

# *February 2001*

## **SCHOOL OF MUSIC AUDITION DATES**

Formal audition dates for Fall 2001 entrance to the School of Music are:

Friday, February 16, 2001  
Saturday, February 17, 2001  
Friday, March 23, 2001  
Saturday, March 24, 2001

Additional saxophone audition dates:  
Friday, March 2, 2001

Auditions for violin (performance), viola, cello, bass, organ, jazz piano, and guitar are by private appointment only. Please contact Lynn Slater at 815-753-1546 or e-mail her at [lslater@niu.edu](mailto:lslater@niu.edu) for assistance. All audition repertoire can be found at our website:  
<http://www.niu.edu/music/prospective/audinfo.shtml>

## **UPCOMING RECITALS/CONCERTS**

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

Winter break begins December 17. We'll be back on January 16, 2001.

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

### *University Open Houses*

2/19/01 President's Day  
4/13/01 Good Friday

### *High School Music Days*

The School of Music and the Office of External Programs are once again offering many events for high school music groups and individuals:

February 7  
February 15

Women's Chorus Day, for treble choirs (New!)  
Männerchor Fest, for male soloists or ensembles

February 27 and March 8                      Wind and Percussion Festival, for bands  
March 20    Jazz Combo Day, for individual jazz players

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](mailto:dbooth@niu.edu).

Check out the [High School Music Days website](#) to view the latest information about these wonderful events!

## FACULTY NEWS

Congratulations to *Ron Carter* and the *NIU Jazz Ensemble* for the great article and review by Howard Reich in the 1/28/01 edition of the Chicago Tribune. A few words from Mr. Reich: "Despite the rustic setting and laid-back tempo, DeKalb now is home to what may be the best college jazz band in the country." Very cool!

*Steve Duke* will be performing *Saint Ambrose*, a solo work for saxophone, actor, and computer music, composed by Rodney Waschka II, at the North American Saxophone Alliance Region V Conference on February 16. He will present a lecture on "Understanding Similarities and Differences in Jazz and Classical Tone from the Transient Attacks" on February 15. Steve will also will be recording *Saint Ambrose* in Dallas later in February.

*Greg Barrett* traveled to Sycamore High School last week where he gave two clinics.

The *Marlene Rosenberg Trio* will be appearing at Michael's Bistro in Glen Ellyn on April 20 & 21 at 8:30 - 12:30.

*Richard Hoskins* will be playing works by Buxtehude, Bach, Kee, Widor, Demessieux, Durufle, Messiaen, and Gigout at Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago next Friday, February at 12:10 p.m.

The McHenry County Honors Band was conducted by *Lawrence Stoffel*, director of the *NIU Huskie Bands*. The concert on January 21 featured 120 high school students from twelve participating schools and was held in the McHenry West High School Auditorium.

*Ann Montzka-Smelser* and Terry Chang performed works by Brahms and Dvorak at a January 20 recital at North Central College in Naperville. Ann and her husband Linc and other local musicians will perform at Rockford's Mendelssohn Club on February 15 at 7:30. Admission is 5 lbs. of nonperishable food to be donated to the Rockford Rescue Mission. Ann recently presented Suzuki workshops in Arlington Heights, Illinois and Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. Ann will be teaching at another Suzuki workshop in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on March 10.

*Joey Sellers* performed with the Tulsa (OK) Symphony on February 3 and will be performing with the Long Beach (CA) Symphony on February 23. Joey was commissioned to conceive and orchestrate a touring concert for the Side Street Strutters, integrating that ensemble's Dixie and Swing music with a symphony orchestra. He will serve as the musical director on these quick tours.

York City in January, *Joey Sellers* played at Cleopatra's Needle with his quartet, featuring Roberta Piket, and at the Knitting Factory with his 11-piece ensemble, the Jazz Aggregation. Both ensembles performed newly composed works for those performances. Sellers is mentioned in liner notes on two recently released CDs, Tony Malaby's "Sabino" (Arabesque) and Dave Ballou's "The Floating World" (Steeplechase). Sellers has been busy lately adapting his 11-piece book for performance by the NIU Jazz Lab Band.

Congrats to *Joey* for taking second place in the Annual 2000 PAS Composition Contest with his work for solo marimba and wind ensemble, "Odd Children."

