

school of music

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# the perfect pitch



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Dear Friends,

In 2013, the School of Music will celebrate its 100th anniversary. The faculty is beginning to plan how we will celebrate this important milestone. We will mark the occasion in meaningful ways that reflect on our past and imagine our future.

Music schools are very good at guarding the past; we tend to teach musical subjects the way we learned them as students. This helps perpetuate the many fine traditions that define the art of music. But in this rapidly changing world, with its accelerating use of technology and rapidly expanding population, we are challenged to re-imagine the future roles of music careers in American life.

We don't know what this vortex of change will mean for music students today. What will they do to make a living in the musical arts in 2040? What skills will be important for them to learn today in order to have a creative life over the next four decades? While these are difficult questions, they are not necessarily specific to music—it is always hard to predict the future—even five years, let alone 20 or 30 years.

It is our responsibility as educators to forecast the musical cosmology and the accompanying skills needed for future teachers, artists, and therapists. A vital component to the musical arts is creative ability, and this may be the single most important aspect today in any young person's education. Because of this, we are quite confident that WMU music students will have a competitive edge in this brave new world.

Creativity has been a mystery for hundreds of years, and our modern culture and educational system have done all they can to stamp creativity out of people. We may not be able to predict our future or even train students for exactly what they'll need in 40 years, but as educators we can create opportunities for our students to exercise inventiveness and resourcefulness as a product of their creative imaginations.

When you read this latest edition of *The Perfect Pitch*, you will notice the rich panoply of musical activities. We embrace the traditions that are on loan to us from previous generations of faculty, staff, and students, and we willingly risk failure for the sake of making new discoveries. Both are important features to a WMU School of Music education, and we are proud to share these with you.

Stay tuned for the future. During our 100th anniversary and beyond, we look forward to celebrating our many forms of creativity.

Sincerely,

David Colson, Director

# WHAT'S NEW?

## THE RON NELSON COMPOSITION AWARD FOR RESTFUL MUSIC

**In September 2009, Ray and Lori Janevicius contacted School of Music Director David Colson with the idea of establishing a student composition award in honor of their good friend Ron Nelson. Ray Janevicius is a surgeon in Elmhurst, Ill., a Chicago suburb where his practice focuses on reconstructive surgery with an emphasis in hand surgery (trauma, reconstruction). His fascination with hand anatomy, function, and surgery is a result of his immersion in piano over the years. Music continues to play a significant role in his life as well as that of his wife and two children.**

Nelson has gained wide recognition as a composer and conductor of choral, band, and orchestral works. In 1993, his *Passacaglia (Homage on B-A-C-H)* made history by winning the "triple crown" of major wind band composition prizes. In all, more than 90 works are published primarily by Boosey & Hawkes, Carl Fischer, and Ludwig Music.

Nelson has had a long-standing, special relationship with the School of Music, having composed *Fanfare for a Celebration* for the opening of the Dalton Center in 1982 and being the guest composer for the 50th annual Southwestern Michigan Vocal Festival in 1988. He was also the guest composer and conductor for the 10th Spring Conference on Wind and Percussion Music in 1978. His wife, Michele Miller, is no stranger to WMU. She is an alumna of the music program, was a clarinetist in the Ron Nelson All-Star Band in 1978, and was a member of the student staff for SEMINAR 83 and 84, the School of Music's summer music camp.



As a senior in high school, Janevicius made All-State Chorus, and in January of 1971, the All-State Chorus, the All-State Band, and the All-State Orchestra met, rehearsed, and performed during a long weekend. It was there that he first heard Nelson's *Sarabande: For Katharine in April*. Janevicius was immediately mesmerized with the sublime work.

Years later, Janevicius wrote Nelson an e-mail, explaining his fascination with the *Sarabande* and with his music. Nelson was not only kind enough to respond, but also answered some of Janevicius' questions.

"Wow! When can you ever have a conversation about a musical work with the composer? I learned about him winning the Eastman School of Music Benjamin Award for the piece. I learned the origin of the title of the work. I learned who 'Katharine' was. I learned his favorite recording of it was by Leonard Slatkin. I learned that it was used as background music during the coverage of the

Kennedy assassination and funeral," says Janevicius. The *Sarabande* continues to be a staple of his listening repertoire, and in fact, is on his play-list for music he listens to while working in the operating room.

So on June 14, 2003, in the lobby of the Biltmore Hotel in Phoenix, Arizona, Janevicius met Nelson. "It was like meeting God! (I stole that line from him, as that's how he said he felt when he met Ralph Vaughn Williams in the 1950s, and it's exactly how I felt meeting Ron that day.) After all, how often are you able to meet and talk with a composer of a beloved work? It was quite the experience, and we spent a delightful time together. I felt I had come full circle from first experiencing his work as a high school student in 1971, to finally meeting the composer of this wonderful work."

In December, the School of Music along with Ray and Lori Janevicius, created "The Ron Nelson Composition Award For Restful Music" which was given to Nelson on his 80th birthday.

This award will be presented annually to a composition student at Western Michigan University for the creation of a new work that fosters restfulness in the listener. The composer chosen for this honor must be a currently enrolled music student studying composition at WMU at the time of application. The award will be a \$1,000 commission for the creation of a new work for large ensemble (rotating annually between symphonic band, chorus, and orchestra). The composition should be of pastoral quality and should epitomize the quiet and tranquil in music. The premiere performance will be given by the corresponding university ensemble on one of its regular concert programs.

The Janeviciuses are thrilled to honor Nelson and his contributions to music. Nelson's excitement for this award is as follows: "This is very important to me personally. I'm sure that's quite evident, but it's also very important professionally and historically. I'm so pleased that the faculty at WMU will be instrumental in effecting this project."



**RON & MICHELE NELSON**

RON'S 80TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

December 2009



## Jazz Masters at Miller

Miller Auditorium and the School of Music will continue to build on their many partnerships by co-producing a new event. On Thursday, Nov. 11, 2010 at 8 p.m., Miller Auditorium will present "Jazz Masters at Miller" featuring guest artist and Grammy Award winning jazz vocalist Kurt Elling. Elling will collaborate with the WMU School of Music Jazz Orchestra directed by Dr. Scott Cowan.

One of the few male jazz singers from the baby boom generation, Elling began to develop his idiosyncratic scat style in the smaller clubs of Chicago (primarily at the Green Mill, sharing the stage with legends Von Freeman and Ed Peterson) and then throughout the Midwest. After sending a demo to Blue Note, Elling signed to the label and issued *Close Your Eyes* in 1995. His ultra-hip persona prevailed on 1996's *Messenger*, which was tougher and leaner than its predecessor, and along with hard touring and a taste for the theatrical and outrageous, Elling won over not only critics but jazz audiences from coast to coast. Elling broadened his traditional base with a collection of standard ballads and love songs titled *This Time It's Love*.

The album won numerous awards in magazines and was nominated for a Grammy. Endless touring and guest appearances resulted in Blue Note issuing *Live in Chicago* from three sets at the Green Mill, and 2001 resulted in *Flirting with Twilight*, his most ambitious and satisfying recording—he opened the disc by singing a Charlie Haden bass solo. *Man in the Air* and *Nightmoves* followed in 2003 and 2007, respectively. In 2009, as part of Lincoln Center's American Songbook Series of concerts, Elling released the live album *Dedicated to You*, which won a Grammy Award for Best Vocal Jazz Album.

In addition to Elling, the University Jazz Orchestra, and the WMU Jazz Octet, the concert will feature Gold Company, WMU's world-renowned vocal jazz ensemble.

The Jazz Studies Program at WMU has gained international recognition for its innovative approach to jazz education. The program attracts undergraduate and graduate students from throughout the United States and world. Graduates of the program are among today's leaders in jazz and pop performance, Broadway, recording studio production, writing, arranging, singing, and music education.

## School of Music Plans Scholarship Event

The School of Music will present "WMU Music Showcase Extravaganza" on Sunday, Oct. 3, 2010 at 3 p.m. in Miller Auditorium. This showcase of talent for the WMU music program is a benefit for student scholarships. In recent years, tuition hikes along with the downward pressure on endowments have made it increasingly difficult for music students to meet the cost of their education.

The Extravaganza is a most effective vehicle for showcasing the polished ensemble playing and gifted individual talents of the students in the School of Music. The concert will feature students from all areas of the school. It will be a breath-taking study in juxtaposition—large ensembles give way to soloists, 17th-century music is followed by jazz, a chamber piece precedes a full choir. The concert will consist of two fast-moving sections, each performed without breaks for applause. Attending the Extravaganza will leave you exhilarated.

**Reserved seating \$15, \$12 for seniors and \$5 for students with student ID.**

## Fontana Chamber Arts Initiates Fellowship Program With WMU School Of Music

The Fontana Chamber Arts, Southwest Michigan's premier chamber music presenter, will pilot an ensemble in-residence fellowship with the WMU School of Music's student new music ensemble, Birds on a Wire. Ensemble members will heighten their performance skills on the stage as well as in outreach activities in the community. In addition, the fellows will work in the Fontana office where they will be exposed to the operations of a fully professional arts organization. And they will assist with Fontana performances to gain an understanding of the many details associated with event production.

"More than ever, the music business needs their talents, both at and away from their instruments, and this new initiative with the WMU School of Music will help prepare them to forge their own paths in music," says Ab Sengupta, Artistic Director and CEO of the Fontana Chamber Arts.

School of Music Director David Colson sees this as an enriching opportunity for music students. "Students will observe and absorb real world experiences that can't be learned in the classroom. They will also have access to world-class artists who perform as part of the Fontana Chamber Arts series."

Birds on a Wire will present a Fontana performance scheduled for Friday, March 18, 2011 at 8 p.m. at the Wellspring Theatre in the Epic Center, downtown Kalamazoo.

## Competition For High School Pianists To Mark Chopin Anniversary

The School of Music will hold a performance competition to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Frédéric Chopin.

The piano competition is open to all high school students in Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, and Ohio. Competition participants will be invited to perform works of Chopin and a compulsory work before a distinguished panel of judges. Finalists of the competition will be selected to perform on a recital concert at the end

of the day. Three cash prizes will be awarded with top honors receiving a \$1,000 prize. Detailed information and an application form can be found at [www.wmuchopincompetition.com](http://www.wmuchopincompetition.com) or by contacting Lori Sims, Professor of Piano at [lorisimswmu@gmail.com](mailto:lorisimswmu@gmail.com).

Chopin is considered the quintessential piano composer, not only because he composed almost exclusively for piano but also because his music is so perfectly idiomatic to the piano. Though Chopin lived most of his life in Paris, he retained a deep reverence for his homeland, Poland, and as such, attributes of Polish folk music penetrate most all of his works.

The WMU Chopin Piano Competition takes place on Saturday, Nov. 6, 2010 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the Dalton Center on the Western Michigan University campus.

### Chamber Music Festival: Spotlight on "Music Between the Wars"

This new concert presentation features School of Music students in a variety of chamber music settings. From morning to evening for an entire day, this chamber music festival will include music written by composers between the two world wars.

Programs may include jazz to classical to American popular music and much more.

Join us on Saturday, April 2, 2011 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. in the Dalton Center Recital Hall. All concerts are free admission.





## Gold Company Sextet in France

Last summer, members of Western Michigan University's Gold Company Sextet performed as the only group from the United States at a prestigious choral festival in France.

Sextet members performed at Polyfolia International Festival D'ete, where they also were the only vocal jazz ensemble invited. The sextet had performed at the festival once before, in 2004, during the festival's inaugural year. The group did four shows July 10-14, 2009.

Members of the sextet include: Christy Ledden, a graduate student in conducting from Cincinnati; Lisa Roth, a graduate student in jazz studies from Chicago; Katie Seiler, a senior jazz studies major from Durham, N.H.; Brian Hemstock, a senior jazz studies major from Sparta, Wis.; Mark Jackson, a graduate student in jazz studies from Grand Rapids, Mich.; and Martez L. Rucker, a graduate student in jazz studies from Chicago.

Members of the sextet's backup band also performed at the festival. Sextet band members are: Hugh Little, a senior from Grand Rapids, Mich., piano; Sam Weber, a junior from Mattawan, Mich., bass; Evan Hyde, a junior from Grand Rapids, drums; George Merkel, a junior from Chelsea, Mich., guitar; Randy Gist, a senior from Grand Rapids, saxophone; and Keith Roelfsema, a junior from Grand Rapids, audio technician.

"We are extremely honored to have been the only ensemble from the USA and the only vocal jazz ensemble in the world invited to perform," says Dr. Steve Zegree, the WMU Bobby McFerrin Professor of Jazz and Gold Company director. "Our students represented Western Michigan University and the School of Music with excellence and professionalism. They received standing ovations and encores at all of their performances and were treated like rock stars, signing autographs wherever they went."

