

**Northern Illinois University
School of Music
December 2006 Newsletter**

UPCOMING ON-CAMPUS FACULTY & STUDENT RECITALS/CONCERTS

Most concerts and recitals are located in the Music Building on Lucinda Avenue on the campus of Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Illinois and (unless otherwise indicated \$\$) are free and open to the public. For up-to-date listings, check our School of Music website: <http://www.niu.edu/music> or the NIU website: <http://www.niucalendar.niu.edu/EAS/>

All concerts and recitals are over for the semester.

SCHOOL OF MUSIC AUDITION DATES

Formal audition dates for brass, percussion, piano, violin (music education), voice and woodwinds for fall 2007 entrance to the School of Music are:

Friday, February 9, 2007
Saturday, February 10, 2007
Friday, March 2, 2007
Saturday, March 3, 2007

Additional voice auditions:

Thursday, February 8, 2007, 7 - 9 p.m.
Thursday, March 1, 2007, 7 - 9 p.m.

Auditions for violin (performance), viola, cello, bass (jazz & classical), organ, jazz piano, and guitar (jazz & classical) are by private appointment only. Please contact Lynn Slater at 815-753-1546 or e-mail her at lslater@niu.edu for assistance.

All audition repertoire and information can be found on our website: <http://www.niu.edu/music>

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

University Open Houses

Monday, February 19, 2007 (President's Day)
Friday, April 6, 2007 (Good Friday/Spring Break)

The Midwest Clinic
December 19-23, 2006
We'll be at booth 223 in the Southeast Hall. Be sure to stop in!

IMEA
January 25-27, 2007
Booth #320/321
You are all welcome to our reception on Friday, January 26 from 6 - 8 p.m. in the LaSalle Room of the Hotel Pere Marquette in Peoria. Good food, friends, and music. We'd love to see you.

High School Music Events

The School of Music in conjunction with the Office of External Programs is once again offering many -events for high school music groups and individuals:

Friday, February 2, 2007 - Jazz Day - FULL

Wednesday, February 7 2007 - Women's Chorus Day - FULL

Wednesday, February 14, 2007 - String and Orchestra Day - FULL

Tuesday, March 6, 2007 - Jazz Combo Day

Open to everyone!

Clarinet Cornucopia - March 24, 2007 For information regarding this day:

<http://www.niu.edu/extprograms/Clinics/Cornucopia.shtml>

For more information about our high school days, call the Office of External Programs, College of Visual and Performing Arts at (815) 753-1450 or e-mail director Deborah Booth at dbooth@niu.edu or go to their website: www.niu.edu/extprograms.

FACULTY NEWS

Robert Fleisher moderated a panel discussion on applying for composition and music theory positions at the national conference of the Society of Composers in San Antonio, TX in September, where his *Ma Mère* (2004) was performed by cellist Victoria Bass and his *Five Songs* from Carl Sandburg's "Prairie" (2003-04) were performed by soprano Lynn Eustis and pianist Elvia Puccinelli. The *Prairie* songs were subsequently performed by soprano Sangeetha Rayapati and pianist William Campbell at Montana State University (Bozeman, MT; Oct 13) and St. Ambrose University (Davenport, IA; Oct 27). Cellist Elizabeth Morrow performed *Memoranda* (2005) at the University of Texas, Arlington (Oct 15), and pianist Tomoko Deguchi performed *Secrets* (1974) at Winthrop University (Rock Hill, SC; Oct 22). The Illinois Arts Council recently awarded Dr. Fleisher a Governor's International Arts Exchange Program grant to coach and attend an upcoming performance in Edmonton, Alberta (Canada) in early 2007.

