Music Preparatory School restarted

The Department of Music is proud to announce the reformation of the Music Preparatory School beginning this spring. It is hoped that this program will provide outstanding musical instruction for those individuals who wish to pursue training in this important art form. The program is designed for ages three through adult, although not all areas of instruction will be offered for all ages. Instruction in strings, voice, piano and winds/percussion is available for a very reasonable cost to the consumer.

Instructors are carefully selected and undergo a three-hour training session organized and implemented by music faculty members at PSU. Follow-up evaluations occur throughout the year to ensure that the musical training provided is of the highest quality.

This program will also provide valuable teaching experience for the majors in Department of Music. The motto for students who teach is "Teach to Learn-Learn to Teach." The department feels this is a win-win opportunity for the greater Pittsburg region and is excited to be able to offer the program.

Renovation project comes to a close

At the time of publication of this issue of Music Notes, the building renovation project is in its final stages of completion. After what has been quite an amazing process, the building now has central heating and air, all new ceilings and lighting fixtures, all new windows and doors, as well as much needed tuck pointing and masonry work to alleviate the moisture problems that have occurred over the years.

Gone are the window units and radiators. Each space now has its own self-contained heat pump and fresh air system. The range of temperature can be controlled within each space in a range of four to six degrees, providing each faculty member with the ability to control the comfort level in their studio spaces. After a temporary move to Hartman Hall and Whitesitt Hall, all faculty and classes are now back in the building and some normalcy has been restored. A challenging project to say the least, but well worth the improvements provided to this historical building on campus.

Marching band takes the field in new uniforms

The Pride of the Plains Marching Band proudly took the field for the 2008 football season opener on September 13 in their new Fruhauf Uniforms. Despite a massive rainstorm, the uniform's unveiling was a tremendous success and the uniforms looked terrific.

Fruhauf Uniforms of Wichita, Kan. designed the new uniform to have a contemporary look while still being a traditional band uniform that is distinctive to Pitt State. Made of high quality polyester blend materials, the uniform is comfortable to wear in warmer temperatures and, when combined with a new quilted all-weather parka, the uniform comfortably allows the marching band to act as ambassadors of the university regardless of the weather.
GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

The spring semester is off to a great start and we have many exciting ventures ahead of us. In February alone, the Chamber Winds performing at the KMEA Convention in February, the opera program performed The Pirates of Penzance and the Southeast Kansas Symphony performed an all Beethoven program. The Jazz Program will host the annual PSU Jazz Festival in March, the Choral Program will present Mendelssohn's St. Paul, Op. 36 in May, and we have multiple guest performers and master classes on the calendar for the piano students. Indeed, a busy schedule of great music making.

The past fall semester was again very successful in many ways. The $2.2 million renovation of McCray Hall is nearing completion and the aesthetic of the building is quite improved, both internally and externally. The central heating and air are working wonderfully and the new windows really clean up the exterior of the facility.

We sincerely hope you will have the opportunity to attend many of our outstanding performances. Here is for a safe and prosperous new year.

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

Dr. Craig Fuchs
Chairperson
Department of Music

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Annual Jazz Festival to feature saxophonist Eric Marienthal

The 35th Annual PSU Jazz Festival is hitting the stage on March 6. The festival traditionally hosts over 60 high school, middle school and community college jazz groups that perform throughout the day at McCray Hall, Overman Student Center and downtown at Memorial Auditorium. The evening concert will feature saxophonist Eric Marienthal. Marienthal is a Los Angeles artist that has performed with many groups, most notably the current Gordon Goodwin Big Phat Band and formerly with Chick Corea's Elektric Band. Tickets are available at the PSU Ticket Office, 620-235-4796.

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Adjunct faculty fill important role

As with many university programs, the Department of Music relies on the outstanding work of adjunct faculty to fill the need for additional instructional staffing beyond the full-time faculty members in place. The department is very fortunate to have a cadre of qualified and dedicated instructors to fill this need.

Dr. James Hall, flute, has been with the department for more than seven years now. Charlie Beard (BM '72), provides studio instruction in the woodwind area each fall. Lisa Gerstenkorn (BME '04, MM '05) covers the additional studio load in the voice area. Two new adjuncts to our ranks this spring include Sallie Lupis in the string bass studio and Matthew Herren in the cello area. In addition, James Clanton, percussion, who has been an adjunct for the past five years, was converted to a full-time temporary position this past fall.

These individuals bring tremendous performance and teaching experience with them and provide quality instruction for the students in their areas. Please visit www.pittstate.edu/music to learn more about our faculty and staff.

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FACULTY BRIEFS

DR. REENA BERGER was in Paraguay from Nov. 24 to Dec. 6, to perform the Fourth Piano Concerto by Ludwig Van Beethoven with the Orquesta Sinfónica de la Ciudad de Asunción. During her stay in Paraguay, Dr. Berger also presented master classes for pianists of various musical conservatories in Asuncion.

DR. JOANNE BRITZ is presenting a series of three monthly clinics (Jan-March 2009) on clarinet fundamentals for the Olathe Northwest band program culminating in a performance of Henri Rabaud's Solo se Concours as guest clarinet soloist with their band on March 12.

