

April/May 2004 Newsletter

The 2003 Midwest Clinic and 2004 IMEA: Check out photos on our website (<http://www.niu.edu/music>) of our time spent in Chicago and Peoria!

SCHOOL OF MUSIC AUDITION DATES

Auditions for the fall 2004 semester are closed. We auditioned over 300 students!

UPCOMING ON-CAMPUS FACULTY & STUDENT RECITALS/CONCERTS

We'll see you in the fall!

FACULTY NEWS

Ron Carter was on the cover and was the featured article (An Interview with Ron Carter by Thomas W. Streeter) in the March Issue of the IAJE Journal. Members of the NIU Jazz Ensemble could also be found in various photos.

Ron will be the guest conductor for the Vermont Allstate Honors Jazz Band in May. Ron was also appointed director of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Band Director's Academy at Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI in July.

Myron Myers was interviewed on WFMT in April to promote his German Song Text Workshop. While there, he also sang Wolf's Michelangelo Lieder. The Workshop will occur July 17-31 in Vienna Austria. Two NIU students, Kerry Ayres and Andrzej Stec will also be going. One of our former students, Cheryl Porter, has provided a scholarship for Andrzej. More information can be found at the following website: www.germansongtext.com

Through May 2, Ricardo Castaneda played oboe and English Horn for the Broadway in Chicago production of Phantom of the Opera at The Cadillac Palace Theater in Chicago. In March he performed in a chamber music recital with The Chicago Ensemble, of which he is a member. The program was performed at The Chicago Historical Society and repeated at the University of Chicago. The program included works, by Malcolm Arnold, Handel, and Goosens. Musicians included Sharon Quattrin, Soprano, Susan Levitin, Flute, Wagner Campos, Clarinet and Gerald Rizzer, Piano.

Our heartiest congratulations to Dr. Lawrence Stoffel, one of three recipients of the 2004 Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching. The award honors and recognizes faculty for excellence in undergraduate teaching, improvement of instruction, and promotion of discussion among members of the university community on the subject of teaching. Larry's award makes this #11 for the NIU School of Music (the second most awarded department)!

Drs. Koehler, Kim, and Kafer and Piano Technician David Graham traveled to New York on May 3 to the Steinway factory select the new 9-foot concert grand piano for the Recital Hall. They were successful. Our new piano will arrive by the end of the month.

Greg Barrett played a concert with the Ars Viva Symphony in Chicago on May 2nd. He will be attending the University of Oklahoma Clarinet Symposium in June where he will judge the Young Artist Contest. In July he will be attending the International Clarinet Association ClarinetFest in Washington, D.C. He will also be participating in a Klezmer improvisation workshop in Weimar, Germany in July. Greg Barrett was selected as an alternate for Summer Research and Artistry grant funding.

Congratulations to Lynn Slater for receiving the 2004 NIU Operating Staff Outstanding Service Award.

STUDENT/ALUMNI NEWS

Congratulations to Mark Dahl (1996). His and associate Jim Stombres' St. Charles North High School Jazz Ensemble has been selected as a finalist for this year's Essentially Ellington, which is part of Jazz at Lincoln Center.

Chelsea Tipton II ('89) announced that he and Keith Lockhart will be conducting the Boston Pops for the Gospel Night on June 27 at 7:30 PM in Symphony Hall in Boston, MA. Joining them will be the Boston Pops Gospel Choir, which is combined with the voices of many of Boston's churches.

The Winfield Percussion Ensemble under the direction of Bob Siemienkowicz (BA-85) has been selected to present a clinic/demonstration at the 2004 Midwest Clinic. The presentation is entitled "Premium Blend - Middle School Percussion Curriculum Utilizing Western and Non-Western Pedagogy."

Congratulations to the Avalon String Quartet! They have just announced that they are the new string quartet in residence at the Ernestine M. Raclin School of the Arts - Indiana University South Bend.

Eric Sullivan ('98), who sings with the Air Force group The Singing Sergeants, will be on tour this spring. The website with all the information is <http://www.usafband.com>

The NIU Jazz Ensemble and the Liberace Jazztet, under the direction of Ron Carter, recently returned from Lima Peru where they were invited to perform for the 2004 Lima Jazz Festival. According to all sources, they were very well received and had a great time!