## Western Brass Quintet in Russia

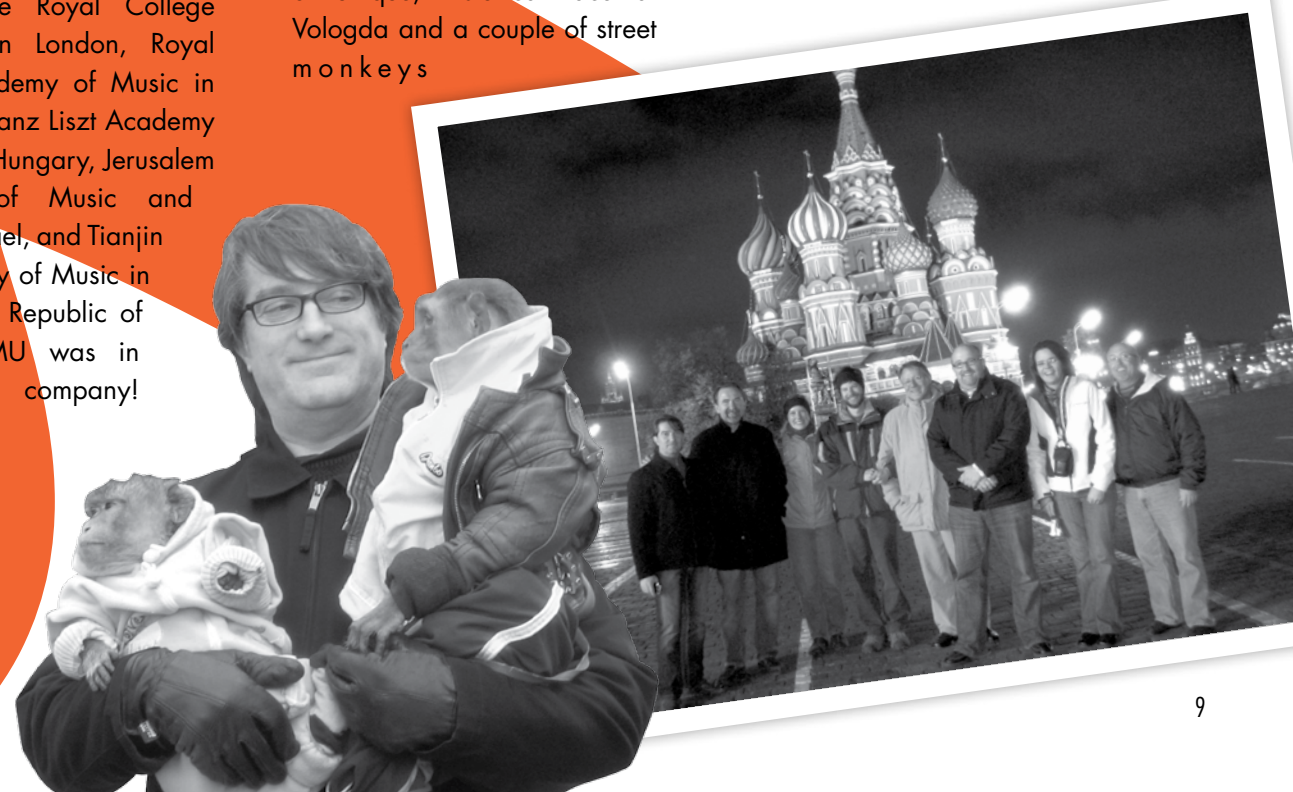
In October 2009 the Western Brass Quintet, along with viola professor Igor Fedotov and Director David Colson, performed and presented master classes in four Russian cities: St. Petersburg, Moscow, Cherepovets, and Vologda. The tour was scheduled around a prestigious invitation to participate in the "International Week of Conservatories" Festival/Conference at the St. Petersburg Conservatory. Of the 20 major national conservatories and music schools that were invited to participate in the Festival, only four were from the United States: Juilliard School of Music in New York City, Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, University of Southern California in Los Angeles, and Western Michigan University. Other international conservatories that participated included the Royal College of Music in London, Royal Danish Academy of Music in Denmark, Franz Liszt Academy of Music in Hungary, Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance in Israel, and Tianjin Conservatory of Music in the People's Republic of China. WMU was in very good company!

All the concerts were well attended and well received. After the performance in St. Petersburg the group was hosted to a reception at the U. S. consulate in St. Petersburg, which was sponsored by the U. S. Embassy in Russia.

Highlights of the trip include eating bear and boar meat, navigating the extremely busy Moscow subway system with nine people (they only got separated from each other once when they couldn't all get on the same train in time), and touring the Moscow and St. Petersburg Conservatories, where most of the major Russian composers have trained and worked. They took two overnight trains during the trip, and the cars were so small that the tuba had to be taken out of the case and the case had to be completely open to fit through the doorway of the railcar! They performed at and toured a beautiful museum of unique, historical lace at Vologda and a couple of street monkeys

attached themselves to Scott Thornburg (pictured below) while they were in Moscow. Just after their performance in Cherepovets they were treated to a traditional Russian ballet and modern dance performance at the V. Vereschagin Regional College of Arts and Crafts.

The Western Brass Quintet performed a souvenir concert in Kalamazoo just after returning from Russia, and the performance included several pieces performed by the group while in Russia. David Colson wrote a new piece for the WBQ, *A Flying Circus*, which was premiered in Russia to great acclaim, and the ensemble also performed pieces by C. Curtis-Smith and Richard Adams while on tour. The tour was supported by the School of Music, College of Fine Arts Instructional Development Grant, and International Education Faculty Development Fund.



# SCHOOL OF MUSIC ABROAD

## Adam Lenz travels to Armenia

In June 2009 composition major Adam Lenz had the opportunity to travel to Yerevan, Armenia to conduct research at the Aram Khachaturian House-Museum and the Komitas Conservatory of Music. His work there was supported with funding from the College of Fine Arts and the School of Music. While

His orchestral works have found an important place in the western repertoire, but his chamber music is surprisingly underrepresented.

Upon returning to WMU, Lenz experienced a warm response to the music of Khachaturian and the other Armenian composers whose music he had the opportunity to share. Lenz has helped to organize a new student piano trio, Muzika Russe, that debuted with a concert of Armenian music, and this spring, his Lee Honors College thesis concert, titled

"Aram Khachaturian: Beyond the Sabre Dance," brought student and faculty musicians together to perform rare and unrecorded chamber works by Khachaturian. Lenz has also planned several concerts for the 2010-11 school year that will feature Armenian composers.

## Western Wind Quintet in Belgium

In October, the Western Wind Quintet reunited with recently retired flutist Christine Smith to do a number of performances in Brussels, Belgium. Organized by Bradley Wong and hosted by his former student Carolyn Stock-Chapin (BM'96), the quintet did a residency at the International



School of Brussels, where Stock-Chapin is Director of Bands. In addition to a formal recital, the quintet did classes and demonstration concerts for band and orchestra students, grades 5-12; coached a string quartet; met with International Baccalaureate classes; played for pre-school classes; and conducted the bands (including Wong conducting Queen's *Bohemian Rhapsody*!). The quintet also performed at the Royal Conservatory of Brussels and on the concert series of the Musical Instruments Museum.

## Professor Zegree in Sweden

Steve Zegree's recent guest conducting experiences in Sweden are further evidence of the international exposure and stature of our faculty and the School of Music. The occasion was the 20th Anniversary of the founding of the World Youth Choir, and former members

were invited back to sing and celebrate. There were just under 200 singers from 45 countries and 6 continents. Four guest conductors were invited to lead the ensemble from four continents: Nabuaki Tanaka (Japan), Maria Guinand (Venezuela), Sidumo Jacobs (South Africa), and Zegree. In addition, Zegree was asked to write an arrangement on "Auld Lang Syne," which he rehearsed and then conducted the world premiere with the choir in Sweden.

Participating in the ensemble were several current and former WMU students including Kathleen O'Donnell and Katie Rowher (both Medallion Scholars), plus Nathaniel Adams, Derek Fawcett, Torian Johnson, David Gailey, and Patrick Laslie. Zegree was allowed to bring an instrumental jazz trio with him to accompany the vocal ensemble. He selected some of the finest WMU players whom he knew would not only represent the Jazz Studies Program musically, but also personally and professionally. "Ryan Andrews, David Izard, and Zach Lane exceeded my expectations on all levels. Their music-making was on the highest level and impressed their international audiences at every performance they gave. I was impressed as well...and truly proud," says Zegree.

## Eric Bowman wins First Prize at 2009 International Trombone Festival in Denmark

A student in the Western Michigan University School of Music has been named the top student jazz trombonist at a recent international competition in Denmark. Eric Bowman, a junior from Portage, Mich., competed in the Carl Fontana Jazz Trombone Competition during the International Trombone Festival June 25-28 in Aarhus, Denmark. He was one of three finalists invited to compete, with other students coming from the likes of the Berklee College of Music.

The students competed in front of three internationally recognized judges—two from London and one from New York—with Bowman taking top honors and winning a new Edwards jazz tenor trombone donated by Edwards Musical Instruments, Inc. Bowman's victory is even more remarkable because he competed after missing his only rehearsal with a provided rhythm section. A flight delay robbed him of the extra day of practice his competitors enjoyed.

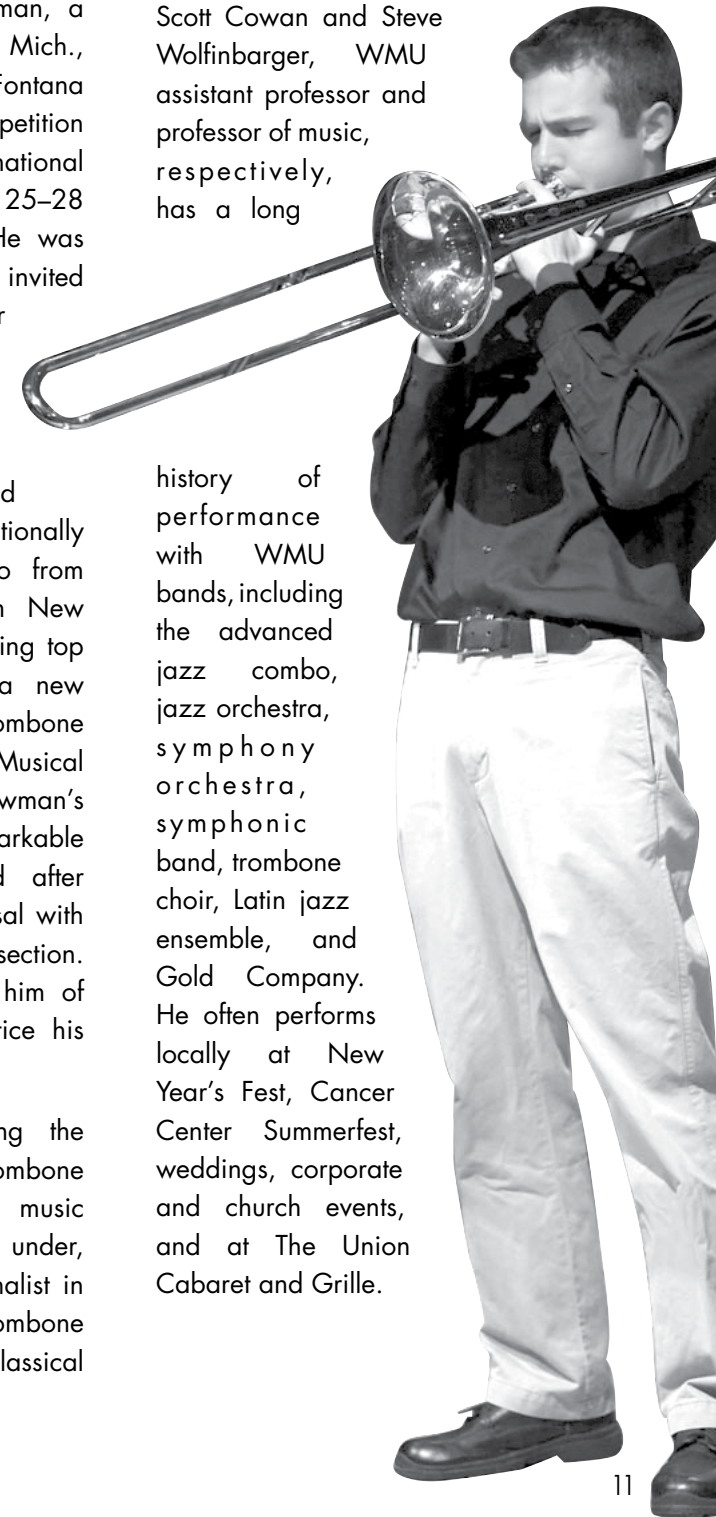
In addition to winning the Carl Fontana Jazz Trombone Competition for jazz music students ages 22 and under, Bowman also was a finalist in the Robert Marsteller Trombone Competition, a classical

trombone competition for the same age group.

Both the Fontana and Marsteller competitions are among several held as part of the International Trombone Association's annual festival.

Bowman, a student of Drs. Scott Cowan and Steve Wolfenbarger, WMU assistant professor and professor of music, respectively, has a long

history of performance with WMU bands, including the advanced jazz combo, jazz orchestra, symphony orchestra, symphonic band, trombone choir, Latin jazz ensemble, and Gold Company. He often performs locally at New Year's Fest, Cancer Center Summerfest, weddings, corporate and church events, and at The Union Cabaret and Grille.



in Armenia, Lenz worked with manuscripts and personal items from the Khachaturian estate to gain a better understanding of Khachaturian's compositional perspective and his legacy. Lenz also met with Armenian composers and musicians to observe the current musical atmosphere in Yerevan.

Khachaturian was, along with Shostakovich and Prokofiev, one of the most important composers of the Soviet period, and he remains the most widely recognized Armenian composer.

# SCHOOL OF MUSIC ABROAD

## Professor Sims in South Africa

Lori Sims was invited to be a guest artist at the International Piano Symposium in Stellenbosch, South Africa. The Symposium is populated with numerous international artists in addition to the many teachers of the country bringing their best students. It is a week of around-the-clock lessons, lectures, and evening concerts. The other guest artists included a professor from the Jerusalem Conservatory of Music and a duo-piano team from the Hochschule für Musik und Theater in Hannover, Germany. The most exciting outcome of the trip, other than enjoying days of warm, beautiful weather and fabulous wine, is that Sims was invited to return to make a recording with a label under contract with Naxos.

