

**Northern Illinois University
School of Music
Spring, 2005, 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 website: <http://www.niu.edu/music> or the University Website: <http://www.niucalendar.edu/>

[April, 2005, Events](#)

[May, 2005, Events](#)

SCHOOL OF MUSIC AUDITION DATES

Formal audition dates are over. To arrange a private audition, please contact Lynn Slater: 815-753-1546 or lslater@niu.edu
All audition repertoire can be found on our website: <http://www.niu.edu/music>

FACULTY NEWS

Jui-Ching Wang presented her paper, A Case Study of a College Music Appreciation Class, at the Research Poster Session in Peoria at the IMEA All State Conference in January.

Jan Bach's *Eisteddfod* for flute harp and viola, one of his best-known compositions (and currently available on three separate CDs; see www.janbach.com) was performed at Wheaton College's Billy Graham Center, and simulcast over its internet website.

Greg Beyer and Erin Lesser (Due East – www.dueeast.net) played here on February 16 as well as in New York City and at Concordia College. Greg also performed with a fun band called Capital M at New York's Knitting Factory on the 19th of February.

Myron Myers sang The Voice of God in Argento's *Jonah and the Whale* with Lee Kesselman, conductor, at College of DuPage in March.

Ronald Carter completed four days of clinics and a concert in Calgary, Alberta - Canada. He also was guest conductor of the Arizona Allstate Honors Jazz Band in Mesa, AZ. Carter presented a workshop, "Jazz in the Urban Classroom" at the NASPAAM Conference on February 25.

Skiffle Bunch, the steel band that **Liam Teague** arranged for in the large band Panorama competition 2005, won the South/Central zone of the competition and placed 8th in the National Finals. Our new Graduate Assistant, Seion Gomez, arranged for a band called "Merry Tones" in the small band category and won the National Finals.

Brian Groner conducted the annual Irish celebration concert in Orchestra Hall in Chicago on March 16.

The narrator for this event, a fundraising performance for Old Saint Patrick's cathedral, was noted actor John Malkovich.

The book *Echoes from Calvary*, edited by **Richard Young** has just been published and includes the Vermeer Quartet CD recording of Haydn's Seven Last Words of Christ. The book is a compilation of the prose meditations written and delivered at performances of the Seven Last Words of Christ over the past 16 years with the Vermeer Quartet. The New York Times and Christianity Today gave the book wonderful reviews. Richard is doing radio interviews for stations all across the country. The book can be ordered from the Vermeer website <http://www.vermeerqt.com/ECHOES%20ORDER.htm> or from Amazon.com and is also available at all Borders and Barnes and Noble retail stores.

Janet Hathaway defended her dissertation in December and graduated with the PhD in musicology from NYU. Congratulations!

Ricardo Castañeda will be performing in a chamber music recital in March and April with The Chicago Ensemble at Three Arts Club of Chicago and at The International House, University of Chicago. The recital includes Poulec's *Trio for Oboe Bassoon and Piano*, Robert Schumann's *Three Romances for Oboe and Piano*, Antonio Vivaldi's *Concerto in G minor for Flute, Oboe, Bassoon and Continuo*, and Gordon Jacob's *Trio for Flute, Oboe and Piano*. He will be joining flutist Susan Levitin, bassoonist Jill Dispenza and pianist Gerald Rizzer. In April he will be performing the English horn part off stage for The Lyric Opera's production of Wagner's *Siegfried*. Also in March and April he will be playing Oboe and English horn for "Broadway in Chicago's" production of *Les Miserables* at the Cadillac Palace Theater. Starting in late April he will be playing Oboe and English Horn for the Musical *Wicked* at the Oriental Theater, also a "Broadway in Chicago" production.

Greg Beyer performed Steve Reich's *Drumming* with the So Percussion Group in New York City and in Boston. Later in April (the 29th), he will be premiering a new work for solo berimbau and electronics at Princeton University.