Congratulations to Connie Cwudzinski, the 2004 recipient of the Paul Busija Memorial Scholarship. Connie is a 4th year member of the Huskie Marching Band, and also serves as one of the band's clerks. Her major is Physical Education.

Rob Deemer ('96) is currently a doctoral candidate at the University of Texas at Austin working towards a DMA in Music Composition. His composition studies have been with Dan Welcher and Donald Grantham and he has participated in private workshops with John Corigliano, William Bolcom, Stephen Hartke and Christopher Theofanidis. Some of his more recent performances in Austin have included La Maja Dolorosa (a song cycle for soprano, viola and piano), Prolegomenon for five trumpets and Ancient Signals, Modern Gestures for Trumpet and Chamber Ensemble (with the UT New Music Ensemble) as well as a wind ensemble work, Fanfaria, which was premiered last spring by the Roosevelt University Wind Ensemble. His work for orchestra, Lacrymae, was recently selected as the winner of the UT Composition Competition and will be premiered in the Fall of 2004. Two major works he will be working on this upcoming year will be his dissertation work, which will be a large-scale work for winds, chorus and soloists titled America Windows (based on the stained-glass work by Marc Chagall that is prominently displayed in the Art Institute of Chicago) and a commissioned ballet for chamber orchestra in conjunction with the Dance Repertory Theatre based at the University of Texas (this will be premiered in April, 2005). On the international front, he is working with past NIU student Cheryl Porter on a possible CD/Tour featuring his orchestral arrangements and compositions in the northern regions of Italy - hopefully in July or August.

Rob's also been busy conducting as the Assistant Conductor of the UT New Music Ensemble and teaching the Beginning Composition course. A new textbook on film music will be hitting the shelves this summer (hopefully!), which is co-authored by David Neumeyer, James Buhler and Rob Deemer. Rob was honored very recently by being the only graduate student in the School of Music selected to be the a University Fellow. Hopefully he will still have time to prepare for his wedding, which will be in Austin this December.

The Chicago Brass Band has won the Championship Division of the 2004 North American Brass Band Association Competition. The event was held April 16-17 in Charleston, West Virginia. The pieces performed by CBB were the test piece, Chivalry by Martin Ellerby, and Leonardo by Philip Wilby. As a result of winning the Championship Division, the Chicago Brass Band has been invited to represent North America to compete in the Championship Section of the

first World Brass Band Championship, taking place in July 2005 in Kerkrade, Netherlands.

CBB also won awards in the solo and ensemble competition. Our ten piece brass ensemble, the CBB Players, placed second in the adult brass ensemble competition. Our percussion ensemble, Chicago Percussion Project, won first place in the adult percussion ensemble competition. Amy Nelson (soon-to-be alum), CBB's principal cornet, placed third in the adult high brass slow melody competition. Brian Shelton ('95) plays euphonium for CBB.

The NIU Chamber Choir, under the direction of Eric Johnson will perform by invitation at a festival in Sweden later this month. Congratulations!

Current NIU student Talia Pavia has been awarded a 2004-05 University Fellowship to begin graduate studies in the School of Music. No more than ten such awards are awarded across campus each year, and the principal criterion for selection is academic excellence. She will receive a full waiver of tuition for fall, spring, and summer terms and a stipend of \$6,000. She was nominated by Tim Blickhan. Talia was also recognized as the Dean's Award recipient from the School of Music during May commencement. Congratulations to Talia!

The Azmari String Quartet has been named Artists in Residence at Northern Kentucky University.

Doug Bratt wants us know that he recently accepted a full-time music instructor position at Moraine Valley Community College in Palos Hills. He has been an adjunct faculty member at Moraine for the last two years and this new position is full-time (15 credit hours - about four days a week), salaried, benefits and tenure track. His teaching responsibilities include continuing as jazz ensemble director, percussion instructor, and music appreciation instructor. Also, in the fall of 2005 he will be in charge of forming and directing a brand new college concert band - which should be a VERY interesting challenge! He would also like to form a percussion ensemble and expand the applied adjunct jazz faculty as much as he can. Good luck, Doug!

Be sure to check us out on the Web! <http://www.niu.edu/music>

Have a great summer. We'll be in touch next fall!

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