## Professor Ratner in Russia

Carl Ratner was selected as a Fulbright scholar grantee to the Russian Federation. During the fall semester of his sabbatical in 2010–11, he will travel to St. Petersburg, Russia, where he will coach American song in the vocal chamber music studio of soprano Victoria Evtodieva, an important performer and teacher who is participating in recordings of the complete songs of Shostakovich, Glinka, and Prokofiev. While there, he will present and record a recital of songs by Russian and American composers, in collaboration with noted pianist Dmitri Chasovitin, Vice-Rector of the St. Petersburg Conservatory. During the spring semester of 2011, Ratner will present this recital on tour throughout the United States.

## Professor Curtis-Smith in Finland

C. Curtis-Smith's *Concerto for Violin, Piano, and Strings* was performed by violinist Elina Vähälä and pianist/conductor Ralf Gothoni with the Oulu (Finland) Symphony on Dec. 3, 2009 with the composer in attendance. The program in Oulu featured just two works: Curtis-Smith's *Concerto* and Shostakovich's Fifteenth Symphony.

In 2006, Gothoni and Vähälä premiered Curtis-Smith's *Concerto* at the Gilmore International Keyboard Festival with the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra. The *Concerto* was jointly commissioned by the Gilmore Festival and the Kuopio (Finland) Symphony Orchestra.

Gothoni is the 1994 recipient of the Gilmore Artist Award and has been the principal conductor of the English Chamber Orchestra. Vähälä, as one of the most sought after Finnish soloists, performed last year at the Nobel Peace Prize Awards ceremony and has recently been appointed to a "lifetime" professorship at Die Musik Hochschule in Detmold, Germany.

Curtis-Smith unreservedly praises the interpretations of these musicians: "Elina performs with a magnificent singing tone and perfect intonation. Ralf directs the concerto from the piano and does so with the greatest of ease. He is a consummate musician, regardless of the style of music he is playing."

Gothoni admires Curtis-Smith's compositional language: "It is a

world of colors, of atmospheres and moods, and technical skill, all combined into an American texture and grain." Gothoni adds: "In the second movement, what is uppermost is a buoyant, swinging airiness, but with a pulse and flood of radiance from the colors of the world. The harmonies are original and they are very much of their own time."



C. Curtis-Smith with Elina Vähälä and Ralf Gothoni at the Dec. 3, 2009 concert in Oulu, Finland

According to Vähälä, it is a very American work in its style and idiom. She says, "New music in America has come along a very different path than in Europe. In the USA new music has never been put in the straight-jacket of modernism." Vähälä points out that in the *Concerto*, the jazz impulse and influence is evident. "The piano has passages which resemble the improvisations of a jazz pianist. The same is true of rhythm and the work's harmonic concepts. The work's singing, sad melodies are enough to illustrate this point, but there is also the necessity of a sustained, gritty virtuosity. Moreover, a special alertness is demanded from the orchestra—to be ready for the passionate, joyous, fiery rhythms."

## Professor Knific and Students in Italy

The Schlern International Festival has been a marvelous summer study opportunity for School of Music faculty member Renata Artman Knific and her violin students.

Located in fairytale-like surroundings in the Italian Alps, students and faculty come from all over Europe and the United States. Additional high-profile guest artists come to perform in recital and provide master classes. Concerts take place in a thousand-year-old castle, often in the courtyard, and in glorious ancient churches. Virtually every view is spectacular, and from the moment one steps outside, it is a "picture-perfect postcard."

The festival not only encourages exploration of the surroundings through organized hikes and nature walks, but also with trips to Venice, Verona, Cremona and other charming Italian cities. The festival is performance-driven with a minimum of two concerts each day. Students perform a semester's worth of music in three weeks, and Knific performs great repertoire with some of the finest musical collaborators.

WMU violin student Naomi Droge sums up her experience: "Studying at the Schlern International Music Festival with Professor Knific provided a delightful and unique combination of opportunities to perform and practice in a beautiful environment; explore a new culture; and meet and work with some fantastic musicians. I appreciate the experiences I had there even more now than I did when I was there. To wake up in the morning to the sound of goats bleating; walk to rehearsal with chickens; play chamber music with people from all over the world; and indulge in real Italian pizza—this is just the beginning of the unique and delightful Schlern International Music Festival experience."



# \$ SCHOLARSHIPS:

INVESTING IN OUR STUDENTS' POTENTIAL & EXCELLENCE

**SUPPORT FOR SCHOLARSHIPS IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT INVESTMENTS YOU CAN MAKE IN THE PRESENT AND FUTURE SUCCESS OF THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC.** Scholarships help attract and

retain outstanding students in both the undergraduate and graduate programs. Outstanding students stimulate the faculty who guide their learning and performance, fostering an academic environment of greater creativity, cooperation, and excellence.

Expanding the availability of scholarships is a top priority for the School of Music and the College of Fine Arts. Scholarships do more than help pay for education. They recognize ability, talent, and financial need, and they reward hard work and dedication. Currently, 55% of School of Music students receive scholarship support.

The School of Music's scholarships come from three primary sources: 1) income from endowed scholarship funds; 2) annual gifts directed to scholarships; and 3) the University's operating funds. The portion of scholarships from philanthropic sources has been increasing; however, the scholarship base needs to continue to expand for the School of Music to match the resources available at other leading music schools and conservatories competing for the same outstanding students.

**You can make an investment in the potential of a deserving School of Music student in different ways:**

- Outright gifts of cash for annual or endowed gifts, appreciated securities, real estate;
- Pledges, which may be paid in installments over a maximum of five years;
- Gifts made through wills, trusts, and beneficiary designations on retirement plans, insurance, etc.;
- Life income plans (gift annuities, deferred payment gift annuities, charitable remainder unitrusts, or charitable remainder annuity trusts) and charitable lead trusts; and
- Gifts such as closely held stock or other personal property (e.g. collectibles).

Gifts for scholarships will ensure that the School of Music continues to recruit and retain exceptional students, which will enable the school to retain its competitive edge as one of the top music schools in the United States. Current scholarship opportunities include:

- **ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS:** A minimum gift of \$10,000 will endow and name a scholarship. The income from such a fund provides a partial scholarship of about \$500 for one student. At the \$10,000 level, the criteria and selection of the recipient shall be made at the discretion of the School of Music. With a scholarship endowment of \$25,000 or more, donors may designate the general terms associated with awarding the honor.
- **SECOND CENTURY SCHOLARSHIP INITIATIVE:** As the School of Music prepares to celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2013, the Second Century Scholarship Initiative will provide new scholarship resources for the school. By making a gift of \$1,200, payable as a one-time gift or a three-year pledge, you will have the opportunity to name a seat in the Dalton Center Recital Hall to commemorate this important milestone for the School of Music.

An eight-year veteran in higher education philanthropy, **Renee Pearl** was named director of development for the College of Fine Arts in September 2009. In this role, she works directly with alumni and friends of the School of Music to build support for the philanthropic initiatives of the college and school. Current School of Music priorities include annual and endowed scholarships, on- and off-campus immersion programs for students, faculty development funds, visiting artist endowments, funds to commission new works, and the All-Steinway Project.

Prior to joining WMU, Pearl worked as a development officer at both Washington University in St. Louis and the University of California, Davis. A California native, she graduated cum laude from St. Mary's College of California with a bachelor's degree in economics and political science. Pearl's husband, Chris, is an assistant professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at WMU.

**For more information about making a scholarship gift, please contact Renee Pearl, Director of Development for the College of Fine Arts, at (269) 387-4182 or [renee.pearl@wmich.edu](mailto:renee.pearl@wmich.edu).**



# STUDENT ENSEMBLE APPEARANCES & PERFORMANCES

Ensembles from the WMU School of Music have an annual prominent presence throughout the region, the nation, and the world. The school has a strong tradition of placing a high value on its student musicians and the importance of chamber music and ensembles during their training. This experience with small and large ensembles serves students very well and helps build the skills and talents significant to future development and life-long career successes. The prominence of WMU School of Music ensembles is demonstrated by their 2009–10 guest performances and presentations by invitation at music events and festivals throughout the state of Michigan; all over the country including Washington, D.C. and Florida; and in both France and Mexico.



## UNIVERSITY CHORALE COLLABORATION WITH SERAPHIC FIRE RECORDING PROJECT IN MEXICO

During the spring of 2009, the University Chorale, directed by James K. Bass, collaborated with the Miami-based professional vocal ensemble Seraphic Fire. A complete recording of the *Vespers of 1610* by Claudio Monteverdi featuring both ensembles will be released in May 2010. As part of the CD release, Chorale will travel to Miami to participate in four local performances in Ft. Lauderdale, Coral Gables, Key Biscayne, and Miami Beach. Both ensembles will then travel to Mexico City to perform the work at the Palacio Belles Artes and the National Cathedral of Mexico City. The Cathedral, begun in 1567, is the largest church in the Americas. The tour will culminate with performances in the mountain city of Monterey.

## CANTUS FEMINA TOUR TO FLORIDA

This spring, from May 2–9, the women's chorus Cantus Femina, directed by Dee Gauthier, will embark on a 100th year anniversary tour to the Orlando, Florida region, marking a century of women's choir at Western Michigan University. The Treble Clef Club, the first women's ensemble at Western, evolved into Cantus Femina, a dynamic group of auditioned voices specializing in repertoire for women. The ensemble sings a wide variety of literature and takes pride in singing premiere performances of newly written contemporary works. While on tour, the choir will sing at Blake High School in Tampa and present a joint concert with the University High School choirs in Orlando. Concerts will also be presented at Stetson University in Deland and All Saints Episcopal Church in Lakeland. On the final Saturday evening of the tour, the choir will have the honor of singing at the Vigil Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe in Orlando.

## TUBA EUPHONIUM ENSEMBLE TRIP TO D.C.

The WMU Tuba Euphonium Ensemble, directed by Deanna Swoboda, was invited to perform a concert at the 2010 U.S. Army Band Tuba Euphonium Conference in Fort Myer, Va. The conference took place at the Brucker Hall on historic Fort Myer and featured concerts, recitals, exhibits, master classes, and lectures by leading low brass authorities from around the world. The WMU Tuba Euphonium Ensemble was one of two university ensembles invited to perform for this event. In addition to standard

repertoire, the concert included a new work by WMU tuba major and senior Dan Kramer as well as a piece that featured senior tuba major Charlie Goodman and a new ensemble arrangement by graduate teaching assistant Julie Wilder. The Tuba Euphonium Ensemble also had the honor of including on its concert guest euphoniumist and Staff Sergeant David Bandman on his arrangement of *Carnival of Venice*.

At the Army Band Tuba Euphonium Conference the students spent time in the exhibit hall testing all of the newest tuba/euphonium equipment and sheet music. This trip was extremely important for the students' musical and personal growth, providing an opportunity to hear professionals from around the world perform and to meet their musical "heroes" in person. After an outstanding performance at the Army Band Conference, the WMU tuba and euphonium students had a day of exploration in Washington, D.C., visiting the museums and taking in the sights and sounds of our great nation's capitol.

The Tuba Euphonium Ensemble hosted several outstanding guest artists in 2009–10 including Brandon Jones (Texas), Kyle Turner (New York freelancer), Jobey Wilson (Triton Brass Quintet), Wes Jacobs (Detroit Symphony), and Adam Frey (international euphonium soloist).



## COLLEGIUM MUSICUM PRESENTED IN DOWNTOWN KALAMAZOO

On May 15, 2010 twelve members of the WMU Collegium Musicum, under the direction of Professor Matthew Steel, joined with the ensemble Early Music Michigan to perform two concerts for the International Congress on Medieval Studies. The program consisted of dramatized songs from the medieval Spanish manuscripts of the *Cantigas de Santa Maria* which recount the miracles of the holy virgin and also works from Spain's "Golden Age" in the 16th century. The first concert featured the *Cantigas* and was held at

WMU's Kanley Chapel. The full concert was presented that evening at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in downtown Kalamazoo.



## GOLD COMPANY FEATURED PERFORMANCE AT JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER IN NEW YORK CITY

In the 2009–10 season Gold Company, directed by Steve Zegree fresh from his sabbatical, was featured in a performance at Jazz at Lincoln Center in New York City. Also, the 32nd Annual Gold Company Show in Miller Auditorium included a special surprise appearance by American Idol finalist (and WMU Gold Company II alumnus) Matt Giraud. The 30th Annual Gold Company Invitational Vocal Jazz Festival featured performances by 26 high school and college ensembles from five states and Canada on the WMU campus. Tours to various high schools in Michigan are part of GC's annual standard repertoire, as is the further progress in recording its next CD, which is projected for release in January 2011.

## TROMBONE CHOIR TRIP TO D.C.

The University Trombone Choir, led by Steve Wolfenbarger, attended and performed at the prestigious Eastern Trombone Workshop—the largest and most important trombone conference in the United States. Each year it attracts hundreds of participants from all over the country. This is obviously a great opportunity for the WMU Trombone Choir and for the trombone studio to showcase their terrific students in such a high profile way. The conference, sponsored by the U.S. Army Band at Fort Myer, Va., was broadcast on the Internet and was available for anyone to download for months afterwards. This was a trip that every student in the group will remember as a highlight during his or her education at WMU.

## WESTERN WINDS; SYMPHONIC BAND NEWLY COMMISSIONED WORKS

According to WMU Director of Bands Robert Spradling, one of the great opportunities for any musician or musical ensemble is that of collaborating with a composer in the process of creating and performing a new composition. For 42 years, the university bands have brought composers to the Western Michigan University campus to work with the Concert and Symphonic Bands as well as high school ensembles during the annual Spring Conference on Wind and Percussion Music. Such notable composers as John Barnes Chance, Michael Daugherty, Norman Dello Joio, Karel Husa, Martin Mailman, David Maslanka, Vincent Persichetti, and Clifton Williams, among many others, have shared their musical gifts with WMU students and engaged them in this fundamental music-making process.