Myron Myers would like to invite voice students back to Verona, Italy! *Voci d'Estate* is a unique course for both singers and collaborative pianists that focuses on the abilities of the performers to express, as actors, the texts of the songs and arias BEFORE performing the music, thus ensuring precise understanding of the texts and discovering colors and intensities that have an enormous impact on the final musical performance. This year's *Voices of Summer* will take place July 1 - 29. The web site is <http://www.vocidestate.com>

Tom Bough will be playing with the Chicago Brass Band on Dec. 17. He presented two lectures at the MENC North Central Regional Conference in Lincoln, NE. He will be presenting lectures at the MENC Eastern Division Biennial Conference in Hartford, CT. on March 9 and the MENC Northwest Division Biennial Conference on Feb. 16. He will be presenting two sessions at the IMEA convention in Peoria and appearing as a guest conductor with the Downers Grove South Band. He will also presenting two sessions at the Tennessee Music Educators Convention in Nashville in April. Tom will also guest conduct the Rockford Wind Ensemble Youth Honor Band on Feb. 11 and the Big Northern Conference honor band in January. He also has published articles in the October, November, and December issues of the *Instrumentalist*.

Rodrigo Villanueva performed with his trio (Anderson, Butterfield, and Villanueva) at the San Miguel de Allende International Jazz Festival in San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato, Mexico in November. They gave a Master Class: "The Language of Jazz," and he presented a drumset clinic. The Trio performed at the Angela Peralta Theatre and also performed at a local restaurant "La Cava de La Princesa." On Dec. 4, he was a guest drummer with one of the chamber groups

at Edgewood College.

Congratulations to Fareed Haque and Garaj Mahal for winning the 2006 Independent Music Award! <http://www.independentmusicawards.com/pages/jukebox2007.asp>

Greg Barrett performed Menotti's Amahl and the Night Visitors with Chamber Opera Chicago,

Mozart's Gran Partita with Music of the Baroque, Mozart's Requiem with the Ars Viva Symphony Orchestra, and with the Elgin Symphony Orchestra in both classical and pops concerts.

Robert Chappell finished a busy touring schedule in October and November with steelpannist and Head of Steelpan Studies, Liam Teague and their Latin/Caribbean jazz group, Panoramic. Major performances included the Alaska Day of Percussion, the 2006 Trinidad and Tobago Steelpan and Jazz Festival, and the North Dakota Day of Percussion. Panoramic's debut CD, "Rhythm Through the Unobstructed View" is being played throughout North America, Europe, and Australia and has made it to #40 on the jazz/world radio charts. Chappell's composition "Open Window" won the 2006 Percussive Arts Society Composition Contest and will be published by Drop6 Media.

Paul Bauer has been elected to serve on the National Association of Schools Music's Committee on Ethics.

David Maki's piece, Reco-nation (originally commissioned by Steve Duke and Diane Ragains), was performed at the Society of Composers Inc. National Conference in San Antonio on September 14. His piece, Inertia, for marimba and steelpan (performed and commissioned by students Katie Wiegman and Malika Green), will be performed at the SCI Regional Conference in February at Clarke College in Dubuque, IA.

Ron Carter and Glenda Cosenza will spend some time in the Alfred Publications Inc. Booth at the Midwest Conference this year, signing copies of their recently published collection Swingin' On the Bars: 10 Jazz Standards Arranged for Orff Instruments. Alfred is hosting Meet the Author sessions in their Midwest booth and have invited Ron and Glenda to be 'featured authors' on Dec. 21.

Glenda Cosenza's article, Listen! Move! Draw! Write! Using the Fine and Performing Arts to Teach Writing to Young Urban Children will appear in the December 2006 issue of the British journal Writing in Education. She was invited to submit this article by the editor of the journal who attended her presentation at the Hawaii International Conference of the Arts and Humanities last January in Honolulu. Glenda has spent much of her sabbatical replicating this study in Rockford in conjunction with Project REAL, working with second and third graders. She has much enjoyed working in a public school setting again, after 10 years in higher education, although contact with kids resulted in a really nasty bout of bronchitis.

