



BAYLOR

School of Music

Semper Pro Musica

February 2018 Newsletter

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From the Dean



As we welcome students back from the holiday break and look ahead to the promise of a new semester, a lot is happening in the School of Music. The month of January will select the next Concerto Competition winner, with the final round taking place on January 20, and the end of the month will see the presentation of this year's Baylor Opera production of *A Little Night Music* by Stephen Sondheim. Preparations are well underway to hold the finals of the 2018 *Semper Pro Musica Solo and Chamber Music Competition* on February 11, starting at 1:00 pm in Roxy Grove Hall. The *Semper Pro Musica Organ Competition*, new this year, will take place on March 13, starting at 7:30 pm in Jones Concert Hall. We will soon know which student will solo with our premiere instrumental group next academic year and which students will represent the School

of Music in New York City in late May.

On the first day of classes this semester, we sent out a survey to 354 music students to ask them to respond to critical questions about their experiences in the School of Music. The purpose of the survey is to gather statistical data and narrative, from students, in an anonymous fashion. By doing so, we can better understand the stresses and pressures they are under as musicians, students, and human beings coming into their own as they move from here on into the world. This week we are also holding a Student Convocation, attended exclusively by students and run by the Student Council. The goals of the yearly Student Convocation, as defined by the members of our Student Council, are to create an enhanced sense of unity and community; to help the student body feel like they have a voice that is being heard; to allow students to come away feeling like there are important things to think about going forward; and to create dialogue so that ideas expressed bring forth new initiatives to focus our attention, so that we can enhance the delivery of instruction in the School of Music.

I hope that you will check out our performance calendar and be able to attend some of the more than 200 recitals and performances scheduled to take place here in the School of Music during the Spring

2018 academic semester. <http://www.baylor.edu/music/index.php?id=863427>

Thank you for your support of the School of Music, and enjoy the rest of the newsletter.

Gary Mortenson – Dean
School of Music

In the Spotlight

Spotlight on Music and Memory

Under the careful guidance and vision of Dr. Deborah Williamson and Dr. Lesley McAllister, the School of Music's newest outreach initiative, in the final stages of creation, is Music and Memory at Baylor University. The stated "Mission and Vision" of Music and Memory is to "bring personalized music into the lives of the elderly or infirm through digital music technology, vastly improving quality of life." Music and Memory achieves this goal through a certification process by which memory care facilities apply and receive the training and resources required to gain facility certification. The School of Music has partnered with the Living Springs Village, a memory care facility here in Waco that has close ties with Baylor University. The School of Music's relationship with Living Springs began in late 2017 when Dr. Williamson coordinated two live performances of music at the facility that included Jonathan Pinto on piano and members of her voice studio at Baylor. Sarah Holevinski, Tina Sala, and Shannon Skillman will serve as the organization's first student officers.

Baylor's Music and Memory group will provide personalized music to residents of Living Springs Village via iPods that will contain music personalized to each resident's taste, based on the music that they have grown to love over the course of their lives. The research and testimonials as to the impact this makes on the lives of the residents at memory care facilities is overwhelmingly positive. The student organization will also provide monthly live musical performances for the residents of Living Springs Village by utilizing various chamber groups and student soloists drawn from the School of Music's prodigious base of talent.

Finally, Music and Memory will seek to collaborate with other departments and colleges across the university, so that more can be learned from the impact music has on the quality of life of those who struggle with memory loss in the course of their lifetime. Most notably, the School of Music is working with Dr. Dennis Myers, of the Diana Garland School of Social Work, whose expertise and research focuses on Senior Living Environments, Long-term Care, and Older Adults and Poverty.



(left to right) Tina Sala, Dr. Lesley McAllister, Dr. Deborah Williamson, Shannon Skillman, Sarah Holeyvinski

Spotlight on Timothy McKinney

Dr. Timothy McKinney was one of twenty-six speakers from Europe and the United States invited to Venice to speak at the international conference “Musico perfetto: Gioseffo Zarlino—Il suo tempo, la sua opera, la sua influenza” (The Perfect Musician: Gioseffo Zarlino—His Times, His Works, His Influence), held in honor of the 500th anniversary of Zarlino’s birth, November 29-December 1, 2017. Zarlino is considered by many the most important music theorist of the sixteenth century, and one of the most influential of all time. Dr. McKinney’s paper, titled “Zarlino’s Aesthetics,” examines Zarlino’s attempts to identify specific musical elements and compositional procedures that shape music’s beauty and expressive power. It also connects these theories to various strands of aesthetic philosophy, from antiquity through Zarlino’s own day.