In addition, the University Symphonic Band and Western Winds have participated in the commissioning of new works by both established as well as up-and-coming composers. This spring, the Symphonic Band performed a work by Michael Gandolfi jointly commissioned two years ago titled *Vientos Y Tangos*, while the Western Winds premiered a work in February by Daniel Bukvich titled *Inferno*, written for wind and brass quintets with percussion. Last year, the University Bands joined a commissioning project with composer David Gillingham to write an extensive work for percussion ensemble titled *Liturgical Music*, which was performed by the WMU Percussion Ensemble this spring.



## SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA TOUR TO HART, MICH.; AND CROOKED TREE STRING PROGRAM VISIT

The WMU Symphony Orchestra toured to the Hart, Michigan community, a rural area that has been hard hit by the economic downturn, on Feb. 4, 2010. The tour included two educational concerts for elementary through middle school students from the Hart Schools, as well as members of the Hart High School band program. In the evening, the orchestra performed for an appreciative audience on the Hart Community Concert Series directed by Thomas Kirk, who extended the invitation to Music

Director Bruce Uchimura. Highlights of the evening concert included WMU Professor of Trumpet Scott Thornburg as soloist and the orchestral music of Dmitri Shostakovich. At the educational concerts, Hart students were delighted to see one of their peers guest conduct a small passage of music with the orchestra. The orchestra was thrilled to bring its music to this area of Michigan.

On March 23, 2010, the orchestra hosted members of the Crooked Tree Youth Orchestra from Petoskey, Mich. at the Dalton Center for a day of residency activities which included sectionals with School of Music faculty and graduate assistants; a luncheon/discussion hosted by orchestra members who answered questions about college life, being a music major, practicing your instrument, and other topics of interest; and a full orchestra rehearsal with Professor Bruce Uchimura. The students of the Crooked Tree Youth Orchestra enjoyed meeting faculty members and interacting with School of Music students. Perhaps some of these students will be future WMU music majors!

## JAZZ OCTET PERFORMANCE AT THE DETROIT JAZZ FESTIVAL

The WMU Jazz Octet was honored to represent WMU at the International Detroit Jazz Festival last fall with jazz master Stefon Harris as guest soloist. The award winning Jazz Octet, directed by Scott Cowan, features premier WMU jazz instrumentalists in repertoire that is composed and/or arranged exclusively by ensemble members. WMU School of Music jazz ensembles continued to accumulate outstanding performance awards at both the Notre Dame Jazz Festival and the Elmhurst Jazz Festivals this year. The newest CD, *Rhythm Spirit* is a compilation of the last four years of Jazz Octet personnel.

## MARCHING BAND RETROSPECTIVE; HALFTIME SHOWS AT MICHIGAN AND MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITIES

The 2009 season was one of the finest ever for the Bronco Marching Band (BMB). At nearly 300 members, director Professor David Montgomery stated that this was one of the best sounding groups he's ever heard. In addition, the band traveled to two big road games: the University of Michigan on Sept. 5 and Michigan State University on Nov. 12. The BMB gave terrific performances at both of these venues, and despite the outcome of the games, the BMB was a source of great pride for WMU. The performance in Ann Arbor was particularly noteworthy as the BMB only began band camp rehearsals five days before! Even so, the performance was top notch and the students had a wonderful time in the Big House. The performance in East Lansing was also significant. Montgomery marked this performance as the finest of the season.

## OPERA WORKSHOP

The opera program at WMU normally consists of two parts: a full scale opera production, which this year was Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Carousel*, presented in collaboration with the Music Theatre program; and the Opera Workshop class, which presents a program of opera scenes. When the opera is a musical, as it was this year, a one-act opera or an abridged opera for the opera workshop is offered so that students have an opportunity to study a complete opera role. Director Carl Ratner was delighted when Director of Choral Activities James Bass suggested a collaboration between Opera Workshop and the University Chorale on Henry Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*. *Dido and Aeneas* is the oldest opera in English still performed today, and it was first presented in the late 1600s. Purcell's original manuscript is lost, and there is uncertainty regarding the circumstances of the first performance. Recent scholarship has suggested that it may have been a concert in the Royal court. Opera Workshop decided to add a few suggestive scenery pieces and costumes with the hope of reproducing the spirit of the original performance, which may also have been something of a hybrid between a concert performance and a fully staged production. The work is in Shakespearean English, as it was written only a few decades after Shakespeare's death. The two performances filled the Dalton Center Recital Hall to capacity.

## BIRDS ON A WIRE PREMIERE

The new music ensemble Birds on a Wire is a brand new and exciting component of the School of Music that blends select faculty and students in such a way that the most advanced avant-garde musical works can be presented in special and theatrical surroundings. Directed by School of Music Director David Colson, Birds on a Wire performed on two of this year's highly regarded Bullock Performance Institute concert events. The first, on Nov. 13, 2009, was a program featuring Peter Maxwell Davies' contemporary monodrama *Eight Songs for a Mad King* with guest tenor John Duykers. They also performed a work by Houston composer Pierre Jalbert titled *Visual Abstracts*.

The second performance was Feb. 23, 2010 again on a BPI concert titled "Ligeti and Laptops." This event featured the abstract theatrical lighting effects presented by Department of Dance students under the tutelage of Megan Slayter. This element of presenting abstract music in theatrical lighting and context is becoming a hallmark of this modern ensemble and its adventurous programming. It creates an environment in which the audience will have a greater opportunity to really engage with the music. Birds on a Wire performed Ligeti's *Chamber Concerto for 13 Players*. The concert also featured the Western Wind Quintet performing the *Six Bagatelles*, the University Chorale performing the *Lux Aeterna*, and KLOrk, the Kalamazoo Laptop Orchestra.



## KLOrk PREMIERE

KLOrk (the Kalamazoo Laptop Orchestra), directed by David Code, is the newest and probably most unique of the School of Music's performing ensembles. The musical instruments are laptop computers programmed to make sounds using the keyboard, the trackpad, the internal microphone, the built-in webcam, even tilting the whole thing side-to-side. The performers include not only music majors but students from engineering, art, and communication. In its first year, KLOrk has given performances for the College of Fine Arts Medici Society, for an open demonstration at its first KLOrk Report, for auditioning students and their parents on the High Noon at Dalton series, and in collaboration with Birds on a Wire for the Bullock Performance Institute series. Profiled in the *Kalamazoo Gazette* and on WMUK, you can follow KLOrk and listen to some of its performances on Facebook. Search for KLOrk or Kalamazoo Laptop Orchestra.

## JAZZ BANDS PERFORM WITH THE USAF FALCONAIRES

The WMU Jazz Studies program collaborated with the United States Air Force Falconaires, one of the premier armed forces jazz bands on Nov. 12 in downtown Kalamazoo at The Union Cabaret & Grille. This was the first time this military ensemble performed in a club setting. It was the collaboration between WMU and The Union that allowed for this memorable touring exception. The event was a grand success on all levels. There was a line out the door all night long and continuous ovations throughout the evening. WMU student groups captured the attention and admiration of the USAF band as well as the public. The evening also featured one of the school's jazz vocalists, Taylor O'Donnell, who happens to come from the band's home town of Colorado Springs. The Jazz Studies program parlayed the night into a weekend-long big band festival at The Union, whose crowds were enlarged by all the excitement.

# Carl Doubleday Retires

Not long after Carl Doubleday declared his intention to retire from the School of Music in the summer of 2010, plans were put into motion for appropriate ways to honor him and recognize his more than four decades of distinguished service. The plan started with a fund drive to name the suite of offices Doubleday worked in since 1982, when Dalton Center was completed. After receiving more than 400 donations, totaling nearly \$37,000 (far exceeding the \$25,000 goal), the Carl W. Doubleday Concerts Office Suite became a reality.

In January, nearly 100 music alumni attended a reception in Doubleday's honor at the Michigan Music Conference in Grand Rapids. Several decades of former students showered him with their admiration and hugs. In February, Gold Company and GC II dedicated their 32nd annual Miller Show to Doubleday. In March, the high school choral directors participating in the 72nd annual Southwestern Michigan Vocal Festival presented Doubleday with a resolution of appreciation and admiration.

Then came April. On Saturday, April 10, more than 180 WMU singers presented a choral showcase in his honor. The concert included the world premiere of an arrangement of *You'll Never Walk Alone* created for the occasion by Doubleday's longtime friend and WMU alumnus James F. Konkel (BM'86). On Wednesday, April 14, the final Convocation Series program of the year celebrated Doubleday with the students. Performances by a brass choir, the University Chorale, and a woodwind quintet of former SEMINAR students highlighted the program. One week later, observing a longstanding School of Music tradition, friends and colleagues gathered for a breakfast in Doubleday's honor on Wednesday, April 21. A proclamation by Michigan's Governor was presented, as was a gift from his current and former colleagues. The following Friday, April 23, members of the university and Kalamazoo communities gathered on the Miller Auditorium stage at a reception. Master of Ceremonies D. Terry Williams deftly led the program, which included comments by Elaine Williams, Juanita Nash, Robert Luscombe, and Margaret Merrion, who officially announced the naming of the Doubleday Concerts Office.

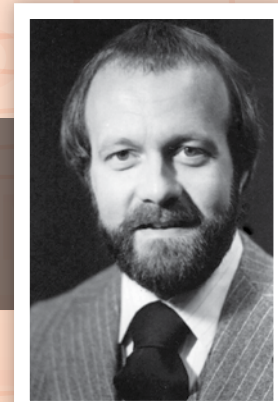
However, perhaps no one summed it up better than Carl Ratner, Director of Opera, when he declared the following in an e-mail response to Doubleday's retirement announcement:

*I am utterly personally and professionally bereft at the thought of [the] WMU SoM without you. In fact I am not sure that such a thing can actually be. I fear that the day you depart the building for the last time, taking your SEMINAR pencils and Far Side cartoons, that the entire Dalton Center and all its inhabitants may suddenly cease to be, and we will all learn for that fraction of a second as we disappear like a Star Trek character being "beamed up," that we never actually existed at all but were part of a provisional universe that required your presence. Should we all not vanish into thin air when you depart, there will be much moaning, wailing, and gnashing of teeth.*

Thanks,  
Boss!



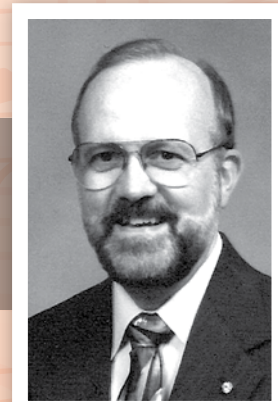
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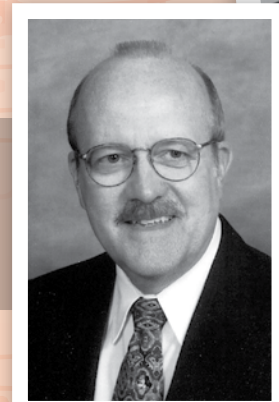
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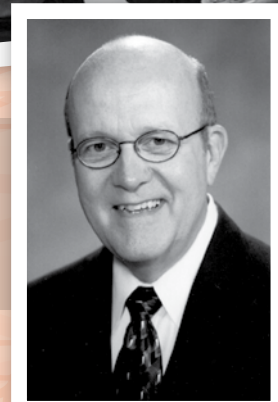
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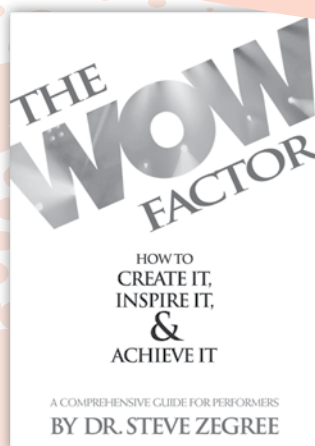


2001

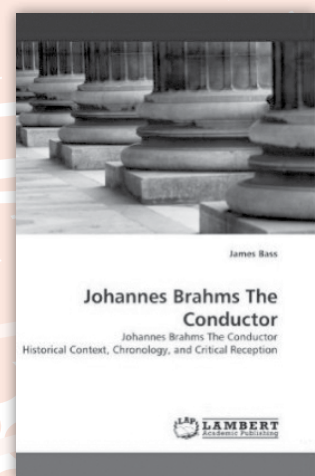


Present

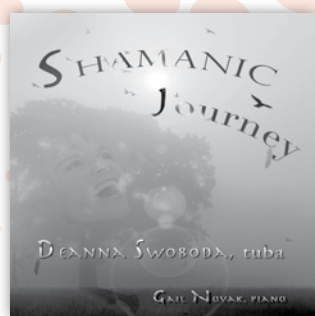
four decades of distinguished service



What is it about some musicians and performers who consistently achieve success? Are they the best performers? Did they have the best teachers? Do they have the best professional contacts and connections? Is it just coincidence? Of course not! **Steve Zegree**, choral arranger and conductor of Western Michigan University's Gold Company, has developed this practical guide for performers, students, teachers, and parents which offers fundamental philosophies and concepts that are essential to a person's growth and development and will contribute to a successful professional life in music. More than just the basics, more than a prescribed curriculum, and more than just getting in front of an audience to go through the motions of what you did in rehearsal—call it **The Wow Factor**—there is something for everyone in this book! And, as a special bonus, Chapter 8 offers interviews with great performers from all facets of the music industry including: Simon Carrington, Nick Lachey, Ward Swingle, Bobby McFerrin, Roger Emerson, Mac Huff, Liza Minnelli, and many more! The book is for teachers, parents, students: anyone who is wondering how to take his or her performance to the next level, and anyone who needs some inspiration to do so. Chapter materials include: How to practice and rehearse for "The Wow Factor"; How to prepare a Wow audition; How to Educate AND Entertain; Putting the Polish on your Performance; Rules to Live By; How to win on NBC's "Clash of the Choirs"; and Interviews with over 25 well-known music professionals.