*Myron Myers* will be featured in two series of concerts with Music of the Baroque: an all Purcell concert with conductor Paul Hillier on February 18 at the First United Methodist Church in Evanston and at Old St. Patrick's Church in Chicago on February 19. The CD of the Dvorak Requiem that Myron made with the Prague Radio Orchestra under the direction of Robert Page has been released. For more information, please call Myron at 815-753-8007.

*Sandra Frey Stegman's* book "Student Teaching in the Choral Classroom: An Investigation of Secondary Choral Music Student Teachers' Perceptions of Instructional Successes and Problems as They Reflect on Their Music Teaching" was recently published by the Edwin Mellen Press. Congratulations Sandra!

NOCTURNE for string quartet, by A. *Oscar Haugland*, was performed at Chateau D'Oron in Oron, Switzerland on November 26, 2000 by the L'Estree String Quartet.

*John Mindeman* will be performing Dexter Morrill's Trombone Concerto with the *NIU Philharmonic* on Tuesday, March 27 at 8 p.m. in the Concert Hall. They will be making the premiere recording for commercial release in the days following the performance.

## **STUDENT/ALUMNI NEWS:**

For the second time in two years, the *NIU Choral Department* will be hosting an international choir. Eteläsuomalaisen Osakunnan Laulajat International Chamber Choir from Helsinki will be our special guest. They will be in concert on Thursday, February 15 at 7 p.m. in the Concert Hall.

The *NIU Central Javanese Gamelan* gave a presentation in Peoria at the IMEA convention on January 26. Their presentation included a demonstration, performance, and suggestions for using Orff instruments in the classroom.

*James Walker ('97)* tells us that he has released his debut CD "RHYME OR REASON," featuring nine original jazz compositions. Among the musicians involved in the project are NIU faculty *Fareed Haque* (guitar), *Jeff Stitely* (drums), and *Robert Chappell* (keyboards) as well as NIU alumni *Liam Teague* (steel pan), *Paul Ross* (drum set and steel pan), *Erik Leckrone* (percussion), and *Craig Brandt* (bassist and recording engineer). For more information, check out Jim's web site at: <http://www.malletjazz.com>. James is also a contributing writer for Jazz Player Magazine, authoring the "Expressive Jazz Techniques" column. His "master class CD" on the topic of interaction in jazz was featured in the June/July 2000 issue.

of Music and Director of Percussion Studies at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, Jim also holds the position of Principal Percussionist with the Lexington Philharmonic Orchestra.

Congratulations to our third James - *James Matthew Castle* ('97) on being honored by the National Opera Association. He was recently selected as one of three finalists in the National Opera Association Chamber Opera Competition 2000. Excerpts from Matt's opera, *Before Dawn* were performed at the 46th Annual Convention of the National Opera Association on January 13 in New York City.

## **ODDS & ENDS**

The NIU Percussion Studio is hosting six guest artists/teachers this semester. From January 29 to February 2 She-E Wu, a Taiwanese marimba virtuoso, gave masterclasses and taught students in the studio. Professor Gary Cook from the University of Arizona will be in residence during the week of February 8. Gary is the author of "Teaching Percussion" the authoritative book of percussion techniques. Michael Spiro will be on campus from February 19 to 22 giving lectures and teaching Afro-Cuban percussion. Michael is one of the finest Afro-Cuban and Brazilian percussionists in the US and an expert on the history of Afro-Cuban music. The week of March 19 Nick Petrella, Professor of Percussion at Texas Christian University will be in residence. Nick gives masterclasses around the world and is the major representative for Sabian cymbals. On April 9 - 12 drum set artist, author, and educator Steve Houghton will teach and also perform as guest artist with the NIU Percussion Ensemble at their April 12 concert at 8 p.m. in the Concert Hall. Steve is world-renowned as a performer, educator, and author. Orlando Cotto, marimba and conga virtuoso will be at NIU from April 16 - 20. Orlando is a Yamaha Artist and recently was a semi-finalist in the World Hand Drum competition in Washington D.C. Please contact Robert Chappell at 815-753-7973 or [chappell@niu.edu](mailto:chappell@niu.edu) for more details.

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) while classes are in session. Just send your info to [lslater@niu.edu](mailto:lslater@niu.edu)!

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).