Two special events connected to the conference were a concert in the Basilica di San Marco by the ensemble Cappella Marciana, under the direction of Marco Gemmani, and the opening ceremony for an exhibition devoted to sixteenth-century music theory in the Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana, featuring original manuscripts and printed treatises, and even Zarlino’s will. The concert in the cathedral, with its famed dual choir lofts, was a rare opportunity to hear music by Andrea and Giovanni Gabrieli, Claudio Merulo, Zarlino himself, and other Venetian musicians performed in the very space for which it was written, often in polychoral style. It was a profoundly moving experience for Dr. McKinney to present a paper on Zarlino in the afternoon and then walk through the streets of Venice in the evening to the cathedral—in which Zarlino worked some 450 years ago—to hear his music performed.

Dr. McKinney will be presenting another paper on Zarlino for the Renaissance Society of America in New Orleans this spring. In addition to his research into music and music theory of the Renaissance, Dr. McKinney continues his work on nineteenth-century composer Hugo Wolf, begun many years ago with his Ph.D. dissertation. In December, his article “A Tale of Two Critics; or, A Wolf at the Door: Recovering a Critical Dialogue between Eduard Hanslick and Hugo Wolf” was published in the inaugural issue of the *Journal of Music Criticism*.

After serving as Interim Dean of the School of Music during the 2014-15 academic year, in the fall of 2015 Dr. Timothy McKinney began his tenure as Director of the Academic Studies Division in the School of Music. In the summer of 2018, Professor McKinney will transition to serve as the Graduate Program Director of the School of Music, a position that Dr. Laurel Zeiss has held with great distinction and dedication.



Dr. Timothy McKinney at the Basilica di San Marco in Venice

Our Students

VirtuOSO, Baylor's contemporary a cappella vocal group directed by Stephen Gusukuma, has been invited to perform at the A Cappella Educators Association National A Cappella Convention in Memphis in April 2018. This opportunity will allow the group to perform for A Cappella enthusiasts and educators—high school through professional level—from around the nation. It will also provide opportunities for members of VirtuOSO to attend master classes and other educational sessions.



The Trumpet Studios of Wiff Rudd and Mark Schubert will be exceptionally well represented at the National Trumpet Competition (NTC) in March. All seventeen members of their respective studios will be competing in the competition. Soloists chosen to perform include the following undergraduates: Amy Barto, Cordelia DeDecker, Ryan James Fitzgerald, Johan Kelly, Ryan McArthur, Ross Mitchell, Tyler Moore, Stephen Spink, Sally Tepper, and Joey Tkach. In the graduate division, Claire Hogan will compete, as well as a recent Baylor Graduate, Regan O'Connor (pursuing a master's degree at SMU). All three Baylor Trumpet Ensembles (Baylor Green, Baylor, and Baylor Gold) will compete in the NTC Trumpet Ensemble Competition. The Undergraduate Division of the NTC Solo Competition was particularly competitive this year with 174 applications for 60 spots.

The Viola Studio of Dr. Kathryn Steely has been selected, through a juried process, to perform in the American Viola Society Festival Ensemble Invitational Showcase. The ensemble will perform *Ballad for Six Violas* by Paul Pisk. The group will perform on Friday, June 15, 2018, at noon at the Colburn School of Music in Los Angeles, California. The group, pictured below during their preliminary recording session of the work by Paul Pisk, is composed of the following students (left to right): Joshua Thaver, Tracie Walker, Grace Remmer, Dylan Haines, Andrew Pina, Brenden Guillory, Trey Thompson, Alex Ayala, and Sarah Hamrin.



Vocal / Choral students have been selected, by audition, to compete as semi-finalists in the Southwest Region – American Choral Directors Association Student Conducting Competition. This includes undergraduates **Parker Bowen**, **Madi King**, and **Evan Moynihan**. The competition will take place in March in Oklahoma City.

