

## October 2003 Newsletter

Hello and welcome back to another school year!

### 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](mailto:lslater@niu.edu) for assistance. All audition repertoire can be found at our website: <http://www.vpa.niu.edu/music>  
Auditions for Spring 2004 semester are also on a private basis. Please contact Lynn Slater for details.

### OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

#### University Open Houses

Monday, October 13, 2003 (Columbus Day)

Tuesday, November 11, 2003 (Veteran's Day)

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

Friday, April 9, 2004 (Spring Vacation)

#### The Midwest Clinic

December 16-20, 2003

#### IMEA

January 28-31, 2004

See you there!

#### High School Music Events

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

Wednesday, October 22, Choir Day, for all choirs

Friday, February 6, Jazz Day, for all jazz bands

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

Monday, February 23, Concert Band Festival, Day 1

Tuesday, February 24, Concert Band Festival, Day 2

Tuesday, March 2, Concert Band Festival, Day 3

Tuesday, March 16, 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).

### 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/>

#### October

- 10/1 Opera Workshop, Peter Lipari, music director, and James Tucker, stage director, 6:30 p.m., Recital Hall
- 10/1 Opera Workshop, Peter Lipari, music director, and James Tucker, stage director, 8:00 p.m., Recital Hall
- 10/3 Wind Symphony, Lawrence Stoffel, director & University Band, David Lehman, director, 8 p.m., Concert Hall
- 10/6 Yu-Chen Chang, graduate piano recital, 8 p.m., Concert Hall
- 10/8 Jazz Jam Session, Fareed Haque, director, 9 p.m., The House Restaurant, 263 E. Lincoln Hwy., DeKalb
- 10/15 Jazz Jam Session, Fareed Haque, director, 9 p.m., The House Restaurant, 263 E. Lincoln Hwy., DeKalb
- 10/19 Wind Wnsemble, Ronnie Wooten, director, 7 p.m., Concert Hall
- 10/20 Jazz Lab Band, John Wojciechowski, director and All-University Jazz Band, David Stamps and Ralph DiSylvestro, directors, 8 p.m., Concert Hall
- 10/21 Concert Choir, Chamber Choir, Eric Johnson, director and University Chorus, Wilbert Watkins, director, 8 p.m., Concert Hall
- 10/22 John Novak, faculty recital/lecture, 8 p.m., Recital Hall
- 10/22 Jazz Jam Session, Fareed Haque, director, 9 p.m., The House Restaurant, 263 E. Lincoln Hwy., DeKalb
- 10/23 Ray Spiegel, master class, 6:30 p.m., Recital Hall
- 10/23 Ray Spiegel, guest artist percussion recital, 8 p.m., Recital Hall
- 10/26 James Langenberg, junior tuba recital, 3 p.m., Recital Hall
- 10/28 Domazlice, Guest Bagpipe Band recital, 8 p.m., Concert Hall
- 10/29 Vermeer Quartet, 8 p.m., Concert Hall
- 10/29 Jazz Jam Session, Fareed Haque, director, 9 p.m., The House Restaurant, 263 E. Lincoln Hwy., DeKalb
- 10/30 Halloween Concert I, NIU Philharmonic, Brian Groner, director, 6 p.m., Concert Hall, preceded by 5:30 trick-or-treating
- 10/30 Halloween Concert II, NIU Philharmonic, Brian Groner, director, 8 p.m., Concert Hall, preceded by 7:30 trick-or-treating

## November

- 11/3 Jiafeng Yan, graduate piano recital, 8 p.m., Recital Hall
- 11/4 Latin Jazz Ensemble concert, Orlando Cotto, director, 8 p.m., Concert Hall
- 11/5 Graduate Woodwind Quintet recital, 8 p.m., Recital Hall
- 11/5 Jazz Jam Session, Fareed Haque, director, 9 p.m., The House Restaurant, 263 E. Lincoln Hwy., DeKalb
- 11/6 NIU Jazz Ensemble concert, Ron Carter, director, 8 p.m., Duke Ellington Ballroom, Holmes Student Center
- 11/8 Annie Chen, graduate piano recital, 1 p.m., Recital Hall
- 11/8 Andrzej Stec, junior voice recital, 7 p.m., Recital Hall
- 11/10 Graduate Brass Quintet, 8 p.m., Recital Hall
- 11/11 Clarinet studio recital, Greg Barrett, director, 8 p.m., Recital Hall
- 11/12 Jazz Lab Band concert, John Wojciechowski, director, 8 p.m., Concert Hall
- 11/12 Jazz Jam Session, Fareed Haque, director, 9 p.m., The House Restaurant, 263 E. Lincoln Hwy., DeKalb
- 11/13 Percussion Ensemble, Robert Chappell and Orlando Cotto, directors, 8 p.m., Concert Hall
- 11/14 Wind Symphony, Lawrence Stoffel, director, 8 p.m., Concert Hall

## NEW FACES!

We welcome the following new faculty members to the School of Music!

