

**Northern Illinois University
School of Music
February 2007 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 [on-line calendar](#) or the NIU website: <http://www.niucalendar.niu.edu/EAS/>

SCHOOL OF MUSIC AUDITION DATES

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

Friday, March 2, 2007
Saturday, March 3, 2007

Additional voice auditions:
Thursday, March 1, 2007, 7 – 9 p.m.

Additional percussion auditions:
Thursday, March 1, 2007, 5 – 9 p.m.

Auditions for violin, 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)

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:

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: <http://www.niu.edu/extprograms>.

FACULTY NEWS

The NIU School of Music is pleased to announce it has completed a successful national search for a new tenure track music education/World Music faculty member, and **Jui-Ching Wang** has accepted the position which begins August 16, 2007. Jui-Ching is completing her doctorate in Music Education at Arizona State University. She completed some doctoral study in Curriculum and Instruction at NIU, as well as two NIU Master of Music degrees, one in music education and one in piano performance. She earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Music at Soochow University in her native Taiwan.

For the past three years she has served as a Research Associate at NIU, teaching courses in music education, World Music and gamelan. She has also taught music in elementary and junior high schools, as well as college in Taiwan. Wang has several published articles to her credit and has recently presented at national and international conferences in the US, Malaysia, and China. She will represent NIU while presenting at a conference in Greece during the summer of 2007.

"Jui-Ching Wang's background in music education, World Music, and performance make her a triple threat and a unique talent. Her experience in both quantitative and qualitative research equip her to provide valuable guidance to our students and colleagues. Jui-Ching complements and reinforces talents and instruction we feel are quite important in the School of Music, and thus she is an excellent addition to our family. Anyone who meets Jui-Ching is immediately taken by her congenial personality, high energy level, and enthusiasm for her work. We are looking forward to her enthusiastic involvement and contribution as a faculty member to the music education and World Music activities in the School of Music," said Paul Bauer, Director of the School of Music.

The NIU School of Music is pleased to announce it has completed a successful international search for an Artist Faculty String-Quartet-in-Residence to succeed the Vermeer Quartet, and it is the **Avalon Quartet**. The members of the Avalon Quartet are Blaise Magniere - 1st violin, Marie Wang - 2nd violin, Anthony Devroye - viola, and Cheng-Hou Lee - 'cello. Their appointments as Assistant Professors begin August 16, 2007. The members of the Avalon Quartet will teach applied lessons and coach chamber music, and they will be active in their performance career bringing attention to the NIU School of Music from the concert stage and in other outreach activities. They will annually perform a number of concerts on campus as well as a concert series produced by NIU in Chicago.

The Avalon Quartet was founded in 1995, held residencies at Northern Illinois University and the Hartt School, and has been the faculty quartet-in-residence at the Indiana University-South Bend Raclin School of the Arts for the past four years. The quartet garnered attention as prize winners in major competitions including the Grand Prize at the 1998 Fischhoff Competition, First Prize in the 1999 Concert Artist Guild competition, and the highest prize awarded at the 2000 ARD Munich Competition. The quartet also received awards at the 1998 Banff and 1999 Melbourne competitions. Their debut CD, "Dawn to Dusk," was awarded the 2002 Chamber Music America/WQXR Record Award.

The Avalon Quartet has performed in numerous major venues including Carnegie-Weill Recital Hall, New York's Merkin Hall, the Gilmore Keyboard Festival, the Auditorium du Louvre in Paris, the Music Alp Festival in Seoul, Korea, London's Wigmore Hall, Herkulessal in Munich, and the Ravinia Festival.

The Quartet is represented by John Gingrich Management in New York City, whose roster includes performers of international repute such as Charles Rosen, Kim Kashkashian, and Gunther Schuller.

Blaise, who was born in France, earned his Bachelor of Music at McGill University in Montreal, his Master of Music from Cleveland Institute of Music, and an Artist Diploma from the Juilliard School.

Marie, born of Chinese parents in Canada, earned her Lucentiate Diploma and Bachelor of Music from McGill University, her Master of Music degree from Northern Illinois University, and an Artist Diploma from the Juilliard School.

Anthony (Tony) was born in Belgium and raised in the US. His Bachelor of Arts in Biological Science from Columbia University was complemented by viola studies in the Juilliard School, and he earned a diploma in viola from the Curtis Institute of Music.

Cheng-Hou Lee is a native of Taiwan, who moved to the US while in high school. His Bachelor and Master of Music degrees are from the Juilliard School and his Master of Chamber Music is from the Rice University Shepherd School of Music. He has completed doctoral studies and is ABD at the New England Conservatory of Music.