Zachary Barba, MM student in Vocal Performance, and **Michael Skarke**, BM student in Vocal Performance (both students of Robert Best), received mention in the online publication VocalArtsChicago in the December 29, 2017, year-end review titled *The Best of Opera in 2017*. In a column titled *Ones to Watch*, the following is extracted as it pertains to Barba and Skarke. “On June 3rd, Haymarket Opera Summer Opera Course presented an abridged version of Antonio Cesti’s *L’Orontea*, narrated by stage director Drew Minter. In its second season, it was fascinating to see what types of singers were seeking the highly specialized training offered by this unique program (17th-century performance practice, historical gesture and stage beauty, Feldenkries, Anne Bogart’s *Viewpoints* technique, and Italian diction coaching). The cast was rife with impressive young artists including Texas-based Zachary Barba, whose sweet, forward-laced tenor is already optimal for Mozart and Bach and may thrive in the high bel canto roles... TeoVAC is forecasting a huge career

for counter-tenor Michael Skarke, who is still completing his bachelor's degree at Baylor University in Texas. With movie star good looks, an athlete's physique, a palpable passion for singing, and an exquisite, almost ethereal tone quality that comes as a shock to the listener, Skarke already demonstrates the qualities that are a director's fantasy."



Zachary Barba



Michael Skarke

Andy Eaton, MM student of Robert Best in Vocal Performance, has won the South-Central Division of the MTNA Young Artist Voice Competition. In March, Andy will advance to the National Competition in Florida.



Sarah Hamrin, BM student of Kathryn Steely in Viola Performance, has been selected as a finalist in the Collegiate Division of the American Viola Society's Solo Competition. The final round competition will be held on Friday, June 15, at the Colburn School of Music in Los Angeles, California.



Joshua Lee, MM student of Kathy McNeil in Vocal Performance, and his wife Linn recently appeared on Season 5, Episode 8 ("A Classic, Traditional Beauty") of HGTV's hit show *Fixer Upper*. The viewing audience was treated to Chip and Joanna Gaines trying their hand at opera. The renovation included soundproofed space dedicated to the making of music.



Joshua and Linn Lee (center) between Chip and Joanna Gaines

Kristen Neel, MM student of Lesley McAllister in Piano Pedagogy, will be presenting a research poster titled “Taubman and Alexander: Overviews and Pedagogical Applications” at two national conferences this spring: the Music Teachers National Association conference in Orlando, Florida, in March, and the MTNA Collegiate Chapter Symposium conference in Austin, Texas, in February. She also received a travel award from the Texas Music Teachers Association to attend the MTNA national conference.



Julia Powers, MM student of Jamie VanEyck in Vocal Performance, will be singing the title role in Handel’s *Rinaldo* for the Chicago Summer Opera in July of 2018.



Tracie Walker, BME in String Education and student of Kathryn Steely in Viola, has been awarded a SphinxConnect Fellowship to attend SphinxConnect, February 1-4, in Detroit. The SphinxConnect Conference will welcome hundreds of attendees to an important weekend of networking, inspiration, and leadership, engaging in the global conversation of diversity in the arts. Afa Dworkin serves as President and Artistic Director of the Sphinx programs that reach over 100,000 students, as well as live and broadcast audiences of over two million annually.



Austin Westjohn, MM student of Brent Phillips in Trombone Performance, has been offered a position with “Pershing’s Own” United States Army Ceremonial Band. Austin joins a long list of Baylor alumni who have auditioned into top musical organizations associated with the U.S. Military. He will assume his duties with the Ceremonial Band after he graduates with his master’s degree in May of 2018.



Katie Wick, MM student of Jamie Van Eyck in Vocal Performance, will sing the leading role of Lisette in Puccini's *La Rondine* for the Varna International Opera during the summer of 2018.



Our Faculty

Baylor Strings & Friends featured Baylor string faculty, former students, and guest artists in a performance on Saturday, January 20, in Armstrong Browning Library's Foyer of Meditation. The

program included the following musicians: Eka Gogichashvili (violin), Ricardo Gómez (violin), Mia Orosco (violin), Kathryn Steely (viola), Gary Hardie (cello), Sandor Ostlund (double bass), Kae Hosoda-Ayer (piano), Gavin Kelso (guitar), and Scott McAllister (composer). The concert featured works by Brahms, Vieuxtemps, Sarasate, Martin, and Schoenfeld. Special music featured the work of Sandor Ostlund on a solo improvisation titled *Virtute (Improvisations on "There Is No Rose of Such Virtue")* and Scott McAllister, who wrote a composition titled *Cave Music* that received its world premiere on the program. McAllister conducted the premiere and talked about the inspiration behind the work in his introductory remarks to the audience. *Cave Music* featured Gogichashvili, Gómez, Steely, Hardie, Ostlund, and Hosoda-Ayer.



