

February 2004 Newsletter

IMPORTANT DATES

University Open Houses

Monday, February 16, 2004 (President's Day)

Friday, April 9, 2004 (Spring Vacation)

The Midwest Clinic and 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

Formal audition dates for Fall 2004 entrance to the School of Music are:

Friday, February 13, 2004

Saturday, February 14, 2004

Friday, March 19, 2004

Saturday, March 20, 2004

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 for assistance. All audition repertoire can be found at our website: <http://www.niu.edu/music>

High School Music Events

The School of Music is once again offering many events for high school music groups and individuals:

Wednesday, February 18, Women's Chorus Day, for women's choirs

Tuesday, March 16, Jazz Combo Day, for individual jazz players

For more information about the above 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.

Monday, February 23, Concert Band Festival, Day 1

Tuesday, February 24, Concert Band Festival, Day 2

Tuesday, March 2, Concert Band Festival, Day 3

For more information regarding the Concert Band Festivals, please contact Margarite Ortega at 815-753-7978 or pegortega@niu.edu.

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 website: <http://www.niu.edu/music> or the

University Website calendar: <http://www.niucalendar.niu.edu/>

February

2/4 Jazz Jam Session, Fareed Haque, director, 9 p.m., The House, 263 E. Lincoln Hwy. DeKalb

2/7 Galina Bauer, graduate voice recital, 5 p.m., Recital Hall

2/10 Larry Austin, guest composer, 8 p.m., Recital Hall

2/11 Jazz ComboFest, 7 p.m., The House Restaurant, 263 E. Lincoln Hwy. DeKalb

2/15 Wind Ensemble, Lawrence Stoffel, director, 3 p.m., Concert Hall

2/16 Jazz Lab Band, John Wojciechowski, director and All-University Jazz Band, Dave Stamps and Ralph DiSylvestro, directors, 8 p.m., Concert Hall

2/18 Jazz Jam Session, Fareed Haque, director, 9 p.m., The House, 263 E. Lincoln Hwy. DeKalb

2/19 Chamber Choir concert, Eric Johnson, director, 8 p.m., Concert Hall

2/20 Ai Ishida, graduate viola recital, 6:30 p.m., Recital Hall

2/21 University Band, Margarite Ortega, director, and University Chorus, Wilbert O. Watkins,

director, 8 p.m., Concert Hall

2/23 Wind Symphony, Colin Holman, director, 8 p.m., Concert Hall

2/24 Oya Ucarci, graduate viola recital, 8 p.m., Recital Hall

2/25 Jazz Jam Session, Fareed Haque, director, 9 p.m., The House, 263 E. Lincoln Hwy.

DeKalb

March

3/1 Erik Westberg Vocal Ensemble, guest artists, 8 p.m., Concert Hall

3/2 Wind Ensemble, Lawrence Stoffel, director, 8 p.m., Concert Hall

3/3 Diane Ragains, faculty voice recital, 8 p.m., Recital Hall

3/3 Jazz Jam Session, Fareed Haque, director, 9 p.m., The House, 263 E. Lincoln Hwy.

DeKalb

3/4 NIU Philharmonic, Brian Groner, director, 8 p.m., Concert Hall

FACULTY NEWS

NIU was well represented at the Illinois Music Educators Association conference in Peoria last week. Lawrence Stoffel conducted the Illinois All-State Band and Ron Carter conducted the Honors Jazz Band. Peg Ortega and Greg Barrett gave a presentation on Klezmer music entitled "Klezmer Music for All Musicians: A Step Towards Improvisation." Ron Carter was a panel member for "Creating and Sustaining a Quality Jazz Program." Kuo-Huang Han and the NIU Gamelan held a clinic "Balinese Gamelan and Classroom Activities." Glenda Cosenza and Ronnie Wooten were panel members for the session "When a 4.0 May Not Be Enough." Orlando Cotto and the NIU Latin Jazz Ensemble wowed their audience with "The Intricacies of Latin Jazz."

The Vermeer Quartet has once again been nominated for a Grammy, this time for Best Chamber Music Performance for their recording of Shostakovich/Schnittke: Piano Quintets with Boris Berman, piano (Naxos #8554830). The CD can be purchased from Amazon.com. The 46th Annual GRAMMY Awards will be broadcast Sunday, February 8 on the CBS Television Network from 8 - 11:30 p.m. EST. Congratulations Shmuel, Mathias, Richard, and Marc!