Janet Hathaway, professor of Music History

David Lehman, director of the University Band

Wilbert O. Watkins, director of the University Chorus and professor of Music Education

A hearty NIU School of Music welcome to all of them!

## FACULTY NEWS

Rich Holly, Professor of Percussion and Associate Dean of our College of Visual and Performing Arts, was voted by the Board of Directors of the Percussive Arts Society to be the next President-Elect. Rich currently holds the position of Vice President with PAS. His new duties will be for 2003 and 2004, and he will assume the Presidency for 2005 and 2006. The Percussive Arts Society is the largest professional percussion organization in the world, with 7000 members in the United States and 20 other countries. For more information, visit [www.pas.org](http://www.pas.org).

Greg Barrett presented a clarinet recital in June at the University of Oklahoma Clarinet Symposium. He then traveled overseas where he played a chamber music concert of works by Robert Fuchs and Jean Sibelius in the Musikverein, Vienna, Austria. This concert included the world premiere of his reconstruction of Sibelius's lost "En Saga Septet." For more information, contact Greg at [gregbarrett@niu.edu](mailto:gregbarrett@niu.edu). He also performed at ClarinetFest '04 of the International Clarinet Association, Salt Lake City and lectured and performed the Sibelius/Barrett "En Saga Septet" at the Chamber Music by Lake Tuusula Chamber Music Festival, Järvenpää, Finland.

Greg Barrett's recital originally scheduled for October 7, has been rescheduled for November 18 at 6:30 in the School of Music Recital Hall. Guest performers will include Fareed Haque, guitar; Bill Koehler, piano; and Marlene Rosenberg, bass. Works will include pieces by Brahms, Howard Buss, and Piazzolla. In a novel approach, a jazz bassist will be performing in the classical Brahms *Clarinet Sonata No. 2*. Howard Buss's work for clarinet, guitar, and bass is in the Klezmer idiom. Piazzolla's *Histoire du Tango*, for clarinet and guitar takes the listener through the entire 20th century in Tango idiom.

Peter Lipari, Music Director of NIU Opera Workshop, accompanied his Illinois Brass Band to the British Open Brass Band Championship in Birmingham, England on September 13 and 14, the first occasion in its 151 year history of a band from outside the Commonwealth having been invited to this prestigious competition. The inclusion of the IBB spawned great anticipation in the full house at Birmingham's Symphony Hall, as well as a blend of pride and humility in the Illinoisans and their conductor -- pride

in the honor bestowed by the invitation, and humility with the realization that they would compete and perform with the best brass bands in the world.

Lipari and the IBB found an overwhelmingly favorable reception at both the competition and the gala concert. Judges and spectators alike were impressed by the Americans' strength of sound and style, albeit not quite impressed enough to place them among the top finishers. Lipari professed pride in his band's performance, noting that placing 16th in their first match against the best brass in the world was an accomplishment worthy of great personal satisfaction. No less important, the opportunity to perform in a world-class concert hall and receive the favorable attention of brass band aficionados and the people of Birmingham was an experience that he and the musicians of the Illinois Brass Band will long savor!

Dr. Han had a busy summer by giving world music workshops in Vermillion, South Dakota, Lexington, Kentucky, Bloomington, Indiana, and teaching Balinese gamelan at the Birch Creek Performing Academy in Door County, Wisconsin. Although he officially retired in June, he will still teach part-time this academic year.

During his spring 2003 sabbatical leave, Robert Fleisher worked on a variety of new composition projects (solo cello, voice and piano, soprano saxophone and clarinet). His Quintet was performed during the 11th Biennial Florida State University New Music Festival, and his Two Prairie Songs (text by Carl Sandburg) were premiered at NIU by Diane Ragains and Bill Goldenberg. This summer, at the invitation of authors Stefan Kostka and Dorothy Payne, he completed several essays (on musical form, enharmonic spellings and modulation, and atonal set theory) for the new Online Learning Center supporting the new edition of *Tonal Harmony*, the leading single-volume music theory text.