Rich Holly, Professor of Percussion and Associate Dean of our College of Visual and Performing Arts, was the guest artist at the spring concert of the Barrington Percussion Experience ("BPX") on March 30. BPX is a percussion ensemble consisting of high school students who live in the Barrington (IL) area, and is directed by NIU percussion alum Keith Lienert.

Wisconsin Public Radio has announced that they will be broadcasting three performances of the Birch Creek Symphony which were recorded during the summer of 2004. On May 24 (during the 1 p.m. hour) they will broadcast the Lars Eric Larsson *Concertino for Bassoon and Orchestra*, Amy Rhodes bassoon, conductor **Brian Groner**. On May 26 (during the 8 p.m. hour) they will broadcast the *Concertino for Steel Pan and Chamber Ensemble*, by Libby Larsen with Steel Pan soloist NIU faculty member **Liam Teague** and conductor Brian Groner. On May 28 (during the 1 p.m. hour) they will broadcast *Symphony #1* of Shostakovich, conducted by Brian Groner.

Robert Fleisher's *Five Songs from Carl Sandburg's "Prairie"* were performed in February by soprano and NIU alum, Emily Truckenbrod, and pianist William Koehler, during a Society of Composers conference at the University of Texas, San Antonio. In March, the song cycle was performed again by soprano Anna Carol Dudley and pianist Herbert Bielawa, during the annual "Sounds New" concert series in Berkeley, California.

The Joffrey Ballet collaboration with the Chicago Sinfonietta continues. The orchestra for this spring's run of nine performances included a sizable NIU contingent including June Matayoshi on oboe and English horn, Mel Warner on clarinet, John Fairfield, horn, Laura Fairfield, horn, Katherine Stubbins-Benitez, trombone, Paul Zafer, concertmaster, Todd Matthews, violin, and Andy Snow, cello.

Clarinet Cornucopia, with over 170 attendees over the two days, March 19 and 20, was a great success. Karl Leister, from Berlin, Germany was the featured guest artist. William Goldenberg and Greg Barrett performed with him. Brian Hart gave a talk on German music in the 19th century

and Brian Groner directed the Cornucopia Clarinet Choir.

Greg Barrett will be performing a program of works by Mahler, Rorem, and Prokofiev with the Ars Viva Symphony Orchestra on May 1 at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie.

Bill Goldenberg and **A. Oscar Haugland** recently returned from Scandinavia where Bill played a piano piece of Oscar's titled Trollhaugen Lodge Springdans in Edvard Grieg's home near Bergen, Norway. The name of his home is also called Trollhaugen. Bill actually played the piece on Grieg's piano.

William Koehler was named Presidential Teaching Professor. Begun in 1990, Presidential Teaching Professorships recognize outstanding teachers among the faculty. After four years, he will become a Distinguished Teaching Professor. Congratulations!

Louise Baker, widow of Charles E. Baker, who served on this faculty for many years, passed away at age 94 a few days ago. She has been a consistent supporter of the school through her endowment of the Charles E. Baker scholarship. She was a great lady whom it was our great pleasure to know.

The George and Betty Dutton Foundation will again fund two graduate assistantships in response to our application, one low string and one collaborative pianist for next year with assignments in the Sycamore Schools and the NIU School of Music. That makes five years in a row for Dutton Foundation funding for us. This funding pays for two 10-hour graduate assistants, one to serve as intern in the Sycamore Schools string program and perform in the NIU Philharmonic as the George and Betty Dutton Orchestral Chair and the other in the Sycamore Schools choral program as a pianist and the School of Music as the George and Betty Dutton Collaborative Pianist. A hearty thank you to the Dutton Foundation!