Cliff Alexis received another award, this time from Pan Trinbago (The World governing Body for Steelpan). Presented to Cliff on November 10, 2006, "In appreciation of your role in advancing the global reach of Pan - As a member of the 1st National Steelband of Trinidad and Tobago." He received a lovely trophy and a cash award. Also, please check out the article in The Guardian about another honor that Cliff received. <http://www.guardian.co.tt/archives/2006-11-25/features3.html> Art Davis performed with The Red Rose Ragtime Band at the San Diego Traditional Jazz Festival in November, The Chicago Jazz Orchestra, at the Kennedy Center Lifetime Achievement Awards banquet in Washington in December, and with singer Janice Borla for her new-CD release, "From Every Angle" (on Blujazz) at The Skokie Theatre on December 8. He will join Janice Borla at The International Association of Jazz Educators (IAJE) convention in

New York City again on 1/12/07.

Brett Mitchell has been selected as a finalist for the 2007 Thelma A. Robinson Award, a prestigious prize given biennially to the outstanding participant in the Conductors Guild's training workshops. Mitchell participated in a workshop with Marin Alsop, Music Director Designate of the Baltimore Symphony, in Denver, Colorado in October 2005, and it was Ms. Alsop who selected Mitchell for this honor. Mitchell has also been selected to conduct the Memphis Symphony in December as part of the American Symphony Orchestra League's American Conducting Fellows Program. Mitchell will work with the orchestra on works by Beethoven, Haydn, Schubert, and Copland.

As part of his continuing duties with the Orchestre National de France, Mitchell will travel to Paris during the first week of December to cover a performance of Schubert's Fifth and Mahler's Fourth Symphonies. Mitchell will also spend the entire month of July 2007 in Europe, first in Paris and then on tour with the orchestra to Montpellier in the south of France. Finally, Mitchell will travel to London for a BBC Proms concert in celebration of Kurt Masur's 80th birthday with the ONF and the London Philharmonic Orchestra.

STUDENT/ALUMNI NEWS:

The American Indian Film Festival (AIFI) offered a film music workshop. AIFI workshops bring award-winning, industry professionals to San Francisco to teach, inspire and share their knowledge

with the next generation of filmmakers. Composing Music for Film is moderated by well-known film composer Brent Michael Davids (1981) <http://www.filmcomposer.us/filmscoring.html>

After moving out to Berkeley, CA last March (2006) and getting involved in a very cool music scene in the Bay Area, Brad Ard (1971) met a percussionist who is now his fiancé. She too has a Masters Degree in Music and teaches percussion at a local Berkeley Arts Magnet School. She plays tympani in the local symphonies, is an amazing conga player and has deep knowledge of the Afro-Cuban style. Brad tells us that as great as the music scene is, it's REALLY expensive to live there. So they are moving to the Dallas area after the first of the year where they very ambitiously plan to start a music school. North Texas State is close by and they will cull teachers for different instruments from there. Having said that, it always helps to contact people referred to them by people/musicians like us. So, if anyone can assist Brad, feel free to contact him

The NIU Chamber Choir was a smashing success! Their performance at the inaugural convention for the National Collegiate Choral Organization in San Antonio, was an unmitigated hit. Not only were they honored by the invitation, they were scheduled to be the first choir on the first session. This was a historic event which came with high expectations. Eric Johnson, director of the choir was so pleased, he says, that Chamber Choir performed with exquisite professionalism and poise. He also states they sang like he has never heard them do. There was not a note out of place, nor a lost opportunity for the highest level of musical phrasing. There were several moments in the program where he had to take extra bows because the applause wouldn't stop (unheard of in the typical convention performance).

Randy and Carol Stubbs (1989) are currently serving as volunteer missionaries with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. They are teaching music at Makumira University College in Usa River, Tanzania. This university is the first in Tanzania to offer a Bachelor of Arts in Music Degree in the entire country and they are helping to build the program. Everyone here loves to sing, although very few know how to read music. Choirs are everywhere singing traditional songs. European music of the Baroque is a surprising favorite of the choirs, and they

learn everything with no printed music. Randy and Carol tell us their ears are growing stronger and their Swahili is getting better each day. To contact them, e-mail randy_stubbs@makumira.ac.tz

Our web site is updated almost daily.
Check it out! <http://www.niu.edu/music>

Alumni - Do you have a link you want to add to our website? Just let us know!
We also have an alumni update form on the website just for you!

Happy Holidays to all!

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