Professor **James Bass'** new book **Johannes Brahms The Conductor: Historical Context, Chronology, and Critical Reception** examines the circumstances surrounding Johannes Brahms as a conductor. A premise of this book is that an examination of Brahms' experiences as a conductor and the compilation of historical evidence into a single document will lead to a better understanding of Brahms as a musician. The book offers information pertaining to nineteenth-century definitions of conducting, with specific concentration on German conductors and a compilation of historical details surrounding Brahms' activities as a conductor. At the core of the investigation is information that reveals insight into Brahms' conducting demeanor, style, and technique as reported by musicians, critics in the press, and his close circle of friends.



In May 2009, **Deanna Swoboda** was awarded a FRACASF grant in support of a recording project. The new CD, titled **Shamanic Journey**, features the music of women composers, including two new works commissioned by Swoboda. The composers include Libby Larsen, Barbara York, Alice Gomez, Elizabeth Raum, and Anna Baadsvik. The work by Anna Baadsvik is a set of three trios for tuba, euphonium, and piano. Swoboda is assisted by Gail Novak and Helen Lukan, on piano, and Matt Tropman, on euphonium. The new CD will be published by and available for purchase through Potenza Music ([www.potenzamusic.com](http://www.potenzamusic.com)) in Summer 2010.

Featuring music written especially for the **Western Brass Quintet**, **Games for Brass: New Music for Brass Quintet** is the latest recording made by the school's resident brass chamber ensemble. The disc features *Landscapes* by Pulitzer Prize winning composer Karel Husa; *Pro and Contra Dances* by Ramon Zupko; *Games for Brass* by C. Curtis-Smith; and *Frame of Mind* by Richard Adams. *Landscapes* is a tour de force for brass, exploring extended techniques and special effects for each instrument. Ramon Zupko's *Pro and Contra Dances* is based on brass music by composers of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, interspersed with original twentieth-century interludes. *Frame of Mind* works through some of the various emotional states of a disturbed mind, while *Games for Brass* is a virtuoso work demanding the utmost in speed and flexibility. All of the pieces represent the latest in brass chamber music writing.



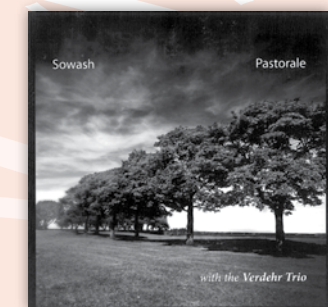
**Old English Songs and Dances** features arrangements made by members of the Western Brass Quintet of English music from the Renaissance and Baroque eras. Composers represented include John Dowland, John Adson, Anthony Holborne, and Henry Purcell. Donald Bullock, Robert Whaley, and Stephen Jones are the primary arrangers of the tuneful and delightful music presented on this disc.



**Igor Fedotov** has released a CD of viola sonatas on the Naxos label. Titled **Soviet Russian Viola Music**, the recording presents examples of virtually forgotten music written for viola by exceptionally talented Russian/Soviet composers. The stature of these composers and their contribution to Russian musical life give this music its intrinsic value. The rediscovery and recording of this particular body of Soviet music preserves a part of Russian cultural heritage and significantly expands the viola repertoire. Some of the works are well known in Russia but unknown in the West and difficult to access owing to a scarcity of reprints and recordings. Only the sonatas by Frid and Vasilenko were previously recorded during the Soviet era, but were never presented to the western market or digitalized for further publication. The other works featured on the CD constitute the first these pieces have been recorded for worldwide distribution.



**Silvia Roederer**, as pianist of the Verdehr Trio, is heard on a recently released CD of the music of composer Rick Sowash titled **Pastorale**. The CD was produced by the Rick Sowash Publishing Co. and is available by visiting the composer's Web site: [www.sowash.com](http://www.sowash.com). The Verdehr Trio plays two works on the CD: Trios #2 and #3 for violin, clarinet, and piano. Trio #3 is a work the Verdehr Trio commissioned and is subtitled *Memories of Corsica*. The three movements, *Arid Heat*, *Aromatic Breezes*, and *Ardent Souls*, are wonderful descriptors of this immediately appealing and tuneful music. Trio #2 is fashioned as a set of variations titled *American Variations on a Belorussian Folk Tune*. Here a Russian theme is subjected to American influences: a ballad, a tango, a sentimental pop song, Aaron Copland, and a rag. Written in a traditional harmonic language and accessible textures, both trios, as well as the other works on the CD, are rather "easy listening"!



# STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

**HANA BELOGLAVEC** has been selected as one of a very few college trombonists invited to participate in Bar Harbor Brass Week in Maine. As a result, she will receive tuition and housing to Bar Harbor and will work with both Matt Vaughn and Blair Bollinger, trombonists with the Philadelphia Orchestra. Beloglavec has also been chosen as a finalist in the 2010 International Trombone Association's Larry Wiehe Solo Competition. She will compete for the top prize against two other finalists at the University of Texas, Austin in early July.

**ERIC BOWMAN** was awarded an honorable mention in the 2010 Yamaha Young Performing Artists Competition—the only trombonist on the roster of winners and honorable mentions.

**PETER BREITHAUPT**, percussion, attended the Cloyd Duff Timpani Workshop at the University of Kansas in June 2009.

**CASANDRA CAMINITI** will be attending the Manhattan School of Music in the fall as a graduate student in vocal/opera performance.

**STEVEN COX** received a teaching assistantship at Wichita State University which includes a full tuition waiver and a substantial stipend. He will be in the voice performance—opera program.

**DRU DANIELS** has been accepted into the Institute for Young Dramatic Voices summer program in Orem, Utah.

**MEGAN DERUBEIS**, horn, was invited to participate in two prestigious summer music festivals: Brevard and Eastern Music Festival.

**KRISTEN DUNLAP** was selected to receive the School of Music Graduate Award for Excellence in Academics/Scholarship. Dunlap is completing her Master of Music degree in instrumental conducting this spring (2010). Excerpts from her nomination letter demonstrate her qualifications for this award: "Kris has obviously demonstrated outstanding academic work, as is evidenced in her GPA [4.0], but what is not seen is the additional work she has done outside of WMU. She has attended conducting workshops and clinics, which have afforded her the opportunity to work under the supervision of some of our most esteemed wind band conductors and has shown outstanding analysis and preparation for the works she has conducted in performance with the University Concert and Symphonic Bands. Her research and writing skills are representative of outstanding scholarship, and she continues to stretch her knowledge of the wind band literature."

YOUYANG QU & CHARLIE GOODMAN



## WMU WINS 9 DOWNBEAT AWARDS

The elite jazz publication *DownBeat* magazine has announced its 2010 Student Music Awards, and nine School of Music students have been honored in the 33rd annual competition. WMU students were especially successful in competing against their peers in the undergraduate division categories.

Competition categories and School of Music students winning 2010 DownBeat Student Music Awards include:

**Blues/Pop/Rock Soloist:** Galen Bostian-Kentes, vocals, *Dr. Stephen Zegree, teacher*

**Blues/Pop/Rock Soloist:** Randy Gist, alto & tenor saxophones, *Mr. Trent Kynaston, teacher*

**Blues/Pop/Rock Soloist:** Ryan Andrews, drums, *Mr. Keith Hall, teacher*

**Blues/Pop/Rock Soloist:** Gene Knific, piano, *Mr. Tom Knific, teacher*

**Jazz Arrangement:** Galen Bostian-Kentes, *Dr. Stephen Zegree, teacher*

**Instrumental Jazz Soloist:** Eric Bowman, trombone, *Dr. Scott Cowan, teacher*

**Blues/Pop/Rock Group:** Compendium, *Dr. Stephen Zegree, teacher*

**Blues/Pop/Rock Group:** Ryan Andrews Group, *Mr. Keith Hall, teacher*

**Latin Group:** Mas Que Nada, *Mr. Tom Knific, teacher*

**CHARLIE GOODMAN**, tuba, and **NOAH KRZAN**, double bass, were selected to play in the Round Top Summer Music Festival Orchestra from a national search of candidates. Goodman performed as a soloist with the WMU Tuba Euphonium Ensemble at the Army Band Tuba Euphonium Conference in Washington, D.C., and was one of two winners named in the 2010 WMU Concerto Competition, with violinist **YOUYANG QU**, a freshman from Beijing, China.

**RYANNE HAMMERL** received substantial scholarship assistance to attend Arizona State University for graduate school in its opera program.

**ERIK JOHNSON**, clarinet, participated in the Aria International Summer Academy at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Mass., and Clarinetopia, a symposium at Stony Brook University, N.Y.

WMU music students receiving prestigious senior awards in 2010 include **ADAM LENZ** (Presser Scholarship), **HANA BELOGLAVEC** (McKee Scholarship), **ERIC BOWMAN** (Maybee Scholarship), and **JORDAN RICHARDS** (Denny Scholarship).

**BRIAN MAST** was selected to receive the School of Music Graduate Award for Excellence in Leadership/Service. Mast is completing his Master of Music degree in instrumental conducting this semester. Excerpts from his nomination letter demonstrate his qualifications for this award: "Brian has been the Assistant Conductor for the University Symphony Orchestra since fall semester 2008. In this short time, he has conducted/learned music on at least eight concert programs with excellent results. Behind the scenes, Brian is a great help to the operations of the orchestra, which tend to be substantial. He also created and conducts the Campus String Chamber Orchestra. It is comprised of non-major string players and other WMU community members as well as some WMU string education and performance majors. All of this is in addition to his substantial commute from Goshen, Indiana almost daily and managing a growing family of three young children. He is always cheerful, rarely complains, and stays tremendously focused on his teaching and musical duties, coursework and studies."

**TAYLOR O'DONNELL** and **RANDY GIST** received full assistantships to the University of Miami beginning fall 2010. Along with **SAM WEBER**, these three young artists were selected to receive the senior jazz award. Cited as "incredible musicians who represent not only the highest standards of our art form, they also deserve to be recognized for their professional competence, professional recognition, and service to our program and the School of Music in general," they will split the \$1,500 prize, which may be used for any pedagogical or artistic endeavor.

**ELISA RUIZ** was accepted into *Canta in Italia*, a four week program in Florence, Italy.

# ALL-STEINWAY

## PROJECT UPDATE

**ELISA RUIZ, KIRSTIN SCHAFFERT, ELLEN STORCH,** and **KATRINA VANMAANEN** were state finalists in the Classical Singer Competition sponsored by Classical Singer magazine, qualifying them to audition at the national finals in New York City at the end of May.

**JAY SAWYER** will begin graduate work at the University of Illinois in fall 2010.

Flutists **DANNIELLE STURGEON**, a junior performance major, and **NICK LIETO**, a freshman, were selected by audition to perform in a master class with guest artist and Brazilian flutist Tadeu Coelho at a flute festival on March 6, 2010 at Indiana University in South Bend.



WMU President John M. Dunn, Joe Tucker, and Faculty Senate President John Jellies.

Last summer, percussionist **JOE TUCKER** attended the Leigh Howard Stevens Marimba Seminar, a month long workshop in New Jersey. Tucker was selected as the School of Music's Presidential Scholar for 2010.

**JULIE WILDER** was selected to receive the School of Music Graduate Award for Excellence in Teaching. Wilder completed her Master of Music degree in tuba performance. Excerpts from her nomination letter demonstrate her qualifications for this award. "Julie's commitment to teaching has gone above and beyond her GA assignments during her time at Western. In addition to her regular teaching assignment, she taught the tuba methods course each fall semester, taught private lessons to non-

major tuba and euphonium students, pioneered and coached an undergraduate brass quintet and undergraduate tuba euphonium quartet. Each of these ensembles had successful performances and achieved their semester goals. Julie is able to balance having high standards as a teacher while recognizing the needs of each student. She is prescriptive and thoughtful in her preparation. She rehearses and conducts several pieces for the tuba euphonium ensemble each semester, teaches several private students in the Kalamazoo community (which is great recruiting for the tuba euphonium studio), taught scale class to the freshmen and sophomore tuba and euphonium students, and assisted in aural comp and basic music classes."

Wilder is also a Yamaha Fellow. She was awarded a \$1,000 grant by the Yamaha Company to encourage students to choose a low-brass instrument and play in a low brass choir. With the cooperation of School of Music alumna Beth Jonker, Parchment Schools Band Director, the choir is meeting weekly during the school day, continuing the positive rehearsal techniques students have come to enjoy in band while further developing musicianship. Supplying the students with more individualized attention encourages student participation; having small-ensemble music to play also heartens them and provides a unique opportunity to explore their instruments. Chamber music performance is a great tool for developing independent playing, as well as teaching balance and blend with other musicians. All music for the ensemble has been arranged by Wilder, to allow for each member to have his or her part and a greater responsibility within the ensemble. The high school brass players will have the opportunity to perform, learn, and appreciate brass choir craft, and through teaching and encouraging younger students, enjoy further musical motivations. The ensemble will perform at each of the regularly scheduled Parchment High School band concerts, as well as at the yearly Solo and Ensemble Festival.