STUDENT/ALUMNI NEWS:

The **NIU Jazz Lab Band** performed at the Elmhurst Jazz Festival and was rated as an outstanding ensemble. Four of its members were awarded with a certificate of outstanding performance: Lucas Gillan, drums, John Tate, bass, Adam Hucke, lead trumpet, Andy Gilfoil, tenor sax. **The Liberace Jazztet** was also rated as an outstanding ensemble, and all of its members (Iajhi Hampden, Ralph DiSylvestro, Mark Johnson, Josh Ramos, Bennie Hill, and Sean Higgins) got certificates of outstanding performance. It was a great day for NIU.

The **NIU Jazz Ensemble** had their annual Winter Tour with International Jazz Saxophone artist Donald Harrison. The concert tour included performing and doing clinics at Zion-Benton High School, Downers Grove South High School and Big Foot High School in Walworth, Wisconsin. They also just completed their second tour with Jazz Trombonist Conrad Herwig, performing and doing clinics in Metamora, Joliet, and East St. Louis. The highlight of both tours were concerts in the Duke Ellington Ballroom in the Holmes Student Center here at NIU.

The **NIU Jazz Ensemble** also performed at the Crystal Lake Illinois Raue Center with New York vocalist Adam James in a tribute to "Ole Blue Eyes" on February 11 & 12.

The **NIU Jazz Ensemble** was selected to perform at the (NASPAAM) National Association for the Study and Performance of African American Music Professional Music Conference, Saturday February 26, 2005 in the Grand Ballroom -Wyndham O'Hare-Chicago, IL.

The **Liberace Jazztet** consisting of Benton Hill, Josh Ramos, Sean Higgins, Ralph DiSylvestro, Mark Johnson, and Iajhi Hampden performed by invitation in New York on March 14 at Jazz at Lincoln Center's Dizzy's Club Coca Cola, a 140-seat jazz club, which offers views of the

Manhattan skyline and Central Park. It is important to note that the NIU Liberace Jazztet performed within the first six months of the opening at the first-ever facility specifically designed for the acoustics of jazz. Upon hearing the group perform, Dizzy's Club Artistic Manager Todd Barkan said, "Any band that good can be here any time." We are hoping for an annual invitation for NIU jazz students. The following day the Liberace Jazztet presented two well-received clinics for students at LaGuardia's "Fame" High School.

Cathy Christensen Dunafin, B.M. 1997, received her National Board Certification this year.

Tony Kidonakis, B.M. 2001, has been performing full time since graduation for various blues/jazz/rock groups, solo piano bars, and "dueling piano" clubs throughout the Midwest and Texas. From 2002-2004, he performed 4-5 times a week at Chicago's premier dueling piano club, "Howl at the Moon." Recently, Tony accepted a position starting with the 2004-2005 school year as an elementary band director for Downers Grove Grade School District 58 in Downers Grove, IL.

Rob Deemer's, B.M. 1994, M.M. & P.C. 2001, new ballet, *Adverse Camber* premiered this past weekend in the Payne Theatre in the Winship Building at UT. Commissioned by the Dance Repertory Theatre and with assistance by the College of Fine Arts, Department of Theatre & Dance and the School of Music, this 25-minute work for 9 dancers and a 15-piece ensemble was the first collaboration between Rob and UT dance faculty member David Justin.

Rick Hirsch, M.M. 1995, has been selected to receive a 2005 Fellowship in Jazz Composition from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. This prestigious fellowship carries a \$5,000 cash award to support career development. Hirsch also received this fellowship in 2003. In other news, he's enjoying life in the central mountains of PA with his wife and three daughters.

Jim Henderson, B.M. 1987, went to NIU from 1985 to 1987 as a Percussion performance major. He has been living in London England since 1994. He married an English dancer that he met playing in a big band on a Royal Caribbean cruise ship. He still plays in a 10 piece big band every Sunday at the Queens Theatre. They have a 13 yr. old daughter Dannille who is involved in a stage school. He is a Regional Manager of Jaeger for 10 flagship stores

Joe Pasteris, B.M. 1998, has participated in the DeKalb Municipal City band for about 17 years. He has been a member of Kishwaukee Symphony Orchestra as principal timpanist for 10 years. Within the last 2 years he has been involved in the Kishwaukee Concert Band. He is currently working for NIU's Student Housing & Dining Services as a Kitchen stores laborer at Douglas Hall. He also has gigged with the DeKalb Shenanigans Big Band as well as with other local musicians throughout the area.