Some of you will remember the late composer **Dr. Jon Polifrone** (Composer nominated for Pulitzer four times), who taught composition for us during the spring semester 2000. He passed away this past March from a stroke. A retrospective of his compositions was performed on WFMT (FM 98.7) January 8 and **Diane Ragains** sang solo works on the program.

Linc Smelser and the Kishwaukee Symphony Orchestra had their most successful and well-attended concert to date with their annual Winter Wonderland performance in December. The KSO's next performance will be Sunday, February 25th at 3:00 in the NIU Concert Hall. This performance will feature two spectacular young artists, winners of the ADM Concerto Competition. Linc recently played a concert with the "3 celli" (Stephen Balderston, Brant Taylor and Linc) as part of the Mendelssohn Club Artist Series in Rockford this January. Linc played a concert with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra along with the Lincoln Center Jazz led by Wynton Marsalis performing "All Rise." Linc also gave a faculty cello recital along with Karin Redekopp Edwards at the Wheaton Conservatory of Music on January 30 at Pierce Chapel on the Wheaton College Campus. Featured works on the program included Sonatas by Frank Bridge and Frederic Chopin.

Rich Holly, Associate Dean of our College of Visual and Performing Arts and Professor of Percussion, recently completed his 2-year term as President of the Percussive Arts Society and continues as an officer of PAS for 2 more years. He has also been performing with NIU music professor Robert Sims, recently at the University of Chicago for a Martin Luther King memorial service and in Detroit at a festival of Negro Spirituals. Rich will be one of this year's adjudicators for the National Percussion Ensemble Festival in Indianapolis, which will be held in March.

Robert Sims was interviewed on WGN TV News at Noon (Channel 9, Chicago) January 12. He performed and talked about the upcoming "Simon, Sykes & Sims" concert which was held in Chicago at the Rockefeller Chapel, on Friday February 2. He was also interviewed by Phil Ponce, host of Chicago Tonight on WTTW on January 24.

Marlene Rosenberg was highlighted in the Quad City Times:

" . . . Bass player enjoys her role in jazz groups. Marlene Rosenberg didn't originally set out to be a bass player. She was happy playing the clarinet in her high school band. 'Basically, in high school they needed a bass player and I was drawn to the music of jazz,' she recalled from her home near Chicago . . ." For more of this story, type the URL below:

<http://www.qctimes.com/articles/2007/01/11/entertainment/music/doc45a5caf8dbb2e061266646.txt>

Tim Blickhan's choral composition, "Prayer Against War" (the fourth movement of his "Songs for the Abandoned"), was performed by the Wheaton Warrenville South High School Chamber Singers, directed by **Gordon Krauspe** at the 2006 Illinois American Choral Directors Association Fall Convention in October, and at the MENC North Central/Nebraska Music Educators Association Conference in November.

Robert Fleisher traveled to Edmonton, Canada for a performance on January 28 of his *Two Movements for Cello*, as part of this year's New Music Alberta concert series. This work and his *Five Songs from Carl Sandburg's "Prairie"* were recently heard on "The Latest Score," a new music broadcast on WOMR-FM, on Cape Cod. In January, Dr. Fleisher also received a Finalist Award in composition from the Illinois Arts Council.

As Illinois State Chairperson of the International Clarinet Association (I.C.A.), **Greg Barrett** will be giving a clinic to new and continuing I.C.A. members at Brookdale Music (Naperville) from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 17. The clinic is sponsored by Brookdale Music and Buffet Clarinets.

Faculty members **Mathias Tacke, Greg Barrett, Orna Arania, and JeongSoo Kim** are giving a chamber music recital at 7:00 p.m., Saturday, February 17 in the School of Music's Recital Hall. On the program are works by Beethoven, Canteloube, Lutoslawski, and Stravinsky.

Greg Barrett, clarinet and **JeongSoo Kim**, piano are giving a guest recital at the University of Illinois at Chicago campus at 1:00 p.m. on February 20.

Ricardo Castañeda continues as oboist for the Chicago production of *Wicked*, was principal oboist for the 2006 Joffrey Ballet production of *Nutcracker*, is recording for Cedille Records of "Snow Carols" by William Ferris with The William Ferris Chorale (to be released next fall). In January Ricardo performed the Strauss *Oboe Concerto* with Lake Forest Symphony.