**MOLLY YOUNG** has been accepted into Peabody Conservatory's opera program as a graduate student for fall 2010.

*In an update to the All-Steinway Project, the WMU School of Music added 20 new pianos to its inventory this year. The vertical pianos were installed in practice rooms for use by all music students. The instruments, 10 Boston upright pianos and 10 Essex upright pianos, were the latest arrivals in WMU's quest to become an All-Steinway School. The School of Music is in need of \$500,000 to purchase the remaining 69 Steinway pianos to complete the project.*

*In related news, a School of Music professor has been named a Steinway Artist by the famous piano maker. Dr. Steve Zegree, WMU's Bobby McFerrin Professor of Jazz, was recently tabbed for the prestigious honor. To qualify for membership in this exclusive group, a Steinway Artist must be a professional pianist working at a college or university or performing for a living, must own a Steinway personally, and agree to promote and be an ambassador for Steinway & Sons wherever he or she performs.*

*In return, Steinway promises the artists a concert-ready Steinway wherever in the world they may appear. That service is provided by a pool of concert-ready Steinway grand pianos placed throughout the world and maintained by various Steinway stores.*

*For decades, Steinway has cultivated this special relationship with pianists representing a wide range of musical genres. Steinway Artists include the likes of classical musicians Lief Ove Andsnes and Lang Lang as well as jazz and pop artists like Dianna Krall, Judy Carmichael, Bruce Hornsby, and Billy Joel.*

*Pictured below, Wilbur Miller from Steinway Piano Gallery of Detroit presents Zegree with the honor and a commemorative plaque at a recent Gershwin piano concert in the Dalton Center. The concert showcased the School of Music's keyboard faculty as well as the university's collection of Steinway pianos.*





# ALUMNI NEWS

**Nate Adams** (BA'08), **Matt Blevins** (BA'08), and **Tim Mellon** (2001-07) performed as part of an a cappella quartet on the Celebrity Equinox, Celebrity Cruise Lines.

Following a successful CD release last spring, **Ryan Andrews** (BM'09) and musicians performed his original music *Requiem* on tour in late February and early March.

**Justin Avery** (BM'04) performed on piano and keyboards during a recent *Good Morning America* broadcast.

**Joe Ayoub** (BA'02) plays bass and sings behind Natalie Cole.

**Benjamin Beck** (BM'09) is a music/band director at T. Dewitt Taylor Middle-High School in Pierson, Fla.

Saxophonist and composer **Chris Beckstrom** (BA'06) was hired as the computer lab manager and music technology teacher for the Columbia College Chicago Music Composition for the Screen program.

Bassoonist **SaMona Bryant** (BM'09) is pursuing a Master of Music degree in performance at Yale University. She participated in the Banff Centre for the Arts Summer Festival and Resident Orchestra in summer 2009, studying with Christopher Millard and Frank Morelli.

**Tim Buchholz** (BM'05) completed his doctorate at the University of Miami, where he conducted a sold-out concert with JV1, the Frost Symphony Orchestra, and guest artist Mark O'Connor. Buchholz is also director of the jazz choir at Miami Dade College, where he teaches applied jazz voice and jazz piano.

**Kyle Cain** (BM'09) was recently hired as director of choral music at Bangor Middle and High Schools in Michigan.

**Katie Campbell** (BM'04) sang back-up vocals with Sheryl Crow at the MLB All-Star Game festivities in St. Louis. She and **Aubrey Johnson** (BM'07) and **Michelle Mailhout** (BM'96) can be heard on the new, much anticipated Bobby McFerrin CD, *VOCAbuLarieS*.

**La Catrina String Quartet**, consisting of **Daniel Vega-Albela** (MM'04), violin; **Blake Espy** (BM'03), violin; **Jorge Martínez** (MM'04), viola; and Cesar Bourguet, cello, joined the faculty of New Mexico State University's Department of Music as ensemble-in-residence. Hailed by Yo-Yo Ma as "wonderful ambassadors for music," La Catrina String Quartet will continue to maintain an active touring schedule in addition to their faculty positions.

**Jared Cavis** (BM'05) completed his first year as Director of Bands in Harper Creek, Mich., where he directs the entire band program, grades 5-12. His previous position was in Centreville, where he had

taught for four years. Replacing him in Centreville is his wife **Sarah Cudnohufsky** (BM'09) who teaches K-12 music including band, high school choir, and elementary music.

**Adam Chapa** (BM'08) is teaching elementary music (grades 1-5) at the American International School in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

**Evan Conroy** (BM'09) won the only bass trombone opening this past year at the renowned Juilliard School of Music to study with New York Philharmonic bass trombonist James Markey.

**Martyn Croston** (MM'09) teaches jazz piano at the Stowe School, a leading private institution in the United Kingdom. He also performs as an accompanist and promotes the jazz program of the school.

**Benje Daneman** (BM'07) received a Master of Music degree from the Manhattan School of Music. He performed with the José Limón Dance Company at the Baryshnikov Arts Center in February. He also toured with the Ben Geyer Sextet in New England to promote a new CD recorded last summer.

Pianist **Kathleen Daugherty** (BM'00) accepted a full-time teaching position with the Gregory-Portland ISD in Portland, Texas. She will be teaching 6th grade choir and team-teaching 7th-8th and 9th-12th grade choirs in addition to accompanying.

Jazz pianist **Xavier Davis** (BA'07) was the featured guest artist at the Interlochen Arts Camp's high school summer jazz program. Davis has also released several CDs, and along with Billy Hart, performs on guitarist Dave Stryker's most recent CD, *Strike up the Band*.

**Cynthia Duda** (MM'03) is completing a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in bassoon performance at Michigan State University.

**Matt Falker** (BM'95) is a faculty member at MiraCosta College in Oceanside, Calif., where he is the Director of the Vocal Jazz Program.

**Bryan Farina** (BA'01) has an engineering credit on vocalist Kurt Elling's Grammy Award winning CD.

**Jeremy Fox** (BM'99) will begin doctoral studies at the University of Miami in the fall of 2010.

Two former students **David Gailey** (BM'10) and **Katie Rohwer** (BM'09), and one current student Kathleen O'Donnell (a senior music therapy and performance major), were selected after highly competitive auditions to the 2010 World Youth Choir Summer Session. These three singers are the only singers from the USA selected to participate. The choir will consist of 80 singers between the ages of 18 and 27 representing 40 countries from six continents. The 2010 session will be rehearsing, touring, and performing in the Canary Islands and Spain.

**Jessica Gardner** (BM'98, MM'00) continues in her position as Director of Bands and Choirs at Pine River High School in Leroy, Mich.

**Dawn Garrett** (BM'90) has joined the Kalamazoo Symphony Woodwind Quintet for "Music on the Move," a program that takes chamber groups into over 75 schools throughout the five-county area. She is active as a clarinet teacher, serving on the applied faculty at Kalamazoo College, and also maintaining studios at Marshall Music and at her home in Vicksburg. She continues to perform with the Southwest Michigan Symphony, playing clarinet and bass clarinet.

**Zigmund Gron** (BM'82) is credited as Music Editor for the movie *August Rush*.

**Christine (Helferich) Guter** (BM'93) has sung on 17 feature films to date, including *Happy Feet*, *Deep Sea 3-D*, *X-Men 3*, *Superman Returns*, *Charlotte's Web*, *The Reaping*, *Spiderman 3*, *Evan Almighty*, *Beowulf*, *Horton Hears a Who*, *Meet Dave*, *Wanted*, *Body of Lies*, *Seven Pounds*, *Ice Age 3*, *Tooth Fairy*, and *The Wolfman*. Her vocal group at Long Beach State performed at the Monterey Jazz Festival in September, after winning the Next Generation Festival last April.

**Michael Haisten** (MM'05) was an adjunct teacher at Olivet College and now lives in Indiana, where he has finished course work towards a DMA from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in trombone performance and a MME in music education.

**Brian Hemstock** (BM'09) performed as vocalist with the Glenn Miller Orchestra on their tour last fall, which made a stop at Miller Auditorium.

**Cassandra Hibbard** (BM'07) completed her master's degree in clarinet performance at Michigan State University in 2009 and is currently in her first year of doctoral study at the same school.

**Nayanna Holley** (BM'07) most recently performed at the White House for a show celebrating music from the civil rights movement for Black History Month. The show, "In Performance at the White House: A Celebration of Music from the Civil Rights Movement," featured Natalie Cole, Smokey Robinson, John Mellancamp, Joan Baez, Bob Dylan, Morgan Freeman, and Yolanda Adams. The performance was aired on PBS. Holley also recorded songs for the Doobie Brothers' new album and the next Sergio Mendez CD.

Composer **Keith Horn** (BM'99) has two tracks (*Dob* and *Thinking Brain Dog*) available on iTunes.

**Adam Houk** (BM'07) won the second trombone position with the Quad-Cities Symphony Orchestra. He was also selected as an Associate Member of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago.

**Jiana Hunter** (MM'06) will be the Professor of Vocal Jazz at Oakland University this fall. She will lead the Oakland Jazz Singers and teach vocal jazz improvisation, among other courses.

**Greg Jasperse** (BM'93), singer, pianist, arranger, and composer, has numerous movie soundtrack credits including *National Treasure 2*, *Meet Dave*, *Star Trek*, *Land of the Lost*, *Couples Retreat*, and *The Wolfman* (singer). His television credits include *Glee* (arranger) and *America's Got Talent* (singer). He has been an adjudicator and/or clinician at Musicfest Canada, the Canadian

Rocky Mountain Music Festival, University of Northern Colorado Jazz Festival, Reno Jazz Festival, Ontario Vocal Jazz Festival, Western Michigan University Vocal Jazz Festival, Steve Zegree Vocal Jazz Camp, The New York Voices Vocal Jazz Camp, and University of Manitoba Jazz Camp.

**Aubrey Johnson** (BM'07) was chosen as one of 12 finalists to compete in the Voicingers International Competition for Singing Musicians in Zory, Poland. She was recently asked to join Greg Osby's independent record label, Inner Circle Music, where she will be recording an album of her original compositions. Last summer she performed at the Zeltsman Marimba Festival Gala Concert featuring guest artist Lyle Mays, who arranged a full concert's worth of his own music for marimbas, vibes, piano, bass, drums, percussion, and two voices.

Drummer **Sammy Kestenholtz** (BA'02) is in Los Angeles where he plays every other Monday with Rex Merriweather's "This Ain't Your Daddy's Big Band" and the other Mondays with Skip Spiro's "Little Big Band." He also plays with singer-songwriter Travis Howard, Grammy nominee Miranda Lambert, John Ramey and the Alan B. Shepard Memorial Orchestra, Kalifornia King Snakes, and Dazed and Confused, a 70's style rock band.

**David Krosschell** (BM'98) recently completed his doctorate in bass trombone performance at Northwestern University in Chicago. He now resides and freelances in the Raleigh/Durham, N.C. area and is a sub with several orchestras, including first call substitute with the North Carolina Symphony. He is a member of the Triangle British Brass Band and a private instructor. Krosschell was a clinician at the 2009 North Carolina Music Educator's Convention.

**Dave Lambert** (MM'00) has taken a position as Director of Jazz Studies/Low Brass at Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa.

**Michelle Lawrence** (MM'09), music therapy, climbed to the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro as part of an effort to raise funds for the British Columbia Children's Hospital. A group of 21 people from all over British Columbia joined a charity called Summits of Hope, which raised money for the B.C. Children's Hospital by climbing mountains around the world. Each climber aimed to raise a minimum of \$5,000 for the charity. Lawrence's climb was dedicated to those children with whom she has worked as a music therapist.

Saxophonist **Jeff Lederer** (MM'09) is playing on the new Matt Wilson CD.

**Paul Loesel** (BM'92) is keyboardist in the orchestra of *Wicked* at the Gershwin Theatre on Broadway.

**Gerry Mattei** (BM'06) is playing piano in the band for Allison Iraheta from *American Idol* Season 8, and they will be touring with Adam Lambert and Orianthi in the summer. They performed on TBS's *Lopez Tonight* in May.

**Adam McFarlin** (MM'08), tuba graduate, is a member of the staff at the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo.

**Andy Mitchell** (BM'06) recently completed his master's degree in performance as the trombone graduate assistant in the School of Music at Florida State University. He was recently offered a full tuition scholarship to attend The Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University, where he is working in the Performance Diploma Program.

**Steven Morris** (MM'88) is artistic director and pianist of Boston Vocal Artists, which he founded in 1999, and currently serves as coach and accompanist for the Tufts University Music Department and as music director of the Tufts Opera Ensemble.

**Nick Mosley** (BM'03) is in his second year on the conducting staff at Muskegon High School, where he works with students from 6th–12th grade and conducts the Bunker Middle School Band.

**Dan Myers** (BM'99) is playing violin and singing in Gary Sinise's band with **Marianne Jayme** (BS'97), another WMU vocal jazz alumnus.

**Joanna Patton** (BM'09), music therapy, is working with the Behavior Specialists of Indiana where she is a music therapist for their Michiana office in South Bend, Ind.

**Mary Pearson** (BM'06) continues to tour and perform with High Places, an experimental band in which she sings and plays bassoon. In July 2009, High Places was invited to perform at the 50th anniversary performance at the Guggenheim Museum in New York City.

**Scott D. Rikkers** (BM'00) is Assistant Director of Bands and Assistant Director of the School of Music at James Madison University.

**Johnny Rodgers** (BM'98), who regularly performs with Liza Minnelli, recorded the DVD *Liza's at The Palace* in Las Vegas at the Hollywood Theatre at MGM Grand. Matthew Diamond (*So You Think You Can Dance*) directed the production, which airs on PBS. The Johnny Rodgers Band was selected for JALC Rhythm Road 2010.

**Seth Rozanoff** (BA'01) received a Fulbright Award to study in The Netherlands next year. After completing his undergraduate degree at WMU, Rozanoff earned graduate degrees from the Manhattan School of Music (MM in piano performance) and Mannes/Newschool University (diploma in composition).

**Lisa Roth** (MM'09) is an adjunct professor of jazz studies at The School for Music Vocations at Southwestern Community College (SWCC) in Creston, Iowa, founded almost 20 years ago by vocal jazz entrepreneur Phil Mattson. Roth teaches jazz theory, jazz improvisation, ear-training, and applied jazz and classical voice.