Ann Montzka-Smelser received the Byron Hester Excellence In Teaching Award this past June at the Chamber Music Institute in Snowmass, Colorado. Along with the award came a Joseph Nadgavari violin to use for a year and tuition to the summer festival to be given to a student of Ann's choice. Ann will be a featured clinician at two viola workshops this fall at the Chicago Suzuki Institute in Evanston, Illinois and in Rochester, Minnesota.

Steve Duke, Professor of Music - Saxophone and Distinguished Research Professor, will be performing the Concerto for Alto Saxophone and Wind Ensemble by Ingolf Dahl with the NIU Wind Ensemble on November 16 at 3:00 in the Boutell Concert Hall at the NIU School of Music.

Albany Recordings released Troy CD 521 "Paul Freeman Introduces Exotic Concertos." The CD features the first recording of Jan Bach's *Concerto for Steelpan and Orchestra* with Liam Teague, Steelpan. This work was recorded in a Prague studio five years ago after Liam performed the concerto with the Czech National Symphony Orchestra. Other works on the CD include Morton Gould's *Concerto for Tap Dancer and Orchestra*, Gustavo Leone's *Harp Concerto*, and Ricardo Lorenz' *Concerto for Maracas and Orchestra*. The CD is not yet in the stores, but can be ordered from Albany Records, 915 Broadway, Albany NY 12207.

Distinguished Research Professor Emeritus Jan Bach had his new *Concerto for Tuba and Chamber Orchestra* premiered in Sarasota, Florida, by Jay Hunsberger, tuba, and the chamber orchestra of the Florida West Coast Symphony directed by Lief Bjaland. Dr. Bach was honored along with many other composers at a dinner at New York City's Plaza Hotel this last spring in celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of Broadcast Music's Student Composer Awards. All of those invited had won the competition at some time or another; Jan won the competition in 1957. Other previous winners in attendance included Charles Wourinen, Milton Babbitt, Aaron Jay Kernis, and Mario Davidovsky.

Robert Chappell received the 2003 Presidential Teaching Professor Award. Recipients of this award have demonstrated over time their commitment to and success in the many activities associated with outstanding teaching. Up to three such professorships are granted each year. John Fairfield will be joining the Chicago Symphony Orchestra for most of their fall 2003 season, including their Japan tour from October 20 to November 4. He played in three concerts with the CSO this summer at Ravinia. He also played chamber music in Door County, WI with Bill Koehler and Mel Warner in the Midsummer's Music Concert series.

Myron Myers sang in a Mozart Requiem performance last fall with Bel Canto Chorus of Milwaukee as part of the Rolling Requiem performances that took place around the country in memory of 9/11. The performance was at 8:46 the morning on Sept 11. In August, he also sang as soloist in Mendelssohn's *Die Erste Walpurgisnacht* at the Grant Park Music Festival, Carlos Kalmar, conductor.

We are very excited to share the School of Music faculty recording by Liam Teague and Robert Chappell titled "For Lack of Better Words." Liam Teague, a native of Trinidad and Tobago completed his undergraduate and graduate degrees in steelpan in the NIU School of Music. An international solo champion who has performed throughout the United States and abroad, he is currently involved in the steelpan program and NIU Steel Band as a Research Scholar in the School of Music. On the recording he plays tenor and double second steelpan. Robert Chappell joined the percussion faculty in 1984 after establishing himself as a successful professional percussionist. He has distinguished himself as an outstanding teacher and versatile performer. His percussion studies have taken him to the Middle East and Southeast Asia, and he contributes significantly to the World Music activities in the School of Music. On the recording he plays the piano, marimba, tabla, and percussion. This is primarily a product of NIU faculty and students. All music was composed and/or arranged by Robert Chappell and/or Liam Teague. Assistant Professor and percussion faculty member Orlando Cotto also performed on the recording. NIU students Doug Bratt (drumset) and Josh Paris (bass) performed on the recording. The recording took place largely in School of Music facilities. Robert Chappell completed all production, engineering, and mixing of the recording. CD's can be purchased by contacting Robert Chappell at 815-753-7973 or E-mail [rchappell@niu.edu](mailto:rchappell@niu.edu) .

Eric Johnson was elected to the position "President -Elect" for the Illinois American Choral Directors Association. After two years in that post he will become President, leading the state for choral advocacy, and the arts. This is a great honor that recognizes the work he's been doing promoting the choral arts and the great strides the NIU choral program has taken under his leadership. He was selected through a process of first statewide nominations, board selection for inclusion on the ballot and finally a vote of his peers of all members of IL-ACDA (which includes college, public school, and church choir directors state wide).