Scott Gumina, M.M. 1994, is currently teaching band in grades 5-12 in Lisle CUSD 202. His teaching load includes 5th grade band, 6th grade band, high school jazz band, high school jazz combo and an electronic music/music theory class. They have hosted the NIU Jazz Ensemble 2 times since he began teaching in Lisle in 1998. He performs weekly on lead alto sax with the Brass Tracks Jazz Orchestra at Hackney's in Palos Park. He also performs regularly with the Nightshift Orchestra (Corporate functions, weddings, etc.) He is also active as a judge and clinician for district-level contests and festivals. He is the proud father of three young boys ages 5, 3 & 1, and is happily married to Lisa (Priolo) Gumina - a NIU Alumni.

Anthony Quaranta, B.M. 2004, has been working as an administrative assistant for a telecommunications company to save up for graduate school. He has been singing with a group called the St. Charles Singers, which currently has about six or seven NIU alumni. He also has continued studying with Nancy Henninger and will be singing in her Intimate Opera's production of Verdi's *La Traviata*.

Cheryl Hochstetler, B.M. 1995, teaches elementary general music grades PK-4 in Byron, IL.

She and Derek got married on Oct. 9, 2004 and honeymooned in Maui. Derek is a mechanical engineer at Hamilton Sundstrand in Rockford. Cheryl also teaches private piano and flute students in their house along with playing piano and organ at church. She plays flute with the Kishwaukee Valley Concert band in her spare time.

Ken White, B.M. 1977, performs with several big bands throughout the Chicago area as drummer and vocalist. He also writes big band arrangements, several of which have been performed by such groups as the John Burnett Swing Orchestra and the Chicago Grandstand Big Band.

Chelsea Tipton, II, M. M. 1989, is in the midst of his second season with the Toledo Symphony Orchestra as Resident Conductor. Chelsea makes about 45 school visits during the season working with local public school bands and orchestras in the community. He remains busy with guest conducting engagements having returned to conduct the Chicago Symphony Orchestra this past January in a family concert series. Upcoming guest work includes the primary orchestras of Pittsburgh, San Antonio, Atlanta, New Orleans, Nashville, and Rochester.

Paul Klaassen, B.M. 1967 & M.M. 1969, transferred to NIU in 1964 after graduating from the Moody Bible Institute with a major in Church Music. After teaching in Somonauk schools for three years, Paul married Cheryl Gabriel, class of 1966 in Elementary Education and moved to teach in the Turner School District in Kansas City, Kansas where he taught music for 33 years. While in DeKalb, he was music director of Bethany Baptist church for 5 years. He continued as music director for 25 years in an Independent Bible Church in Overland Park, Kansas. He retired from full time teaching in 2003 and is now a full time substitute teacher in the Blue Valley School District of Overland Park, Kansas. He tells us that the music education training at NIU prepared him well for the challenges of teaching.