The Joffrey Ballet of Chicago has joined forces with the Chicago Sinfonietta for their productions this season. The orchestra for Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker this past holiday season had a significant number of NIU alums and faculty including concertmaster Paul Zafer, cellist Andy Snow, bassist John Floeter, flutist Scott Metlicka, oboists Ricardo Castaneda and June Matayoshi, hornists Laura and John Fairfield and trombonist Katherine Stubbins-Benitez.

In January Greg Barrett played concerts with the Ars Viva Symphony and the Chicago Sinfonietta.

Steve Duke and Greg Barrett will be performing a concert of octophonic music by Larry Austin - "Octomixes Plus: New Works by Larry Austin." Included in the program will be the first preview performance of Tableaux: Convolution on a Theme (2003) for alto saxophone and octophonic computer music, written for Mr. Duke; BluesAx, for saxophonist and computer music (1995) also written for Mr. Duke and was awarded the Bourge 1996 "Magistere" (Magisterium) in the 23rd Concours International de Musique Electroacoustique; and Threnos for two bass clarinets (2002), real and virtual. The concert will be held on February 10th at 8:00 PM in the Recital Hall at the School of Music.

Marguerite Whybrew, wife of William Whybrew recently passed away. Dr. Whybrew was Dean of the College of Visual & Performing Arts some years ago.

The dear friend of jazz students and educators the world over (and 1981-83 NIU faculty member), Frank Mantooth, passed away the morning of January 30, from a heart attack at his home in Garden City, Kansas. He was 56 and is survived by his wife, Carrie Mantooth. She can be contacted at tooth@frankmantooth.com

Howard Dill passed away on January 15. Howard taught voice and led the Madrigal Singers at

NIU, and retired in the early-mid 1980's.

STUDENT/ALUMNI NEWS

Brent Shires, MM '92, is Lecturer of Horn at University of Central Arkansas, and was recently tenured as the third horn of the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra in Little Rock. In the past year, he has toured with the Pinnacle Brass (the resident quintet at UCA) in France, and presented a recital tour with pianist and wife Terrie Barnes Shires, (MM '91 in piano) at universities and concert venues in Arkansas, Kansas, Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, Florida, France, and Luxembourg. Brent served as a judge for the Southeast Horn Workshop, held in March at Columbus State University, Georgia, and also for the American Horn Competition, University Division, held in August at the University of Alabama. Brent directed the premier of a new concert program with the University of Central Arkansas Horn Ensemble and Terrie on piano, with internationally renowned Yamaha hornist Thomas Bacon as soloist, called "Concert of the Spirit." This program was given in April at First United Methodist Church in Conway, Arkansas, and relies on horn music arranged in a loose liturgical format as its basis. Brent, Terrie, Mr. Bacon, and the UCA Horn Ensemble have been invited to perform the program at the International Horn Symposium to be held in Valencia, Spain in July of 2004.

Brent serves the International Horn Society as Regional Workshop Coordinator, and has helped organize the new Mid-South region for the IHS. He will host the inaugural workshop on April 2-4, 2004, with Richard King, principal hornist of the Cleveland Orchestra, and the Center City Brass Quintet as featured artists. Brent and Terrie now have two children, Rebecca age 5 and Rachel age 2 and they live in Conway, AR.

Chelsea Tipton, II was appointed Resident Conductor of the Toledo Symphony Orchestra and was guest conductor for the Atlanta Symphony in December. Special guest was Sandi Patty.

Kurt Mortensen sent a note to let us know that the premiere of his piano quartet *Isotropes* went well last month. He said it was a good performance and it seemed to go over well with the audience. In fact, a large number of concertgoers told him that they expected not to like it because they never enjoy new music on classical concerts, but they were pleasantly surprised. He's posted an mp3 of the piece at: <http://kurtmortensen.org/mp3-isotropes.html>.

Congratulations to Stephen M. Reinfranck (MM '91) for being presented with the 2003 Illinois ASTA with NSOA Outstanding Studio Teacher award.

1953 NIU Music Ed alum, Samuel Attardo, passed away on October 16, 2003. He was a teacher for 33 years in the North Boone (Illinois) District 200 schools. He retired in 1988 and was 75 years old at the time of his passing.

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

Lynn Slater
Coordinator of Admissions & Public Relations
School of Music
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, IL 60115
phone 815-753-1546
fax 815-753-1759
lslater@niu.edu
<http://www.niu.edu/music>