JAMES CLANTON, instructor of percussion, is teaching World Music in Paraguay this summer through the PSU in Paraguay program. While there, Clanton will appear as a soloist with the National Symphony Orchestra. He also presented a lecture on his original research about the history and development of the vibraphone last April at DePauw University. In the spring of 2009, he will present the lecture at several other local universities, including the University of Missouri and Kansas State University. He also attended the 9th annual Percussive Society International Conference this past year in Australia.

DR. CAROL DEARLE will teach "Cycle of Fifths" this summer at the Musikgarten program for preschool in the form of newly formed Music at the Springfield School and played with the Springfield Symphony.
Chamber Winds to perform at KMEA

The PSU Chamber Winds, led by Dr. Craig Fuchs, have been invited to perform at the 2009 KMEA Convention at 8:55 a.m. on Saturday, February 28, at the Century II Concert Hall in Wichita, Kan. Selected through an audition process, this marks the second time in three years that the group has appeared at this convention. The ensemble is a highly select group of 30 wind players plus percussion and employs a one-on-a-part philosophy, challenging the players to the highest personal performance level possible. The program includes Beyond by Matura Hokoyama, Song for Lyndsay by Andrew Boysen, Jr., A Short Symphony-Give Us this Day by David Maslanka, and Gunsuckers March by Percy Grainger. This promises to be an outstanding performance.

Strings to perform along with PSU choirs

The string area of the Department of Music is pleased to announce three collaborative performances this spring. First, the PSU Chamber Orchestra accompanied the PSU Opera Theater in the February 13 and 15 performances of Gilbert & Sullivan’s The Pirates of Penzance. Also in February, the Southeast Kansas Symphony was joined by guest artists in residence, the Matisse Trio, for a performance of Beethoven’s “Triple Concerto.” The guest artists presented master classes on Feb. 19 along with Bruce Williams, principal viola with the Austin Symphony.

In honor of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Felix Mendelssohn, the PSU choirs, joined by community singers, soloists, and the Southeast Kansas Symphony, will present a performance of his oratorio St. Paul, Op. 36. The concert will take place at 3 p.m. on Sunday, May 3, at First United Methodist Church in Pittsburg.

Other concert and event dates can be obtained at www.seksymphony.org.

SELIM GIRAY and JOHN C. ROSS published a critical performance edition of Adnan Saygun’s Op. 44 Violin Concerto for an international publishing house, Peermusic Classical, Hamburg. Their edition has already received critical acclaim, including a glowing article (Andante Music Magazine, 01/09).

DR. DAVID HURLEY was invited to write a review of Winton Dean’s new book on Handel’s operas for the Journal of the American Musicological Society (JAMS), the leading musicology periodical in the U.S.

DR. RUSSELL JONES published an article in December 2008 in the NBA Journal entitled “A Mystery Unraveled.” The article was about the last few years in the life of Ed Volz, PSU band director (1970-72) who also served as the third NBA president following Bill Revelli and John Paynter. Dr. Jones also recently performed bassoon in the Ft. Smith Symphony in a performance of “Ein Heldenleben.”

ROBERT KEHLE has been invited to join the Cramer Trombone Choir for their performance at the International Trombone Festival this June to be held in Denmark. This marks the 6th time he has performed at the festival. In 2008 he gave a lecture presentation on alto trombone literature when the ITF was held in Salt Lake City, Utah.

DR. SUSAN MARCHANT appeared as one of three guest organists on the 2008-2009 Bales Artist Series at the University of Kansas. The residency, which took place on November 21-22, included an organ recital, lecture/demonstration, and master class in Bales Recital Hall.
ROBYN (MOSS) CHAFFIN (BME '01) married JOHN CHAFFIN on August 16, 2008 in Benton, Kan.

IN MEMORIAM
BURTON B. PARKER

Calendar OF EVENTS

MARCH
3-1 Guest Recital-Keith Lemmons, clarinet, 3 p.m.
3-2 PSU Symphonic Band Concert, 7:30 p.m.,
Overman Student Center
3-6 PSU Jazz Festival, Memorial Auditorium
3-7 Celtic Music Demo
3-8 PSU Choir Concert, 3 p.m.
3-23 Percussion Ensemble, 7:30 p.m.
3-27 SCMS Concert*--Capitol Sax Quartet, 7:30 p.m.

APRIL
4-7 PSU Chamber Orchestra Concert, 7:30 p.m.
4-9 PSU Band Concert, 7:30 p.m., Memorial
Auditorium
4-24 SCMS Concert*--David Requiro, cello, 7:30 p.m.
4-27 PSU Symphonic Band Concert, 7:30 p.m.,
Overman Student Center
4-28 PSU Jazz Concert, 7:30 p.m., Memorial
Auditorium

MAY
5-3 PSU Choirs Oratorio Performance, 3 p.m.,
First United Methodist Church
5-7 PSU Four State Honor Band Festival, 7 p.m.,
Memorial Auditorium

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). 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.

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address____________________
phone____________________
e-mail____________________
degree/year____________________
news____________________

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