After a long, celebrated stretch as Organist and Master of Choristers at St Thomas Church, Medina, WA, **David R. White**, B.M. 1986, returned to serve one year as Interim Organist/Choirmaster for St James Cathedral (Episcopal) in Chicago. He is now on sabbatical from church work, to make room for his chamber music concert and recording schedule, with performances this season in Chicago, New York, Seattle, Vancouver (BC) and Adelaide, Aus., among others. He has recently recorded all of the Beethoven music for piano trio, and performed three complete cycles of the Beethoven Violin Sonatas with violinists Steve Daniels, Cecilia Archuleta, and Kim Zabelle. He is busier than ever as a composer, with no fewer than five new works to be premiered this year: Dover Beach (2004) in Seattle 4-16-05; Carol of the Solstice (2004) Portland 4-17-05; seventh setting of the Magnificat and Nunc dmittis (Southwark Cathedral) 5-1-05; Sonata for Violin and Piano (2005); Seattle (July 05); Sonata for Unaccompanied 'Cello (2005); Albany, NY (Fall 05). He has had several works performed and recorded in 2004 by many ensembles, including Bella Voce (Chicago), Cascadian Singers (Seattle), the choirs of St. Alban's, and Adelaide Cathedral. He is living the life of a composer, performer, and conductor on Chicago's downtown lakefront with his life-partner, one of Chicago's most talented landscape designers. See www.jwlandscapes.com Greetings to all the NIU family. I miss you and think of you so often.

Anthony Padilla, B.M. 1988, internationally known pianist, artist-in-residence at the Bay View Music Festival, and Associate Professor of Music and Chair, Keyboard Department, at Lawrence University Conservatory of Music has been awarded the 2005 College of Visual and Performing Arts Outstanding Alumni Award. Congratulations!

Brent Michael Davids, B.M. 1981, has a new web site: <http://www.filmcomposter.us/> It includes video and sound samples, along with biographical materials and photos, DVDs and CDs for sale. His new e-mail is brent@filmcomposer.us

Joanna McKenzie Miller, B.M. 1998, played the lead (Belle) in Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* at the Marriott Theatre in Lincolnshire recently.

Jody Brubaker, M.M. 1985, soprano, has been hired to sing the soprano solos in Rockford Choral Union's production of Messiah at the Coronado Theater, Thanksgiving weekend, 2005.

Current sophomore, **Stephanie Schiller**, soprano, has been encouraged to pursue a singing career by the Bel Canto Foundation by the prize they awarded her in their annual competition.

Craig Whittaker, M.M. 1983, has accepted a position as Associate Professor of Music at Guilford College in Greensboro, NC. He teaches saxophone and jazz studies and is developing new courses in the Music of World War II and jazz and spirituality. Visit him at www.craigwhittaker.com. Craig is married to Jinny Novine, M.M. '83, who is a professor of Music at Elon University in Elon, NC.

Congratulations to Base4 (**Andy Bliss**, B.M. 2004, **Steve Lundin**, M.M. 2003, **John Pobojewski**, B.M., 2003, and **Patrick Schleker**, B.M. 2004) on the completion of their first CD. To obtain a copy, contact Robert Chappell or go to their website, www.base4percussion.com.

Ian Torres, B.M. 2000, lives in Chicago where he teaches private trumpet lessons, gigs and co-leads (with fellow alum **Don Tisch**, B.M. 1998) the jazz quintet Expansion Project (www.expansionproject.com).

John Linker, B.M. 1997, received an MM from Roosevelt University in 2003 and is now pursuing a doctorate at the College-Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati on a full scholarship. At CCM he serves as staff accompanist to the vocal department and recently was featured as organ soloist with the CCM Philharmonic in a performance of Janacek's Glagolitic Mass. In addition, he leads a large church music program in Lexington, complete with conducting a choir that makes annual domestic and foreign tours. This choir's tour of duty this past year included performances of Durufle's *Requiem, Op. 9*, and Bach's *Magnificat, BWV 243* with an orchestra comprised of members of the Lexington Philharmonic.

Joe Leonard, B.M. 1984, has been living in Scotland for the past 18 years. He runs a busy little music shop (Leonard's Music) which currently has just over 400 students per week, taught by 23 tutors. He still plays trombone as a freelance musician and teaches trombone one day a week at the University of Aberdeen. He has four children aged between 12 1/2 and 17 1/2, who all enjoy music.

