

# *February 2000*

## **SCHOOL OF MUSIC AUDITION DATES**

Formal audition dates for Fall 2000 entrance to the School of Music are:

Friday, February 18, 2000  
Saturday, February 19, 2000  
Friday, March 24, 2000  
Saturday, March 25, 2000

Please contact Lynn Slater at 815-753-1546 or e-mail her at [lslater@niu.edu](mailto:lslater@niu.edu) for details.  
Let us know if you have students that are interested in auditioning for us!

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

### *University Open Houses*

2/21/2000 (President's Day)  
4/21/2000 (Good Friday)

### *School of Music Dates*

2/4/2000 Jazz Day  
2/11/00 Clarinet Day  
2/12/00 Concert Choir at Illinois Wesleyan  
2/23-26/00 Central Division ACDA  
2/28/00 Wind & Percussion Invitational Day  
2/29/00 Wind & Percussion Festival Day I  
3/1/00 Jazz Ensemble at Lewis University  
3/4/00 IHSA Solo & Ensemble  
3/10/00 Wind & Percussion Festival Day II

## **UPCOMING RECITALS/CONCERTS**

For an up-to-date listing of the upcoming on-campus faculty and student recitals/concerts, visit our [Concert Schedule](#).

## FACULTY NEWS

Congratulations to the *Vermeer Quartet*, recipients of the American String Teachers Association with National School Orchestra Association award for 1999 Outstanding Studio Teachers. This award has never been given to a group, but the board felt that the quartet's outstanding performing and teaching contributions to music and the state of Illinois justified changing tradition. They received the award at the IMEA convention in Peoria on January 28. They were also recently named Fellows of the Royal Northern College of Music at Manchester.

*Eric Johnson* conducted the Upstate Illini District Choral Festival Saturday, January 22.

*Robert Fleisher* attended the Society of Composers conference at the California Institute of the Arts, January 28-30. His Quintet was performed by the guest new music ensemble, "Green," and he gave a presentation on contemporary Israeli composers. In a recent issue of the Alberta New Music & Arts Review (Canada), Dr. Fleisher's book *Twenty Israeli Composers: Voices of a Culture* (1997) was described by its reviewer as "very worthy" and "wonderful reading!"

Assistant Professor of Music *John K. Novak* has three new publications. The latest issue of *Indiana Theory Review* (Vol 18, No 1) features his article "Barthes's Narrative Codes as a Technique for the Analysis of Programmatic Music: An Analysis of Janacek's 'The Fiddler's Child.'" *College Music Symposium's* annual issue (Vol 39, 1999) contains Novak's "Janacek's Nursery Rhymes as a Compendium of his Compositional Style." This article appeared simultaneously in the journal *Hudebni Veda* (Vol. 36. No. 1) in a Czech translation.

*Jeff Stitely* performed with the Chicago Jazz Orchestra in Washington, DC at the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Awards for the Arts in the Kennedy Center on December 5. Guest artists were Diane Shur, Herbie Hancock, and Stevie Wonder. February 11 will be son Evan's 1st birthday and will also include a performance with "Fulcrum Point" where Jeff will be featured on Frank Zappa's "Black Page" as well as on pieces by Reynolds, Lange, Mellits, and Becker. He will be recording a CD with well known Polish pianist/composer Bogdan Holownia this month and will also be recording "Kabala Blues" by Peter Saltzman for String Quartet and Jazz Quartet.

Performances with the *Liam Teague/Robert Chappell Duo*

January 28, Illinois Music Educators Association Convention, Peoria, IL; February 4, University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee, St. John's Residence Arts Series; February 6, Lawrence University, Appleton, WI; March 1, Indiana State University; March 2, University of Iowa; March 4, University of Northern Iowa, Iowa PAS Day of Percussion. Performances of Robert Chappell's composition, Wood- N-Steel for Steel Band, African xylophone and Orchestra with Robert Chappell on Amadinda xylophone and double tenor pan: February 25 with the NIU Steel Band, Al O'Connor and Cliff Alexis, directors, and the Buffalo Philharmonic, Paul Freeman, conductor, Symphony Hall, Buffalo, New York.

*Ronnie Wooten* and *Larry Stoffel* served as guest conductors of the District 300 (Carpentersville, IL) Honors Band Concert on January 13th, which featured the finest students in the district from both the high school and middle school band programs.