Baylor Strings & Friends perform an arrangement for five string players of the Brahms Piano Quintet in F minor

Two Baylor School of Music faculty members were featured in the January 2018 Academy for Teaching and Learning (ATL) magazine titled *Teaching and the Arts*. **Dr. Horace Maxile**, Associate Professor of Music Theory, wrote an article titled “On Connections Between Character and Craft” that addressed ATL’s theme of Forming Christian Character through classroom teaching. In addition to addressing the primary theme of Christian character and craft, other emphases included considering individual experiences in a broader context and writing effectively without the distraction of electronic devices. **Dr. Robin Wallace**, Professor of Musicology, was part of a three-person panel that included David Lyle Jeffrey (Literature and Humanities) and Chris Hansen (Film and Digital Media). The panel was moderated by ATL Graduate Fellow Christopher Ruiz, and the article was titled “Art, Teaching, and the Image of God: A Conversation.” In this wide-ranging article, the panel discussed the essence of what art really is and how it impacts society as a whole, the impact discussions about art can have in *any* classroom, how students can interpret or analyze art in a larger historical context, and ways in which art helps students encounter other historical periods and geographic locations. The full article can be accessed online here: <https://www.baylor.edu/atl/doc.php/304653.pdf>



Dr. Horace Maxile



Dr. Robin Wallace

Stephen Heyde, Professor of Orchestral Activities, is receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award in February from the College Orchestra Directors Association (CODA). He was co-founder of this organization in 2003. CODA is the only professional organization dedicated to the advancement of college and university orchestral programs and their conductors/teachers. Professor Heyde will travel to Brigham Young University to serve as a guest conductor of their top orchestras.



Jeffrey Peterson, Associate Professor for Vocal Coaching and Music Director of Baylor Opera, has collaborated with soprano Rebecca Wascoe Hays on a CD titled *A Strange, Wild Song*, featuring the art songs and song cycles of esteemed composer Libby Larsen. The full contents of the CD and a description of the music included is available through Albany Records online (<http://www.albanyrecords.com>).



Jamie Van Eyck, Assistant Professor of Voice, is prominently featured on a new CD release through Albany Records titled *Quartets*. The CD features the music of American Composer Laura Elise Schwendinger, and Dr. Van Eyck is the only vocalist on the disc. The other performers featured are Van Cliburn International Piano Competition winner, Christopher Taylor, and the renowned string quartet, JACK Quartet. On the disc, Dr. Van Eyck performs a large, four-movement work with the JACK Quartet titled *Sudden Light*. The disc is now available on the Albany Records website, and through Amazon and iTunes.



Our Alumni

Austin Aeschbacher (BME 2013) was selected to receive the Elementary Teacher of the Year Award by the Greater East Dallas Chamber of Commerce. Austin is currently a teacher at Northlake Elementary in the Richardson Independent School District.



Brian Bires (BME 2017), who studied viola with Kathryn Steely, was named the winner of the Baylor School of Music Concerto Competition in January 2017 and performed the Penderecki *Viola Concerto* with the Baylor Symphony Orchestra on November 13, 2017. Brian graduated in May 2017, and is currently pursuing a Master of Music degree in Viola Performance at the University of

Houston, where he studies with Wayne Brooks, the Houston Symphony Orchestra's Principal Viola.



Amy Farnell (BM in Vocal Performance 2015), who studied voice with Randall Umstead, completed the MA at the University of Birmingham in the United Kingdom. She is now continuing her studies at the Schola Cantorum Basiliensis for Medieval and Renaissance Studies in Basel, Switzerland.