Ed Klonoski and Eric had an article accepted in the Choral Journal. It will appear in the October 2003 issue entitled, "Connecting the Inner Ear and the Voice."

Eric Johnson spent a fair amount of July and August directing at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp where he was the conductor for the staff choir and vocal ensemble.

The Vermeer Quartet traveled to Washington, D.C. where they played for the Supreme Court of the United States! "It was a very rewarding experience, a reminder of how wonderful it is to be not only a musician, but an American musician," said Richard Young, violist with the quartet.

Robert Chappell and Liam Teague were one of seven groups featured on PBS Channel 11's special "Arts Across Illinois: Center Stage 2003" in June. The WTTW crew filmed the NIU School of Music duo on the banks of the East Lagoon here on the campus of NIU.

Jazz pianist Scott Stevenson (1985) accompanied jazz vocalist Margaret Carlson on the same show. NIU was well represented!

Robert and Liam also took their newly-formed group, Panoramic to Chicago to play for the Chicago World Music Festival where they wowed the audience as well as Chicago Tribune critic Howard Reich, "...Fronting a band called Panoramic - a strong ensemble worthy of his gifts - Teague produced solos of ample tonal sheen and ineffable lyric beauty."

The West Suburban Symphony, a community orchestra based in Hinsdale recently concluded its 2002-03 season with its first international tour. Under the direction of music director and conductor Peter Lipari, the orchestra appeared in concert with Chorus Mundi of London before sell-out crowds on July 2 at Trinity Theatre in Tunbridge Wells, Kent, and on July 4 at St. John the Evangelist Church in central London. The orchestra and chorus presented a program entitled "Last Night of the Proms, Chicago Style" to cheers and standing ovations. The program was a tribute to the annual London music festival known as "the Proms," now in its 109th year. The orchestra delighted the crowd by opening the performances with the U.S. and U.K. national anthems and closing them with the traditional audience-sing-along British favorites that end the last night of the Proms: Elgar's *Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1 (Land of Hope and Glory)* and Parry's *Jerusalem*. Peter Lipari, who just completed his second year with the symphony is also music director of the NIU School of Music Opera Workshop.

Donald Walker, a member of the piano faculty at NIU since 1967, and a renowned and beloved performer, teacher, colleague, and friend to many of us, passed away in September of 2002.

#### **STUDENT/ALUMNI NEWS:**

The Commercial Release of NIU Philharmonic CD "Dexter Morrill: Three Concertos" Centaur CRC2604 was last September. It is available nationally from such sources as Amazon/Borders.com and Barnes and Noble. This is primarily a product of NIU students, faculty and staff. The project was a result of the professional relationship established by two School of Music faculty members Steve Duke and Mark Ponzo with the composer, Dexter Morrill. The NIU Philharmonic is a regular student ensemble of the School of Music. The conductors and soloists Steve Squires, Brian Groner, Steve Duke, John Mindeman, and Mark Ponzo were or still are School of Music faculty. School of Music faculty member Peter Middleton completed the original engineering (recording), using School of Music equipment. Gary Riippi, the NIU Media Services technician assigned to the School of Music, assisted him. The recordings took place in Boutell Memorial Concert Hall in NIU's Music Building. The cover artwork for the CD is a painting by NIU School of Art faculty member Charlotte Rollman.

A special thanks to anonymous donors who have committed support to create an NIU Woodwind Quintet. The main purpose for forming this new student chamber ensemble is to recruit talented graduate and, in some select cases, undergraduate students who play flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, and French horn to the Northern Illinois University School of Music to function as a rehearsing and publicly performing Woodwind Quintet. The students were selected on the basis of their musicianship skills displayed in auditions, estimated potential to flourish in an intense chamber music experience, and perceived ability to honorably represent NIU. Congratulations to this year's Woodwind Quintet: Anne Krefft, flute; Allison Vogelbert, oboe; Lacy Schroder, clarinet; Erin Kozakis, bassoon; and Margi Galles, French horn.

James Falzone (1994) graduated with his Masters in Improvisation and Composition from New England Conservatory in 2000 and is currently a visiting lecturer at North Central College in Theory, Clarinet and Ethnomusicology. He is also the Director of Music for Grace Presbyterian Church of Chicago in the West Loop. His CD "The Already and the Not Yet" was released on Allos Records in 2000. He's living with his wife Deanne (BA '92, MM 95) and daughter Giordana in Chicago's Ukrainian Village.

The NIU Balinese Gamelan has been chosen to give a workshop at the IMEA Conference in January 2004.

The NIU Steel Band celebrated 30 years of existence with a special concert last April. Congratulations to founding father G. Allan O'Connor, who has retired from NIU and is missed by students and colleagues.