*Jan Bach*, Distinguished Research Professor Emeritus, just learned from Barbara Petersen, Director of Concert Music Administration at Broadcast Music, Inc., that an unusual honor came his way on January 16, 2000, when a table was named for one of his compositions! On that date in New York City, Chamber Music America held their annual awards dinner, and decided to name each of the twenty dinner tables for an outstanding chamber music work. Table No. 13 was named LAUDES \* after "brass quintet written by Jan Bach \* one of the great, contemporary brass quintet works!" Jan's table shared honors with such tables as VERKLAERTE NACHT (Schoenberg), VOICE OF THE WHALE (Crumb), OPUS ZOO (Berio), GIANT STEPS (Coltrane), SHEPHERD ON THE ROCK (Schubert), VERMONT COUNTERPOINT (Reich), and thirteen other tables honoring additional chamber works of composers past and present.

*Steve Duke* will be performing the Bourges Magisterium Award Winner BluesAx by Larry Austin at the Larry Austin Festival in New York at the SUNY-Purchase campus on March 21-22. He will also be performing and presenting a workshop on saxophone at the North American Saxophone Alliance Millennium Conference in Tucson, AZ on March 7-10.

*Joey Sellers* recently accepted an invitation to participate in Arizona State University's "Jazz Week" this spring with Los Angeles-based musicians Kim Richmond (saxophone, composition) and bassist Tom Warrington. Sellers will conduct clinics on composition and improvisation. He will play many of his original works in concert with the ASU Jazz Ensemble and will conduct the premier of a recent commission "Desert Spirit - Concerto for Jazz Piano and Orchestra" with Chuck Marohnic as pianist. Hopefully, he will have finished the third movement by then! The University of Northern Colorado and Dr. Nat Wickham premiered Sellers' "Arabic Shepherds Praying" at the International Association of Jazz Educators conference in New Orleans January 14. The piece, commissioned by UNC and Dr. Wickham, features a trombone soloist with an 18 piece big band.

The St. Louis Brass Quintet recently performed several of *Sellers'* arrangements in a concert at the Fermilab in Batavia. The Quintet features Allan Dean (professor of trumpet at Yale), Ray Sasaki (professor of trumpet at the University of Illinois), Tom Bacon (professor of horn at Arizona State University), Mel Jernigan (former bass trombonist, St. Louis Symphony), and Dan Perentoni (professor of tuba at Indiana University). These arrangements have been recorded over the years on several releases by the group.

"academix," a new computer-music piece from *James Phelps'* new CD, "ATALLMIRROR" (THIRTEENTH Records), was performed during the 1999 SEAMUS (Society for Electroacoustic Music in the US) conference in San Jose earlier this year. The work has also been performed in Montreal, Austin and Oberlin. Dr. Phelps has been invited to attend a Cuban electroacoustic music festival in Havana in March of 2000 to perform "academix." A new work for pianist Adam Wodnicki and

Disklavier is nearing completion and will likely receive a debut at the University of North Texas in the spring of 2000. The work was composed with the help of Phelps' own "Mischievous Medium" project, POLLYSYS, which is a network system running from one of NIUCMS' UNIX workstations programmed by Phelps to create a world-wide composition network.

*Phelps'* second work for *Myron Myers*, "Last Year Before" is under way and will soon be scheduled in various small theatres in the Chicago area as well as other locations. The piece is a media play for only one actor and models multiple personality syndrome as a vehicle for traversing various life experiences of a performer.

*Robert Fleisher's* new solo trumpet composition, "On Your Mark," was most recently performed by *Mark Ponzio* (for whom it was written) at his NIU faculty recital on November 9. Dr. Fleisher's review of *Kay Kaufman Shelemay's* book (and accompanying CD) "Let Jasmine Rain Down: Song and Remembrance among Syrian Jews" (Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 1998) appeared this month in the Autumn 1999 issue of *The Middle East Journal*.

*Charlie Schuchat* was on tour with the Chicago Brass Quintet for some of the fall, including tours to Brazil, Taiwan, and various US locations. While on tour several guest artists, including *Mark Fisher* on euphonium, *Dan Anderson* on jazz tuba, and *Don Harry* from the Eastman Brass, held master classes.

*Fareed Haque* recently played concerts and conducted masterclasses at Mankato State University in Minnesota and at Wayne State University in Detroit, MI. He also played a number of concerts and was a judge at the 11th annual Rantucci Guitar Competition in Buffalo, NY and performed at Makor with the Indo-Pak Jazz Coalition in New York City, NY. Haque also recently returned from Germany where he participated in a panel discussion on guitar and jazz pedagogy as well as giving masterclasses and numerous concerts. Upcoming performances include the world premiere of *Ricardo Lorenz'* 20th century Burnout for Viola and Guitar, and performances of *Carlos Franzetti's* Concerto del plata with the NIU Philharmonic and the *Villa-Lobos* Concerto with the Illinois Chamber Symphony.