Tam Tran, B.M. 2000, joined "The President's Own" United States Marine Band in January 2005 as a violist. As a violist with "The President's Own," Staff Sergeant Tran performs with the Marine Chamber Orchestra and Marine Chamber Ensembles at the White House and in the Washington, D.C., area. Tran received a master's degree in viola performance from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. His notable instructors include Lawrence Dutton of the Emerson String Quartet, Yizhak Schotten of the University of Michigan, and Richard Young of the Vermeer String Quartet. Prior to joining "The President's Own," Tran pursued a doctorate at the State University of New York, Stony Brook. He currently resides in Falls Church, Va. The Marine Band is America's oldest professional musical organization. Founded in 1798, the band has performed for every U.S. President since John Adams. Given the title "The President's Own" by Thomas Jefferson, the Marine Band's primary mission is to provide music for the President of the United States.

Kevin Miller, B.M. 1980, is currently the music department chair at Schaumburg High School. Schaumburg was chosen by the Grammy Foundation to be a Grammy Signature School of 2004. **Greg Tipps**, B.M. 1976 & M.M. 1982, is also band director at Schaumburg.

Jeff Abell, B.A. 1975, M.M. 1980, was tenured this year as professor of Interdisciplinary Arts at Columbia College Chicago. He also received a Faculty Development Grant for research on a current creative project, and will travel to Paris as part of that research. In the 2005-06 academic year, he will be the Acting Chair of the Interdisciplinary Arts Department, a graduate program offering M.A. and M.F.A. degrees. See www.interarts.colum.edu/faculty/faculty.html or www.epiglotic.com/jeffa/jeff_abell.html for more info on Jeff and his work.

Kyla Barber, B.M. 2002, is currently living in Carbondale, IL. She was accepted to the SIU School of Law on scholarship and is completing her first year as a law student. She was also accepted for a study abroad program this summer through Southwestern University (CA) and will be studying in Buenos Aires, Argentina. She says law is an incredible challenge (much harder than music in many ways) but is enjoying it all the same.

James B. Smith, B.M. 1969 & M.S. 1972, was honored last spring for 35 years of teaching music in the St. Charles District 303. Daughter Lisa is a 1992 NIU graduate and son Jason is a 2000 NIU graduate. He is not planning on retiring until 2009. Hail Sinfonia to Phi Mu Alpha members and his favorite teacher Jan Bach!

Joyce Stralow Reichardt, B.M. 1959, founded and has directed the Oak Park-River Forest community 12th Night Choral & Instrumental concert since 2002. Among the 2003-2005 participants was the Windy City String Ensemble, directed by **Michael Hining**, P.C. 1989.

Sue Romano Keeble, B.M. 1989, is married to Jonathan Keeble. They have two boys, Alex & Bryson. Sue teaches general music full time in the Champaign area.

Shannon Steen, B.M., 2002, taught two years at the elementary general music level. She is now staying home with her 3 year old, Lynda and 9 month old, Lea Kyrie. She is currently working on her M.A. in Reading Education at Concordia University.

Joseph Vito Ridolph, B.M. 1931, of 12829 Meadowbrook Dr., Traverse City, MI 49684, passed away at 95 years of age on July 10, 2002. He was very proud of his affiliation at NIU. He received his Masters of Music at the University of Michigan in the 40's and had been involved in music, teaching and playing all of his life. He was playing the mandolin with the "Kitchen Band" at the Senior Center in Traverse City right up to his passing.

Roberta Jean Ruble, B.M. 1947, of 4229 17th Ave. Naples, FL 34116 passed away on September 27, 2004. She was buried in Antioch, Illinois. Her husband tells us she sang in church for 18 years with 150 others in the choir and helped with many horse shows and 4-H fair projects. This would have been their 60th wedding anniversary (March 29). Her husband said she lead a great life and used her music degree to a happy life. She also leaves a daughter and granddaughter. Our condolences to the family.

Let us know if you have info you would like to share with other music educators and friends of the NIU School of Music. We can add it to our next newsletter (1st of each month). Just send your info to lslater@niu.edu!

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!