Rodrigo Villanueva's composition for jazz ensemble, *Not Yet!*, was recently published by Increase Music, and his article "Jeff Hamilton's Melodic Approach" was published in the February 2007 issue of Percussive Notes. He is doing a tribute concert honoring the late Michael Brecker on March 21 at 8:00 pm in the NIU School of Music Recital Hall, with NIU alumnus Doug Stone on tenor sax and current students John Tate on bass and Stuart Mindeman on piano; Rodrigo will play drums. They will perform Chick Corea's *Three Quartets* as well as other compositions by Michael Brecker. From April 9 to 14 he will be escorting the NIU Liberace Jazztet to the International Jazz Festival, in Lima, Peru, where he hopes to do some drumset clinics and guest performances. On April 24 the NIU Jazz Lab Band will perform in the Rochelle Jazz Festival with guest artists Stephen Anderson on piano and Craig Butterfield on bass, and they will repeat the program at their NIU Spring concert on April 26 at 8:00 pm in the Concert Hall. On Friday April 27th they will perform as the Anderson, Butterfield, Villanueva jazz trio. The program will include many original compositions by Steve and Rodrigo. Finally on May 1, the NIU Jazz Lab Band will go to Madison, WI to record at one of the studios in the Madison Media Institute. Ah, one more thing, on March 26th, Rodrigo will be turning 40!

Percussion faculty member **Greg Beyer** will be on tour with flutist Erin Lesser March 6-10. The DUE EAST flute/percussion duo will be performing at Southern and Western Oregon Universities, as well as Lewis & Clark University in Portland, Oregon. They will perform a concert of brand-new commissions written for the group. A two-day residency at Western Oregon University, hosted by composer Joseph Harchanko, is the centerpiece of the tour, and Harchanko's new work, *West*, for berimbau, flute and live electronics will be featured on the program. Other performances of this program will follow: Manhattan School of Music (NYC), March 22-23, Tenri Cultural Institute (NYC), March 24th, Northern Illinois University, April 9th, and Princeton University, May 15th. The

duo will then give a premiere performance of another new work on May 20th in New York City, by composer Patrick Hardish, founder of Composer's Concordance, a contemporary music organization based in Manhattan.

For more information about DUE EAST, visit <http://www.dueeast.net>

Beyer will also perform Takemitsu's *Rain Tree*, with percussionists Matthew Duvall (Eighth Blackbird) and Douglas Perkins (So Percussion and Perkins/Meehan Percussion Duo) with Contempo, the contemporary music organization based at the University of Chicago, on April 7th. This piece will receive a repeat performance at NIU on April 11th, on an evening recital of percussion music, featuring guest artist, Douglas Perkins.

Richard Hoskins played with the CSO Brass at a sold-out Symphony Center in December, music by Strauss, Holst, Respighi, Elgar, Schuller & Broughton. In August he accompanied the NIU Chamber Choir during their week-long residency at Worcester Cathedral. He also played the continuo organ parts for the Mozart (Levin) Requiem with the Grant Park Orchestra & Chorus.

This past January **Ann Montzka-Smelser** was a guest clinician at the McPhail Center for the Arts in Minneapolis, Minnesota and the Music for Youth program in Arlington Heights, Illinois. She looks forward to being a guest clinician at Violapalooza at the Music Institute of Chicago in February and two other string workshops in Kansas and Indiana in March. Ann is principal violist of Camerata Chicago and will be performing the Dvorak Serenade for Strings and the Shostakovich Concerto No. 1 for piano trumpet and Strings on February 23 at the Harris Theater in Chicago and on February 24 at NIU in the Boutell Memorial Concert Hall at 8 p.m.

Marlene Rosenberg has been invited to be the featured artist at the International Society of Bassists convention in Oklahoma City on June 7. She will play with pianist Bill Mayes and drummer Tim Froncek.

STUDENT/ALUMNI NEWS

Alyssa Jones (M.M. '99) is on a TLC cable show called "Trial by Choir" about a male choir director in inner-city Boston working with troubled youths. Alyssa is one of the voice coaches that works with some of the less-talented singers

Kelly Beaman (current student) received this from Lt. Col. Lang of the USAF regarding an arrangement he sent, "your arrangement was one of the highlights of our program. I'll have a recording sent to you soon. And plan on writing something else for me in the Spring if you have time. God Bless," LARRY H. LANG, Lt Col, USAF
Commander and Conductor, USAF Band of Liberty.

Sean Higgins (M.M. '05) wrote to Professor Ron Carter to tell him he had a gig in Central New Jersey with a sideman on bass, alum **Patrick Glynn** (M.M. '98). Sean has been hired a lot recently by David Levine, a tenor player who went to NIU a few years back. NIU is taking the east coast by storm!