*Robert Sims* joined *William Warfield* and *Benjamin Matthews* for Warfield's 80th birthday celebration in Chicago last month at the DuSable Museum of African-American History in a music presentation entitled Three Generations.

*Ron Price* was featured in the December issue of "The Harp Column" as one of this century's most influential harpists. In making their decision, the editors considered whether a person's influence would be truly lasting for generations to come and whether the harp community as a whole has been irrevocably changed and affected as a result of that person's influence. Congratulations Ron! Ron will also be on the faculty at this year's seminar Beginning in the Middle for adult harp students held in Williamsburg, Virginia in March.

*Larry Stoffel*, director of Huskies Band, presented a clinic entitled "Sacred Music and the Instrumental Music Educator" at the Fall Illinois Collegiate Music Educators Association conference on November 6.

*Kathy Pirtle* and the Orion Ensemble presented chamber works by William Bolcom (Lyric Opera's "A View from the Bridge," Peter Schickele (a.k.a. P.D.Q. Bach), Augusta Read Thomas (Chicago Symphony composer-in-residence), and James Wintle as part of Mostly Music's symposium on January 28 & 29. Our music students were in for a treat when Peter Schickele presented a master class in our Concert Hall on Thursday, January 27.

*Ron Carter* presented a jazz clinic at the International Association of Jazz Educators National Conference in New Orleans, LA January 12-15, 2000. He has been the guest director, adjudicator and/or clinician at the following conferences: Missouri Allstate Jazz Band in Tan Tara, MO; The Olympia College Jazz Band in Olympia, WA; Illinois Wesleyan University Jazz Festival, Bloomington, IL; The Loyola University Jazz Festival, New Orleans, LA; Fresno State University Jazz Festival, Fresno, CA; The University of Northern Colorado Jazz Festival in Greeley, CO; and South Inter-Conference Associations "All-star Jazz Ensemble." He is also the Mid America Coordinator and clinician for the Essentially Ellington High School Jazz Festival and Competition, Lincoln Center, New York.

## **STUDENT/ALUMNI NEWS:**

The Art Song Festival: "Modern Artists: A Renaissance of Song," started by our alums *Tim Quistorff*, *Corinne Nelson* and *Suzanne Orland*, and featuring music composed by another of our alums, *Rufus Brown*, will be presenting their excellent and diverse programs at Roosevelt University, Chicago Musical College on February 8, at 7:00 and 8:30, and February 15 at 7:00 and 8:30, four programs total. We are pleased that they presented this excellent program here at NIU first!

Through the dedicated effort of the School of Music Chair *Paul Bauer* and the generosity of NIU President John LaTourette, the Huskie Marching Band celebrated the 100th anniversary of bands at Northern with new uniforms for the 1999 football season. Check out the Huskie Band website for photos: [www.niu.edu/band](http://www.niu.edu/band)

The *NIU Concert Choir* just completed a successful tour of the following northern Illinois schools: Sterling High School, Chadwick-Millidgeville Middle School, Lyons Township High School, Stillman Valley, Rochelle, and DeKalb High School. They also performed a concert session at the IMEA All State Music convention.

The *NIU Jazz Ensemble's* CD *Swingin It Live* was highlighted in the Chicago Tribune on January 2. Howard Reich states that ..."Northern Illinois University in DeKalb has long been home to one of the most dynamic college jazz bands in the country...."

*Sue Huhta* and *Bridget Dougal*, two of *Ron Price's* harp students, were part of a film series being developed by the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago. Produced by Dr. Kristi Kirschner, the films will be used in medical schools across the nation. Medical students will be exposed to alternative therapeutic options for those challenged by disabilities or health problems.

## **ODDS & ENDS**

Calling all Concert Choir alumni! The NIU School of Music choral department would like to extend an invitation to alumni of the Concert Choir to join us in a performance at Chicago's Symphony Center. The Chicago Sinfonietta has asked NIU's choral program to provide a chorus to join them in a performance of Prokofiev's Alexander Nevsky on May 1, 2000. We would like to assemble an alumni choir to combine with the exceptional talent already here on campus. If you are interested, please contact Eric Johnson, director of choral activities at 815-753-7984 or e-mail him at [ejohnsn@niu.edu](mailto:ejohnsn@niu.edu).

Let us know if you have info you would like to share with other music educators. We can add it to our next newsletter (1st of each month). Just send your info to [lslater@niu.edu](mailto:lslater@niu.edu)!

Thanks to all who joined us at the Midwest Clinic in Chicago in December and at the IMEA Convention in Peoria last week. It was wonderful seeing our good friends again!

If you have questions about any of the information in this newsletter, or would like more details, please contact Lynn Slater at 815-753-1546 or [lslater@niu.edu](mailto:lslater@niu.edu).