**Adam Schumaker** (MM'08) composed music for a play-list on a high-tech, touch screen-based ICU bed called the IN Touch®. The integral part of his newly-created music was the consideration of current research in the field of music therapy. Schumaker's nine compositions encompass just over two hours of an eclectic mix of styles and instrumentations. His music will be uploaded onto thousands of beds nationwide.

**Katie Seidel** (BM'06) continues in her position as second bassoonist of Sinfonia da Camera in Champagne Urbana, Ill., and was recently recognized with a nomination for the Krannert Center Debut Artist Competition. This season, she is performing as a member of the Illinois Symphony Orchestra.

**Katie Seiler** (BM'09) is completing a Master of Music degree at the New England Conservatory in Boston and is a member of the vocal ensemble Prism.

**Denis Shebukhov** (MM'09) had his third transcription published in *Bass World* magazine.

**Chris Shook** (BM'73) has been appointed Secretary-Treasurer of the International Trombone Association.

Three former horn students of Lin Foulk have been accepted into graduate degree programs: **Dan Spencer** (MM'09) was accepted into the Doctor of Musical Arts program at the University of Iowa, where he is now a student; **Jason Gridley-Waters** (MM'09) is a student in the Doctor of Musical Arts program at Michigan State University; and **Mike Petterson** (BM'08) is in the Master of Music program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

**Logan Thomas** (BM'07), piano, is a faculty member at the Larchmont Music Academy in Westchester, N.Y. He tours with eight-time NAMMY award winner and RB/pop singer Jana Mashonee.

**Laura Urban** (BM'09) completed her first year as Director of Bands at Martin Public Schools. She is also a member of the Grand Rapids Symphonic Band.

**Dan Van Elk** (BM'09), euphonium, is working for West Music in Coralville, Iowa.

**Wendy (Ritter) van Gent** (BM'80) is the new director of vocal jazz at Eastern Michigan University.

**Chris Van Hof** (BM'06) is the new trombone professor at Nazareth College in Rochester, N.Y. He is a recent graduate of the Eastman School of Music.

**Martin Van Klompenberg** (BA'06) recently completed the Master of Music degree at Arizona State University, and is currently a doctoral

student at the University of Arizona.

**Stefanie Ward** (BA'05) completed her degree in performing arts administration at Boston University, and is an administrative staff member with the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

**Kelly Ann (Nelson) Westgate** (BM'99, MM'06) accepted the choral and general music position at the Princeton Day School in Princeton, N.J.

**Ellen (Wingertzahn) Winters** (1996-98) was invited to perform at The Bitter End in New York City as part of Chick Singer Night. As the longest running showcase featuring female musicians, Chick Singer Night strives to promote upcoming female musicians. In January 2010, she co-presented a workshop on vocal jazz at the Ohio Music Educators Association Convention in Cincinnati. "Vocal Jazz: As Accessible as Do, Re, Mi" offers choral educators an opportunity to gain knowledge about starting or enhancing a high school vocal jazz program.

Jazz musician and teacher **John Wojciechowski** (BM'95) was honored with a 2009 WMU College of Fine Arts Distinguished Alumni Award.

Bassist **Shijiao Zhang** (MM'09) won a position in the National Center for the Performing Arts Symphony Orchestra.

School of Music Director **David Colson** completed a new work for Opus 21, *2 Alone*, performed June 2009 at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts in conjunction with the Georgia O'Keefe exhibit; and a new composition, *A Flying Circus*, for the Western Brass Quintet's tour of Russia in October 2009. Colson is currently composing a new piece for the North/South Consonance Chamber Orchestra to be performed in New York City in 2010-11. In the fall semester, Colson led the WMU new music ensemble *Birds on a Wire* in Pierre Jalbert's *Visual Abstracts* and Davis' *Eight Songs for a Mad King* with tenor John Duykers. In February, he conducted the same group in a performance of Ligeti's *Chamber Concerto*. In April, he conducted two chamber operas by Robert Moran at The Colorado College.



In spring 2009, **David Loberg Code** led a collaborative project with students from the College of Engineering to design and construct a new speaker system for use with KLOrk (the Kalamazoo Laptop Orchestra). The photo above shows Daniel Lafond, Robert Valentine, and Daniel Lecompte together with Code and their completed prototype of the "Gooseneck Speaker Array." The Gooseneck received its artistic debut at a KLOrk performance on Dec. 5, 2009 and its scientific debut at a conference presentation at the College of Engineering on Dec. 9, 2009. An excerpt can be seen on [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com); Search: KLOrk.

**Martha Cuncell-Vargas** performed at the National Flute Association convention in August 2009 on a concert dedicated to the works of Cuban-born composer Paquito D'Rivera. Having completed her DMA degree at the University of Iowa in May 2009, her doctoral research focused

on D'Rivera's works for flute, highlighting the ways in which the composer blends the Cuban dance idiom with the European classical tradition. In October and November, Cuncell-Vargas toured Illinois, with performances and master classes at Eastern Illinois University, the Illinois Flute Festival, and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. In February, she performed for the first time with the Western Wind Quintet in Muskegon, Mich., on the series "Feeding the Soul of the City." On March 14, WMU hosted Flute Fest 2010, drawing over 80 flutists from Kalamazoo and the surrounding areas. Featured guest artist, Grammy Award winning flutist Rhonda Larson played a recital and gave a master class for WMU students. The West Michigan Flute Orchestra and the WMU Flute Choir performed, under the direction of Darlene Dugan and Danielle Breisach, respectively. The South East Michigan Flute Association also held a flute festival in April 2010, and Cuncell-Vargas was invited to judge two competitions as part of the festivities. The WMU Flute Choir, under the direction of Danielle Breisach, was also invited to perform. In June, Cuncell-Vargas will travel to Quito, Ecuador, to perform as a guest artist in the Festival de Flautistas en el Centro del Mundo (flute festival in the center of the world), with long-time collaborator, pianist Richard Steinbach.

A recently commissioned work by **C. Curtis-Smith** was premiered on Feb. 28 in Freiburg, Germany by Ensemble SurPlus. The work was inspired by a poem by German poet Rainer Maria Rilke, "Das ist die Sehnsucht," and is scored for string quartet and piano and takes as its title the final line of the poem, "Dem Ewigen entgegenschweigt" ("Meets the eternal with silence"). The concert was devoted to a number of commissioned works, all expressly composed in homage to the late James Avery, pianist, conductor, and founder of the new music group, Ensemble SurPlus, which, while based in Freiburg, has toured the U.S. and Europe and recorded widely.

Curtis-Smith's works were featured at the Gilmore International Keyboard Festival on April 28, at the Wellspring Theater, Epic Center, in Kalamazoo. The Merling Trio, the distinguished ensemble-in-residence at Western Michigan University, performed two of Curtis-Smith's most compelling works—his piano trios. The composer himself

performed the solo piano piece, *Collusions*, a work written jointly by him and his colleague and friend, William Bolcom. The first piano trio, *The Sweetgrass*, was commissioned and premiered by the New Arts Trio of the Eastman School of Music, while the second trio, *The Secret Heart of Sound*, was commissioned and premiered by the Merling Trio. The Merling Trio has recorded both trios on the Albany Records label.

**Renata Artman Knific** was invited to perform chamber music and present master classes for the 30th anniversary year of the Skaneateles Festival in New York. She also presented an all-Bolcom program with faculty colleagues **Lori Sims** and **Carl Ratner** on Chicago's Jewel Box Series, which was broadcast live on Chicago radio.

**Tom Knific** was interviewed for *Jazz Inside* magazine (twice) and the Web site [www.forbassplayersonly.com](http://www.forbassplayersonly.com). He also composed five new works for his next solo recording, *A Bridge for Mostar*; played on and co-produced a CD with Kevin Cole for the Gershwin Foundation; and recorded a soon-to-be-released trio CD with pianist Ron Di Salvo and drummer Keith Hall. Knific will present a recital and master class in October 2010 at a double bass festival in Berlin. He performed three concerts with Kevin Cole on the Gilmore International Keyboard Festival in May, and he has been appointed music director of the new Michigan Trails Jazz Festival in Midland. His composition *The Muse and The Master* was performed multiple times as the featured piece for the most recent International Society of Bassists Solo Competition.

**John Lychner** served on the Planning Committee for the Michigan Music Conference (MMC) and presided over two sessions at the MMC in January. In the spring, he was a clinician for Dowagiac Union High School, Parchment High School, Muir Middle School, and the Michigan Wind and Percussion Festival held at Portage Northern High School (Mich.). Lychner began his two-year term as President of the Michigan Music Educators Association in May and will also serve on the Executive Committee for the MMC for the next four years. At WMU, he hosted the 2nd Annual Fall Conference, "The Joy of Middle School Band: Kids, Music, Teachers," featuring guest composer and conductor Douglas Akey.

Coalescence Percussion Duo, WMU alumnus Greg Secor and faculty member **Judy Moonert**, performed Joel Harrison's marimba duo *Why Has the Hunter Not*

*Returned* at The Players Theatre in New York City on Oct. 28, 2009. As percussionist with Opus 21, Moonert performed in "Electric Don Quixote: The Music of Frank Zappa," Fontana Chamber Arts 2009-10 Concert Series on Nov. 14, 2009. Locally, she remains active as Principal Percussionist with the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra and performed *Le Bal Masque* by Francis Poulenc for the Fontana Chamber Arts summer series on July 18, 2009.

Moonert and the WMU School of Music hosted the 2009 Michigan Percussive Arts Society "Day of Percussion" on Saturday, May 3, 2009. The event included Linda Maxey, marimbist, performing Michael Udow's *Coyote Dreams*, Minoru Miki's *Marimba Spiritual*, and Nebosja Zivkovic's *Uneven Souls* with Galaxy Percussion (Michael Udow, Roger Braun, Anthony DiSanza, and Michael Udow) and drum set artist Tommy Igoe.



**The Merling Trio** continued its busy touring schedule with performances in Michigan for the Grand Valley State University Arts at Noon Series, Birmingham Temple Vivace Series, Grand Rapids Art Museum Fall Chamber Concert Series, Chamber Music North in Traverse City, Music at St. Paul's in Flint, First United Methodist Church in Mt. Clemens, and Gilmore Festival in Kalamazoo. Out of state, the trio performed for the Black Hills Chamber Music Society in Rapid City, S.D.; in Georgia for the Georgia Southwestern State University Chamber Series, Gainesville Pro Musica,

and Tuesdays Music Live in Augusta; in Kentucky at Lindsey-Wilson College; in Ohio at the Troy-Hayner Center for the Arts; in Alabama for the Lindberg Farm Chamber Series in Huntsville; and in Texas for the Fredericksburg Music Club. The trio continued its strong tradition of educational outreach with master classes or lecture demonstrations at all venues, in addition to formal concerts. The trio is now on YouTube performing Dvorak, Piazzolla, and Haydn, as well as on the Web at [www.merlingtrio.com](http://www.merlingtrio.com).



**Robert Spradling's** book, *Error Detection Exercises for the Instrumental Conductor*, was released by Carl Fischer Publications in January and is on its way to universities around the country for use in conducting and music education methods classes. He conducted the Kansas All State High School Band at the Kansas Music Educators Conference in Wichita, Kansas in February. In March, Spradling guest conducted at the Ann Arbor Bands in Review, where he worked with the Pioneer and Huron High School Bands. He also adjudicated and did clinics at the Farmington Band Festival in March. Spradling also presented a number of individual clinics with area high schools and joined David Montgomery in hosting and working with the Buhler High School Bands when they visited WMU in March.

As pianist of the Verdehr Trio, faculty member **Silvia Roederer** performed two recent concerts in New York City and was artist-in-residence at California State University-Fullerton and at Columbia College in Chicago. The trio played two concerts at the Philips Collection in Washington, D.C. and also performed in Iowa and upstate New York in fall 2009. A new CD featuring the trio playing Rick Sowash's music, titled *Pastorale*, was released in December 2009. That same month, she was piano soloist in a performance of Beethoven's Fourth Piano Concerto to help raise funds for the Kalamazoo Junior Symphony Orchestra.

**Wendy Rose** completed her first CD, which features RAD (Rose/Austin Duo) with colleague Paul Austin of the Grand Rapids Symphony and WMU pianist Yu-Lien Thé. The CD, *Treasures from the Great Lakes: Music for Bassoon, Horn and Piano*, features music of Eric Ewazen,

Alec Wilder, and Paul Basler. Because RAD is committed to educating the next generation of musicians and audiences, the Saugatuck Festival presented the duo at Douglas Elementary in May 2009, and will also feature RAD at Fennville schools in May 2010. Rose continued her association with Interlochen Arts Camp in summer 2009, teaching and performing at the High School All-State Orchestra program and the Adult Chamber Music Workshop. She continues her role as Principal Bassoon with the Battle Creek Symphony Orchestra and also

appeared as a guest musician with the Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo symphonies. Summer 2010 includes a return to the Hot Springs Music Festival in Arkansas where she is a mentor and will appear as a soloist in a performance of Haydn's *Symphonie Concertante*. She will perform a program of wind quintet repertoire in the Saugatuck Chamber Music Festival and will be featured with the Western Wind Quintet at Fontana Chamber Arts.

**Lori Sims** performed a three concert Schumann-a-thon during the Bullock Performance Series. The Schumann-a-thon included guest cellist Suren Bagratuni and guest baritone Joshua Hopkins, a rising star in the opera world and winner of the ARD International Competition for voice in Munich, Germany. In March, Sims was invited to be the guest artist at the International Piano Symposium in Stellenbosch, South Africa, where she

performed a recital and gave master classes. She will again be performing a recital and giving a master class at the 2010 Gilmore International Keyboard Festival, as well as providing the music for the musical monologue, *Clara*, written by Kalamazoo's Judith Maze and performed with actor Sharon Williams. Finally, Hausmusik, a concert presenter in Pennsylvania, will be presenting Sims in a New York Recital at Carnegie Hall's Zankel Hall in May 2011.