The Composer Next Door was recently broadcast from KCSC/KBCW (90.1 FM/91.9 FM) in Oklahoma and on the web at <http://www.kscsfm.org>. Created and hosted by composer/conductor **Rob Deemer** (B.M. '94 & M.M. '01), each of the first thirteen episodes will showcase several established and emerging composers in a particular region of the country. *The Composer Next Door* was created with the intention of broadcasting music that is normally absent on the radio or in the concert hall to as wide an audience as possible. The first show will focus on Oklahoma composers with works by Edward Knight, Marvin Lamb, Lance Hulme, Samuel Magrill and Maya Raviv. Each episode will be broadcast at 4 p.m. on Sundays and more information can be found at <http://www.thecomposernextdoor.org>.

Diana Iorio (B.M. & M.M. '84 & '85), was recently appointed Artistic Director & Violin Faculty of a music festival to be held in Siena, Italy in March of 2007. Luci Toscane Music Festival also includes an Italian Language/Cultural Arts course as well for musicians and as a stand alone course. The faculty she has hired this year is fantastic. Happy Holidays, especially to my dear friends in the Vermeer, Ann & Linc Smelser, Mel, Nancy, Dr. Blickhan, and the list goes on! DMI Visit: <http://www.musicaclassicatoscana.org>

Nicholas Brooks (B.S. in Business Administration '02), continues to wow audiences in Las Vegas and on the road with his "Rat Pack Show." Be sure to check out his web site: <http://www.NicholasBrooks.com>.

Also, Nicholas was presented the Outstanding Alumni Award by the NIU Alumni Association. While Nicholas was not music major, he was very involved in our music program. He was recruited by Ron Carter to be the singer for the NIU Jazz Ensemble while he was a student here.

Anthea Kreston is now Professor at the Hartt School, and violinist of the Amelia Trio and member of Yo Yo Ma's Silk Road Project.

<http://www.AmeliaPianoTrio.com>

Anthea Kreston, violin

Jason Duckles, cello

Rieko Aizawa, piano

Manager - <http://www.melkap.com>

Publicity - Kreston Arts Management - Jeannette@Kreston.org

Dan Blaufuss (B.M. '99) was promoted to Managing Editor of The Instrumentalist in January.

According to **Kevin Schoenbach** (B.M. '00), the rumor is true; The Strange Brood is back on the air. A couple engagements, the holiday season, and one of their hosts adopting a Malaysian baby has led to an extended hiatus of about 5 months. This gave them a chance to recharge and get rejuvenated. Visit the website (<http://www.thestrangebrood.com> if you forgot) and get back in touch with them.

Keith Robinson (B.M. '95 & M.M. '06) is currently writing a science-fiction novel, "Logic's End." To pre-order a copy or for more information, e-mail Keith at: kvrobinman@wi.rr.com

The **NIU Philharmonic** under the direction of Brett Mitchell played beautifully at the IMEA All-State convention in Peoria. They performed "Short Ride in a Fast Machine," a brisk, four-minute piece by American composer John Adams, and Shostakovich's Fifth Symphony.

The **NIU Jazz Ensemble** under the direction of Ron Carter just returned from touring with trombonist Jiggs Whigham.

We had a great time seeing friends and alums at the Midwest Clinic in Chicago in December and IMEA All-State Convention in Peoria in December. Go to the NIU School of Music website to see the photos we took! Our alumni reception is always fun. If you can make it next year, please do so. We'd love to see all of you!

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!

And finally, a belated Christmas poem from alum (B.M. '82) **Kirk Lundbeck**:

A Trombonist's Christmas

By Kirk Lundbeck

Twas the month before Christmas and all through the land,
Many aspiring musicians had trombones in their hands.
There were Shires and Edwards, some Conns and some Bachs,
And even a Schilke, which came as a shock!
With Arbans, Schlossberg and Rochut in their tow,
They took out their horns and gave them a blow.
The first sounds that were made weren't pretty at all,
A blat, notes flat and even a duck call!
But they played as they worked and worked as they played,
To try to audition for an orchestra someday.
The sound kept improving, but try as they might,
That slur in bar twenty just never sounds right.
Mahler and Mozart and Tchaikovsky they worked,
But as hard as they tried their slide always jerked.
With the sounds of Friedman and Alessi in their heads,
What came from their horns was something else instead.
As they blew in those horns and felt like crying,
They knew the only failure was to stop trying.
So they continue to practice through struggle and strife,
Because playing trombone is what completes their life.
There is much improvement and perseverance prevails,
And someday they'll dress in black tie and black tails.
The solo in Mahler 3 will be sweeter than sweet,
And your version of Bolero will bring them all to their feet.
So never stop trying as bad as it sounds,
Because through all that work an artist is found.
And though Christmas is over a month away,
Your present is here, **STOP THINKING AND JUST PLAY!**