Joseph Fuller (MM in Collaborative Piano 2004) has enjoyed a widely varied career since completing his master's degree at Baylor. He has released three CDs (2008, 2011, 2013) and is set to release his fourth in 2018. Joseph has performed under conductors from the Metropolitan Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Indianapolis Opera, Berkshire Opera, and the world renowned Indianapolis Children's Chorus with Henry Leck. He has also shared the stage with the Gospel Music Association's Covenant Award winning group *Tenore* and has performed for Magic Johnson and former host Craig Ferguson of "The Late Late Show." His albums have received over 18 million plays on Pandora Radio alone. In addition, Joseph has been the pianist for Grammy Award winning recordings in conjunction with the Grammy Foundation's "Grammy in the Schools." His albums are

available on all media platforms including iTunes, Amazon, Spotify, Apple Music, and Pandora Radio.



Giancarlo Guerrero (BM in Percussion 1991) has been appointed principal guest conductor of the Gulbenkian Orchestra in Lisbon, Portugal. In an interview with *USA Today*, Maestro Guerrero stated: “Gulbenkian was the first orchestra I conducted in Europe, so it has a special place in my heart. Returning as principal guest conductor feels a bit like coming home... There was a wonderful chemistry with the musicians from the very first concert I performed with them more than a decade ago, and they have been so welcoming every time I have returned. They took a chance on me as a young conductor, and I remain grateful for that.” Guerrero has been the Music Director of the Nashville Symphony since 2009 and is contracted to remain with the organization through the 2024-25 season. During his years with the Nashville Symphony, the orchestra has won five Grammy Awards.



Jasmine Reed (BME in Choral Music 2013, emphasis in Voice) is currently the Head Choral Director at Bayside (Texas) Intermediate School, where she has taught since graduating from Baylor. Jasmine also serves as the Region XVII Vocal Division Chair for the Texas Choral Directors Association (TCDA). In the summer of 2017, she received the TCDA Young Director of Distinction Award. Jasmine attributes much of her success as a choral music educator to the training she received at Baylor from her choral directors, voice teachers, and academic studies professors.



Logan Tanner Wright (BM in Vocal Performance), who studied voice with Randall Umstead and Jamie Van Eyck, is the winner of the New York Classical Music Society International Competition and winner of the Choralis Young Artist Competition. Logan gave his New York debut with the New York Repertory Orchestra in November of 2017 in Merkin Hall. This year will be a very busy one for Logan. He will make solo appearances with Choralis in March and the Henry Purcell Society of Boston in April. He will also sing the leading role of Oberson in Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with the Halifax Opera in August and the leading role of Ruggiero in Handel's *Alcina* for the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival during the summer.



We are interested in hearing from our alumni! To submit items for inclusion in the E-Newsletter, please email Dean Gary Mortenson (gary_mortenson@baylor.edu) and include your name, degree(s), year of graduation, major professor, JPEG portrait, and news item.

Our Future

Board of Advocates

On December 1, 2017 the School of Music hosted the fall meeting of the Baylor University School of Music Board of Advocates. The board is composed of alumni and business and professional leaders who are committed to the vitality of the School of Music at Baylor University. The Board helps the School of Music to strengthen its educational, creative, research, and outreach programs, improve its facilities, expand its base of support, and serve its alumni.

The 2017-18 Board of Advocates includes Cory and Amy Anderson, Babs Baugh, Barbara Elliott, Wayne Fisher, Ben Gatzke, Georgia Green, Giancarlo Guerrero, Carey and Stacie Hendrickson, Kurt Kaiser, Trammell Kelly, Kevin and Carole Lyons, Lyndon Olson, Jr., Allison Peterson, Nathan and Michal Taylor, James Williams, and Betty Wilson.

If you are interested in joining the Board of Advocates or giving to the School of Music, please contact Clayton Ellis, Director of Development, School of Music, Baylor University:
Clayton_Ellis@baylor.edu

Our Calendar

The School of Music presents more than 350 performances each year, the vast majority of which are free to the public. To view our schedule, visit: <https://www.baylor.edu/music/index.php?id=863427>

Performances of Baylor's major ensembles in Jones Concert Hall are presented via live web streaming. To access the schedule and link to live streamed events, visit: <https://www.baylor.edu/Music/index.php?id=935526> NOTE: Baylor does not archive live-streamed performances.

To receive a weekly schedule of School of Music events, contact Richard Veit:
Richard_Veit@baylor.edu Phone: (254) 710-3991.



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