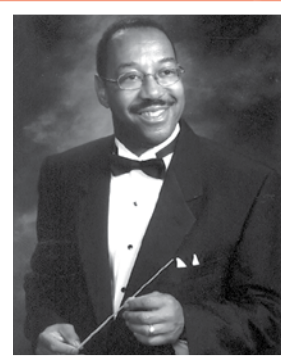
The American Music Therapy Association presented its Lifetime Achievement Award to **David S. Smith** during the association's 2009 national conference this past November in San Diego, Calif. The AMTA's first president, Smith guided the new organization in 1998 as it developed out of a merger of the National Association for Music Therapy and American Association for Music Therapy. The Lifetime Achievement Award is the AMTA's most prestigious honor. It recognizes a lifetime of commitment and dedication to the profession of music therapy and is bestowed by the AMTA Board of Directors. The AMTA also has presented him with such national honors as the Presidential Award for Distinguished Professional Contributions, Outstanding Service Award, Spirit of Unification Award and Presidential Leadership Award. A WMU faculty member since 1995, Smith serves as the School of Music's graduate studies advisor. He is a specialist in secondary general music education and special learners. His research has appeared in a range of peer-reviewed publications, including the *Journal of Music Therapy*, *General Music Today*, *Music Therapy Perspectives*, and *Journal of the International Association of Music for the Handicapped*.

**Bruce Uchimura** performed many concerts with the renowned Merling Trio in 2009–10. These included tours to South Dakota, Georgia, Kentucky, Alabama, Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Texas. He also performed in a Chamber Music concert of string sextets on the Chamber Music North Series in Traverse City, Mich. In the summer, he again taught cello and chamber music at the Calvin College String Summit, Sleepy Hollow Chamber Music Festival. At WMU's Seminar, he conducted the string orchestra in addition to teaching cello and coaching chamber music. At the January 2010 annual meeting of the American String Teachers Association (Michigan Chapter/MASTA) held during the Michigan Music Conference, he was voted "String Teacher of the Year" by the membership, which includes string teachers from all Michigan schools, universities, and colleges which house student chapters. As a conductor, Uchimura was invited to conduct the 2010 Michigan Youth Arts Festival All-State Honors Orchestra in May by the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association (MSBOA). He also gave clinics and conducted school orchestras in Hudsonville, Mich.; Dexter, Mich.; and Elkhart, Ind.; and was guest conductor at the Farmington Hills School's (Mich.) String Day in March. He was also invited to conduct the North Pointe Christian Schools Orchestra String Day in February. As an adjudicator, he judged the Michigan State Solo and Ensemble finals in March and was also invited to judge the annual MSBOA Concerto competition in April.

**Bradley Wong** performed Copland's *Clarinet Concerto* with the Southwest Michigan Symphony, his fifth appearance as soloist with the orchestra. With the new music ensemble Opus 21, he performed a concert of the music of Frank Zappa. The program, presented by Fontana Chamber Arts, was also repeated on campus for a Convocation Series concert and for Direct Encounter for the Arts. He also organized a Convocation Series concert of 20th century chamber music featuring clarinet. Wong continues to perform with the Chamber Music Society of Saugatuck and High Winds, a duo with his wife, flutist Betsy Wong.

**Steve Wolfenbarger** was awarded this year's College of Fine Arts "Outstanding Teaching Award" and received the Western Michigan University "Distinguished Teaching Award."

# SPOTLIGHT ON MUSIC EDUCATION



## The Pioneer Arts Education Symposium in Music Education

Thomas and Sandra Reece established the Symposium that celebrates those who made major contributions to music education at WMU and in Southwest Michigan. The Symposium honors a "pioneer" and encourages the pioneering spirit by bringing a national figure to campus to inspire students and faculty alike. Dr. Peter Webster and Dr. Clifford Madsen have been the previous visiting pioneer pedagogues.

**Dr. Scott Shuler** will be the visiting scholar for the Biennial Pioneer Music Education Symposium that will take place Jan. 24–25, 2011. A native of Michigan, Shuler holds a Ph.D. from the Eastman School of Music and has had a distinguished career as a public school and university music educator. He is currently the Arts Education Specialist for the Connecticut State Department of Education and will begin his two-year term as National President of MENC: The National Association for Music Education in July.

In addition to hosting a visiting scholar, the symposium is designed to honor a "pioneer" music educator from the Southwest Michigan area. That award will be presented immediately prior to Shuler's keynote address. Details of all symposium events will be posted on the School of Music Web site, and organizers hope that alumni, local music educators, and all who support music education will be able to attend.

## "The Joy of Middle School Band: Kids, Music, Teachers" Brings Quincy Hilliard to Campus

The Second Annual Fall Conference—"The Joy of Middle School Band: Kids, Music, Teachers," held on Oct. 27, 2009—was a great success. Doug Akey was the guest composer/conductor. Akey's compositions for middle and high school band are among the very best in the repertoire, and he is a master teacher who provided wonderful insights into teaching middle school band.

The Third Annual Fall Conference will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 26, 2010, and will feature composer **Dr. Quincy Hilliard**.

The recipient of numerous ASCAP awards, Hilliard is in demand internationally as a conductor, adjudicator, and guest clinician. His frequent commissions include a piece for the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta and the score for the documentary film, *The Texas Rangers*. In addition to his appointment to the Louisiana Arts Council, Hilliard holds the Heymann Endowed Professorship of Music at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette where he is currently composer-in-residence and professor of music theory and composition.



# Bullock Performance Institute | 2010-11 SEASON

## ARABESQUE TRIO & DANCER

**Tuesday, Sept. 28 @ 8:15 p.m.**

The Arabic Music Ensemble was founded by Hicham Chami, a Moroccan-born qanun performer based in Chicago. Voted "Chicago's Best Instrumentalist" in 2002 by *Chicago Magazine*, Chami is also the founder of several organizations dedicated to preserving the heritage of classical Arabic, Turkish, and Armenian music. The Arabesque Trio, as a part of the Arabesque Music Ensemble, performs classical music from the Arabic traditions. Eastern instruments such as 'ud, qanun, buzuq, nay, and riqq are complemented by Western orchestral instruments and traditional dance.



## SPHINX CHAMBER ORCHESTRA WITH ELENA URIOSTE, VIOLIN

**Saturday, Oct. 16 @ 8:15 p.m.**

The Sphinx Chamber Orchestra is an ensemble comprising top alumni of the national Sphinx Competition for young Black and Latino string players. This unique group earned rave reviews from *The New York Times* in December 2004, during its highly acclaimed debut at Carnegie Hall. Allan Kozinn of *The Times* described their performances as "first-rate in every way." Violinist Elena Urioste, selected by *Symphony* magazine as an emerging artist to watch, has been hailed by critics



and audiences alike for her rich tone, the nuanced lyricism of her playing, and her commanding stage presence.

## GEORGE RUCKERT, SAROD; GRETCHEN RUCKERT, KATHAK DANCER; AND JERRY LEAKE, TABLA

**Thursday, Oct. 21 @ 8:15 p.m.**

George Ruckert became a student of renowned Indian sarodist Ali Akbar Khan in 1967. A co-founder and administrator of this master's important center for North Indian classical music in California, Ruckert has also performed and taught this music widely in the U.S., Canada, India, and Europe, and has composed for orchestra, film, and dance productions, as well as published five books on the classical music of North India. Ruckert will be joined in this residency and performance by percussionist Jerry Leake and dancer Gretchen Hayden Ruckert.

## TRI-FI

**Thursday, Oct. 28 @ 8:15 p.m.**

TRI-FI jazz trio members Matthew Fries (piano), Phil Palombi (bass), and WMU School of Music drum set professor Keith Hall bring their brand of acoustic jazz to Kalamazoo as they celebrate the release of their third CD. With original compositions

and new arrangements of familiar jazz tunes, this NYC-based group displays a high level of musical communication, and a vibrant and joyful swing in the tradition of the classic jazz piano trio.

Bill Wood of the *Kalamazoo Gazette* writes, "Tri-Fi has come up with a jazz sound everybody can root for." Visit [www.TRI-FI.com](http://www.TRI-FI.com) for more information.

## BIRDS ON A WIRE, CLARINETIST BRADLEY WONG, AND COMPOSER PETER PECERE

**Tuesday, Nov. 16 @ 8:15 p.m.**

Directed by David Colson, the School of Music new music ensemble Birds on a Wire has rapidly made its name and reputation through programming from the classics of the avant-garde and the works of living composers. This new ensemble blends students, School of Music faculty, and professional musicians from throughout the region in performances exploring and researching the newest art music and standards for performance. Birds on a Wire's BPI performance features a newly commissioned chamber music work by Peter Pecere featuring WMU School of Music professor Bradley Wong playing Yamaha's DX-5 wind synthesizer.

## "BACH TO BROADWAY"

**Sunday, Jan. 30 @ 3 p.m.**

Join the highly acclaimed WMU School of Music vocal faculty in a concert of works from across the spectrum of the repertoire. These singers' talents and expertise range from Bach through Bellini to Broadway, and encompass everything in between. The Voice

Area faculty is: Elizabeth Cowan, Grace Mannion, Alice Pierce, Karen Wicklund, David Little, Ken Prewitt, and Carl Ratner.

## FLUTIST MARTHA COUNCELL-VARGAS AND THE EUCLID STRING QUARTET

**Thursday, Feb. 17 @ 8:15 p.m.**

An energetic and inventive artist, Martha Councill-Vargas has performed as a soloist and chamber musician in Central and South America, Europe, and across the United States. Her scholarly and artistic specialization is in the music of Latin America and the Caribbean. She will be joined by the Euclid String Quartet for a concert of equatorial works certain to be a delightful exploration of this musical landscape. The Euclid Quartet, in residence at Indiana University South Bend, is a dynamic ensemble known for performances filled with personality and vibrant color. They are dedicated to performing contemporary music and endorsing living composers in the 21st century.

## WESTERN WIND QUINTET

**Sunday, March 13 @ 3 p.m.**

The Western Wind Quintet originated in 1966 at Western Michigan University as a resident faculty ensemble in the School of Music. In addition to on-campus concerts, the quintet is active throughout the Midwest presenting frequent recitals and clinics. They have performed at Carnegie Hall, where the *New York press* praised their commitment to the music and innovative programming. This season, the quintet welcomes two new members: Martha Councill-Vargas, flute, and Lin Foulk, horn.



ALL CONCERTS HELD IN THE DALTON CENTER RECITAL HALL. TICKETS FOR EACH CONCERT ARE \$12 (SENIORS \$10, STUDENTS \$5) AND ARE AVAILABLE FROM MILLER AUDITORIUM AT (269) 387-2300 OR (800) 228-9858.

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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

**PUBLISHED BY THE WMU SCHOOL OF MUSIC**

David Colson, Director and Kevin West, Editor  
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## 2009–2010 Guest Artists

**John Adler**, *Trumpet*  
**Douglas Akey**, *Clinician/Conductor*  
**Ben Allison**, *Double Bass/Jazz*  
**The Ben Allison Band**  
**Karim Al-Zand**, *Composer*  
**Jeffery Ames**, *Conductor*  
**Susan B. Anthony**, *Soprano*  
**Meredith Arwady**, *Contralto*  
**David Asbury**, *Guitar*  
**Ivano Ascarì**, *Trumpet*  
**Suren Bagratuni**, *Cello*  
**Ron Barron**, *Trombone*  
**Shelly Berg**, *Piano/Jazz*  
**Annie Chalex Boyle**, *Violin*  
**Jeffrey Butler**, *Cello*  
**Bruce Cain**, *Baritone*  
**Dmitry Chasovitin**, *Piano*  
**Tracy Cowden**, *Piano*  
**John Duykers**, *Tenor*

**Aaron P. Dworkin**, *Lecturer*  
**Enso String Quartet**  
**Victoria Evtodieva**, *Soprano*  
**Debra Fayroian**, *Cello*  
**Adam Frey**, *Euphonium*  
**Keir GoGwilt**, *Violin*  
**Monica Griffin**, *Soprano*  
**Jamey Haddad**, *Percussion/Jazz*  
**Billy Hart**, *Drums*  
**Fred Hersch**, *Pianist and Composer*  
**Joshua Hopkins**, *Tenor*  
**Keith Horn**, *Composer*  
**Stephanie Hovnanian**, *Clarinet*  
**Wesley Jacobs**, *Tuba & Euphonium*  
**Brandon Jones**, *Euphonium*  
**John Knific**, *Pianist and Entrepreneur*  
**Rhonda Larson and Ventus**  
**Donny McCaslin**, *Saxophone/Jazz*  
**m-pact (male a cappella sextet)**  
**Northstar Jazz Sextet**

**Eric Olson**, *Violin*  
**Shannon Orme**, *Clarinet & Bass Clarinet*  
**Pacifica Quartet**  
**David Palmer**, *Piano*  
**Ken Peplowski**, *Clarinet and Tenor Saxophone/Jazz*  
**Nicholas Schwartz**, *Double Bass*  
**Julie Sengupta**, *Adjudicator*  
**Robert Sheldon**, *Guest Composer/Conductor*  
**Christopher Smith**, *Trumpet*  
**Esperanza Spalding**, *Double Bass/Jazz*  
**Storioni Piano Trio**  
**Ben Street**, *Double Bass/Jazz*  
**Triton Brass Quintet**  
**USAF Falconaires**  
**Chris VanHof**, *Trombone*  
**Virtuoso Horn Duo**  
**Jiggs Whigham**, *Trombone/Jazz*  
**Jobey Wilson**, *Tuba*  
**James Wood**, *Trumpet*