Northern Illinois University's acclaimed NIU Liberace Jazztet will swing for a third year, thanks to renewed - and boosted - funding from the Liberace Foundation for the Performing and Creative Arts. Formed two years ago with a generous grant from the Liberace Foundation, the small group already has staked a global reputation with a January performance in Toronto before thousands at the annual conference of the IAJE as well as at the JVC Jazz Festival in New York City in June. Members this year are Dave Stamps, trombone; Iajhi Hampden, drums; Nicholas Fryer, guitar; Danny Campbell, trumpet; Sean Higgins, piano; Josh Ramos, bass; Greg Ward, saxophone.

Congratulations to the Base4 percussion quartet who have been selected to perform at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention in Louisville, KY this November. The quartet submitted recordings of recent Base4 performances. These recordings were reviewed by a panel of esteemed professionals. Base4 received the highest score of all the audition applications, earning them a First Place title, and the opportunity to play a featured concert at this year's convention.

Hsien-Liang Lien (1991) is currently the conductor of the Rockford Area Youth Symphony Orchestra, cello and theory instructor at Rockford College Music Academy, and cello instructor at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp in Twin Lake, Michigan in the summer.

Aaron Moe (2003) accepted a one-year appointment as Director of Jazz Studies at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Dorothy Komentani Kittaka (1961) was selected as a participant in the Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher Program. Kittaka is spending time in Tokyo, Japan, meeting with students and teachers in primary, secondary, and university grade levels.

Brent Michael Davids (1981) was hired to compose the score for *Black Cloud*, a Navajo boxing film produced by Rick Schroeder. He was also commissioned by the National Symphony Orchestra and their 200-voice chorus to compose a 20-minute work for chorus and orchestra commemorating the opening of the National Museum of the American Indian in 2004.

Scott R. Bliege (1983) is CEO and President of Bliege Entertainment, Inc. in Oakland, Florida. The company books and signs bands to major record labels, represents models, and handles worldwide distribution of publications.

Elainie Lillios (1992), an assistant professor of composition at Bowling Green State University, received the prestigious 2003 International Computer Music Association Commission Award.

Zvonimir Tot (2002) released his new CD "Travels and Dreams."

Congratulations to Christine Doyle, who was a 2003 NIU Outstanding Women Student Award Recipient.

Jermaine Stegall (2000) received his M.M. from the University of North Texas. He is heading to USC where he will pursue the Advanced Studies Certificate in Film-Scoring for Motion Pictures and Television. He also tells us he married Karen Lynn Anderson on July 12, 2003.

Congratulations Jermaine!

Trey and Amy Devey (1995) tell us that they have moved to Pennsylvania where Trey has entered the MBA program at The Wharton School. They just celebrated their 10th anniversary. Daughter Elsie is now a beautiful 14 months old!

Ed Partyka (1991) now lives in Vienna, Austria where he has released two recordings that have received positive reviews by the critics: "Madly Loving You" (2001) Bob Brookmeyer (trombone) with the Ed Partyka Jazz Orchestra is available at Amazon.com. "Continental Call" (2002) Concert Jazz Orchestra Vienna and Wolfgang Muthspiel (guitar), conducted by Ed Partyka is available from Cadence Records.

Chelsea Tipton II (1989) has been named resident conductor of the Toledo Symphony. As resident conductor, he will perform the bulk of the season's conducting including all regional and neighborhood concerts, most pops and children's programs, and one classic series. Next season he will also be a guest conductor for the Atlanta Symphony and the Louisiana Philharmonic.

Dave Tallacksen (2002) has moved to Kansas where he is the Morning Edition host at KMUW, the NPR affiliate in Wichita, KS. He's also working on some website redesign and does a bit of production (recording and editing program, etc.).

Rob Deemer (1994 & 2002) is in the middle of his doctoral studies at the University of Texas at Austin.

Tom Start (1997) is now living in Colorado Springs, Colorado where he is the principal trombonist with the Colorado Springs Philharmonic and the Boulder Philharmonic. His wife, Cynthia (a tuba player) is a regular sub with the symphony. He also has an extensive private studio and freelances in the Denver/Colorado Springs area.

Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges Winners for 2002-2003 includes School of Music students Christine Doyle and Richard Zili.

New CD's from the NIU Jazz Ensemble "We Came To Swing" and the Liberace Jazztet "On The Verge" are hot off the presses! To order or for more information, contact Ron Carter: [rcarter@niu.edu](mailto:rcarter@niu.edu)

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

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