Quartet. She will also be performing with Illinois Symphony Orchestra and with the Peoria Symphony Orchestra.

Aaron Metzger, trumpet, was selected to compete as a finalist at the Chicago Brass Festival. Mr. Metzger was also offered several assistantships for graduate study and has accepted an assistantship at Western Illinois University. As part of the assistantship, Mr. Metzger will be performing as a member of the Western Illinois Faculty Brass Quintet and was also hired as an adjunct faculty member at Culver-Stockton College.

Eren Tuncer, violin, was accepted to the Yale University School of Music with a full scholarship and as a graduate teaching assistant.

Ramiro Miranda won the SEK Concerto and Aria Competition and he will perform Mozart Concerto No. 3 “Strassburg” with the SEK Orchestra. Also, Ramiro successfully auditioned for The Ohio Light Opera and he will be performing there over the summer.
"Zin! Zin! Zin! a Violin"

In June, the SEK Symphony gave a performance designed to entertain and educate area children. Held in conjunction with the PSU Office of Alumni & Constituent Relations, the symphony performed an original composition by Dr. John Ross based on the award-winning book "Zin! Zin! Zin! a Violin." The performance also included a narration of the book and an instrument "petting zoo," in which musicians allowed children to see and listen to the instruments up close.

DR. REENA BERGER travelled to Ecuador for three weeks last June, first to present a ten-day piano master class series and a solo recital at the University of Cuenca, in Ecuador. From there she travelled to Quito, Ecuador, to perform solo and collaborative recitals at the International Music Festival at the Center of the World. In December, Dr. Berger travelled to Paraguay, to perform the Beethoven Fourth Piano Concerto with the Orquesta Sinfónica de la Ciudad de Asunción on the final concert of their 2008 subscription series. She also presented master classes for pianists during her time there. Throughout the year, Dr. Berger has presented several solo recitals in the Kansas City area, including the Carlson Center.

DR. JOANNE BRITZ conducted three clarinet clinics and held a performance this past year at Olathe Northwest High School in Olathe, Kan. The clinics were funded through an Olathe Public Schools arts grant. STELLA HASTINGS was invited to participate in the 2009 Leadership PSU class. She was involved in the ongoing development of leadership skills among the university's faculty and staff. She will serve as the music director for Pittsburg Community Theater's summer production of Guys and Dolls. DR. TODD HASTINGS performed as guest artist and adjudicator at the first annual Tulsa Community College Jazz Festival. Dr. Hastings performed with jazz guitar great Corey Christiansen and other faculty from the University of Louisville and the University of Arkansas, Fort Smith. He also served as adjudicator at Buffalo State College's first annual jazz festival in Buffalo, N.Y. During the spring of 2009, Dr. Hastings was extremely active performing with his big band, The Crowder Jazz Orchestra, and Area 51, a local rock band. A highlight of the semester was a performance at the historic Coleman Theater in Miami, Okla., and several educational concerts presented by the Crowder Orchestra.

DR. DAVID HURLEY's article "For Better or Worse? Handel's Revisions in Theodora" has recently appeared in Handel Studies: A Gedenkschrift for Howard Serwer (Pendragon Press).

BOB KEHLE will be performing in Europe as a member of the American Trombone Choir and at the International Trombone Festival in Aarhus, Denmark, as part of the Cramer Trombone Choir. The Cramer Choir is an integral part of the International Festivals. This ensemble of trombonists is comprised of outstanding college, university, and conservatory trombonists. The purpose of the group is to introduce significant compositions for trombone ensemble for the trombonists of the world to hear and to display some of the finest performers on the instrument who have also devoted themselves to the art of teaching. The conductor for the 2009 Cramer Choir is Michael Mulcahy, a member of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra trombone section and a world class performer/conductor. There will nine American trombonists in the Cramer Choir along with eight trombonists from various European countries.
Alumni NOTES

JOHN PINKSTON (BM, BME '73) (MA-UMKC Conservatory of Music '82) is the director of Research Support for the Department of Oral Biology at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Dentistry. He began singing with the Kansas City Symphony Chorus in the 2008-2009 season and was a soloist for the May 2009 Lord of the Rings Concert.

Calendar OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER
9-27  Southeast Kansas Symphony*, 3 p.m., Memorial Auditorium

OCTOBER
10-5  PSU Jazz Ensembles, 7:30 p.m., Overman Student Center
10-8  Trumpetfest
10-9  Trumpetfest
10-9  SCMS*, American Brass Quintet, 7:30 p.m.
10-13 PSU Bands, 7:30 p.m., location TBA
10-29 Chamber Orchestra, 7:30 p.m.

NOVEMBER
11-6  PSU Choirs, 7:30 p.m.
11-13 SCMS*, Columbia Piano Trio, 7:30 p.m.
11-19 PSU Bands, 7:30 p.m., Memorial Auditorium
11-22 Southeast Kansas Symphony*, 3 p.m., Memorial Auditorium

DECEMBER
12-3  PSU Jazz Ensembles, 7:30 p.m., Memorial Auditorium
12-4  Madrigal Dinner, 6 p.m., Overman Student Center
12-6  Community Christmas Concert, 3 p.m., Memorial Auditorium
12-9  Timmons Concert, 7:30 p.m., Timmons Chapel
12-11 Timmons Concert, 7:30 p.m., Timmons Chapel

Unless otherwise noted, all concerts are in PSU's McCray Hall at Broadway & Lindsey 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). For a complete listing of performances, including senior recitals, visit www.pittstate.edu/music.

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.

name

address

gender

phone

e-mail

degree/year

news

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