

**Northern Illinois University
School of Music
October 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 School of Music website: <http://www.niu.edu/music> or the NIU website: <http://www.niucalendar.edu/>

[October](#)

[November](#)

[SCHOOL OF MUSIC AUDITION DATES](#)

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

University Open Houses

Monday, October 10, 2005 (Columbus Day)
Friday, November 11, 2005 (Veteran's Day-observed)
Monday, February 20, 2006 (President's Day)
Friday, April 14, 2006 (Good Friday/Spring Break)

The Midwest Clinic

December 14-17, 2005
We'll be at booth 223 in the Southeast Hall. Be sure to stop in!

IMEA

January 26-28, 2006
See you there!

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, October 26, 2005 - Choir Day
Saturday, January 21, 2006 - Clarinet Cornucopia
Friday, February 3, 2006 - Jazz Day
Wednesday, February 8, 2006 - Women's Chorus Day
Wednesday, February 22, 2006 - String Day
Tuesday, March 7, 2006 - Jazz Combo Day

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.

FACULTY NEWS

In September **Greg Barrett** performed with the Ars Viva Symphony Orchestra, the Lake Forest Symphony, and the Elgin Symphony Orchestra.

Philharmonic and Opera Workshop Music Director **Brett Mitchell** has been invited to study with acclaimed conductor Marin Alsop in Denver this October in an event sponsored by the Conductors Guild. Alsop recently made history with her appointment as Music Director of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, becoming the first woman to head a major American orchestra. Mitchell will work extensively with Alsop while conducting the Lamont Symphony Orchestra in Shostakovich's monumental Symphony No. 5. He will concurrently receive coaching from the LSO's Music Director, Lawrence Golan, and will collaborate with renowned Italian pianist Antonio di Cristofano on Chopin's Second Piano Concerto.

Steve Duke will be performing with his Jazz Trio (**Marlene Rosenberg** on bass and Zvonimir Tot on guitar) at Brookdale Music in Naperville on October 5th at 7:00 p.m.

Linc Smelser has recently been appointed Professor of Cello at Wheaton College and is thoroughly enjoying working with the students there. He will be leading the Kishwaukee Symphony Orchestra in his third year as Music Director in a collaborative performance of the Mozart Requiem at 3:00 p.m., October 9th at the NIU Concert Hall. The NIU Concert Choir will be joining with individuals from many of the local church choirs along with soloists **Diane Ragains**, Lisa Nemeth, **Bill Watson** and **Myron Myers**.

Greg Beyer and Erin Lesser (DUE EAST) will be performing at NIU in the Recital Hall on Sunday, October 9 at 1 p.m. They will perform again at the Berry Memorial Church in Lincoln Square, Chicago, on October 16, 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10. On October 18th, the Latin Jazz Ensemble, under Greg's direction, performs in the Concert Hall with guest artist, Brazilian pianist/composer, Jovino Santos Neto. On October 19th, Jovino's trio will perform at The House, for a late set after the University Jazz Band concert. On the 22nd, Greg will be world-premiering a solo work for marimba and electronics by composer Eric Simonson at the Electronic Music Midwest festival. For more info, check the website: www.electronicmusicmidwest.org. On the 23rd, he will be performing the world premiere of a piece for two pianos and two percussionists by Janice Misurell-Mitchell with the CUBE New Music Ensemble at the Merit Music Center in downtown Chicago. Finally, on the 29th, the percussion department is bringing in guest artist Payton MacDonald to give a concert of his highly creative project, SUPER MARIMBA.

Jui-Ching Wang's paper (co-authored with Jere Humphreys at Arizona State University) "Multicultural and Popular Music in the Teacher Education Curriculum" was accepted to the Research Session for the MENC Biennial In-

Service Conference. She will present this paper in Salt Lake City, Utah in April 2006.

STUDENT/ALUMNI NEWS:

Chad Sheridan, B.M., '05, is currently teaching elementary music K-6 in the Denver Public Schools. He and his wife moved to Colorado shortly after graduation in 2005. He says it is a challenging teaching position, but the kids make it worthwhile!

The NIU Jazz Ensemble has been invited to perform at the International Association of Jazz Educators convention in New York City in January.

Patrick Sheehan moved to Dixon where he is the music director and conductor for Sauk Valley Productions. The Theatre is located on the main street in town, and one block north of the Rock River. He still travels to DeKalb once a week to play radio host for the Saturday Night Blues every weekend where he can be heard on the airwaves all over north-central Illinois. Patrick has accepted a faculty position at Woodlawn Arts Academy in Sterling (Illinois), a new private institution that offers enrichment classes in music, art, and dance. He is teaching general music, individual group band lessons, private woodwind lessons, directing a choir, accompanying for another choir, and teaching theory classes. PatrickJMSheehan@Hotmail.com

Kyla Barber, B.A. '02, has completed her first year of Law School at S.I.U.

We received word that **Denise Lowe**, M.M. 2000 & P.C. 2002, passed away on September 21, 2005. Our sympathies go out to her family. E-mail lslater@niu.edu if you would like to know where condolences may be sent.

Johanna McKenzie Miller, B.M., '98, has been nominated for a Joseph Jefferson Award (equivalent of a Chicago "Tony") as Best Actress in a Musical for her role in "Beauty and the Beast."

Jason Bayle, B.A. '00, is in the production of "The Full Monty" that has also been nominated for a Joseph Jefferson Award. Both Johanna McKenzie Miller and Jason performed in the Sondheim tribute performance of "Anyone Can Whistle" at Ravinia. From October 7 – December 18 Jason will be appearing in "Once Upon a Mattress" at Drury Lane Oak Brook. You can buy tickets online at [ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or by calling the box office at (630) 530-0111. Jason's website is: <http://www.jasonbayle.com/pictures.htm>

Sean Higgins', M.M. '05, debut album, "The New Thought," has been released! Sean's homepage is: www.seanhiggins.net . The CD includes Sean Higgins on piano, Josh Ramos on bass, and Iajhi Hampden on drums.

Megan Besley, B.M., '98, just completed her second season as member of the apprentice program at Glimmerglass Opera in Cooperstown, New York, and has been featured in solo roles in Britten's "Death in Venice."

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

Our web site is updated almost daily.

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!