

September 1998

Hello and welcome back to another school year! We are up and running here in the NIU Music Building. Eighty new freshmen/transfer students and forty-nine grad students have joined us this semester. We wish them success in their college endeavors!

OVER THE SUMMER

Patricia Cichy, assistant professor of music education, directed the Arts Jam Junior Camp here at NIU this summer. The camp was comprised of children in 1st through 4th grades and included music, theater, and art. Pat also taught at the Northern Illinois Children's Chorus camp in August.

Brian Hart, visiting assistant professor of music history, had his review of Andrew Thomson's "Vincent d'Inday and His World" published in the Notes, June 1998 issue. He also wrote two entries (César Franck, Camille Saint-Saëns) for the forthcoming Reader's Guide to Music: History, Theory, and Criticism, to be published by Fitzroy-Dearborn of Chicago next year.

Ron Modell just returned from a summer big band jazz tour with Phil Collins. The tour lasted six weeks and spanned the United States as well as a good portion of Europe. The band was made up of NIU Jazz Ensemble alumni.

Jan Bach, Distinguished Research Professor of composition, had quite a few of his pieces performed over the summer: May 17 - Performance of *Eisteddfod* for flute, harp, and viola by members of the Chicago Symphony at the Art Institute, May 20 - performance of *Concerto for Steelpan* and Orchestra, Liam Teague (current grad student), soloist with the Northwest Indiana Symphony in Munster, Indiana, July 9 - premiere performance of *Pilgrimage* for trumpet and piano at Interlochen Center for the Arts, in Interlochen, Michigan, Ramon Parcels, trumpet, July 25 - performance of *Four Two-Bit Contraptions* for flute and horn in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. July 25 & 28th - premiere performance of *Foliations* for brass quintet, Stockholm Chamber Brass, Lieksa Brass Festival, Lieksa Finland. This will be released on CD by December 1998!

School of Music faculty members James Berkenstock, James Fairfield, William Koehler, and Melvin Warner are members of the professional chamber ensemble "Midsummer's Music," which completed its eighth festival season in Door County, Wisconsin in June and is currently recording its second CD. The ensemble also includes musicians from the Chicago Lyric Opera Orchestra, a number of whom are principal-chair performers in that orchestra.

SCHOOL OF MUSIC AUDITION DATES

Formal audition dates for Fall 1999 entrance to the School of Music are:

Saturday, February 20, 1999

Saturday, March 20, 1999

Auditions for the Spring 1999 semester are private. Please contact Lynn Slater at 815-753-1546 or e-mail her at lslater@niu.edu for details. Let us know if you have students that are interested in auditioning for us.

UPCOMING ON-CAMPUS FACULTY & STUDENT RECITALS/CONCERTS

All of our concerts (unless otherwise indicated) are free and open to the public.

September

9/9/98 Paul Merkello, guest trumpet, 8 p.m., Recital Hall
9/10/98 Julia Bentley, faculty voice recital, 8 p.m., Recital Hall
9/24/98 James Walker, alumni percussion recital, 8 p.m., Recital Hall
9/27/98 Erin Lafferty, junior piano recital, 1 p.m., Recital Hall
9/28/98 Vermeer Quartet, 8 p.m., Concert Hall

October

10/1/98 NIU Philharmonic, 8 p.m., Concert Hall
10/4/98 Wind Symphony & University Band, 3 p.m., Concert Hall
10/6/98 Wind Ensemble, 8 p.m., Concert Hall
10/12/98 Jazz Lab Band & All-University Jazz Band, 8 p.m., Concert Hall

FACULTY NEWS

Rod Schueller, assistant director of Huskie Bands, was a contributing author to a book that has just been published. It is entitled "Teaching Music Through Performance In Band - Volume 2." It was published by GIA Publications of Chicago and is currently on sale. It will also be available at the MidWest Clinic in Chicago this December.

Brian Hart is currently at work on an extended analytical study of the French symphony between ca. 1850 and 1920, to be included in the third volume of a five-volume history of the symphony (The Symphony

from Sammartini to Lutoslawski), edited by A. Peter Brown, to be published by Indiana University Press.

Ron Carter, associate professor and coordinator of jazz studies, has been selected as the coordinator of the Mid-America Region for the Essentially Ellington High School Jazz Band Competition and Festival, sponsored by Lincoln Center in New York. Carter was recommended by jazz great and artistic director for Jazz at Lincoln Center, Wynton Marsalis. NIU will be the site for the semi-finalists (to be selected from over 15 states) for the final competition which will be held in New York on April 30 & May 1, 1999. Professor Carter will also be a judge and clinician for the National Finals at Lincoln Center.

Robert Green, professor of music history, is one of five NIU faculty members that has been chosen by the Division of International Programs to receive the first Lillian "Pauline" Cobb Faculty Travel Fellowships for International Teaching and Service. He has been invited to serve as a faculty member at a music workshop sponsored by Bar Ilan University in Israel. He will teach viola da gamba and take part in a faculty recital. He will also speak to graduate students in musicology at the university.

Pat Cichy will be presenting at the Illinois Collegiate Music Educators fall conference on October 10. She will also have two presentations for IMEA in Peoria in January. We hope to see you there!

Steve Duke, professor of saxophone, will be performing the premiere performance of the new version of the *Concert for Soprano Saxophone and Orchestra* by Dexter Morrill at Merkin Hall in NYC and at Colgate University in October. He will also be presenting workshops in saxophone at Ithaca College and Colgate.

Larry Stoffel, assistant professor of music and director of Huskie Bands, will present clinics on band transcriptions at the IMEA conference in January and also at the Southern California School Band & Orchestra Association later this month.

Mark your calendars! The Vermeer Quartet, Resident Artist Faculty, will be performing with the Chicago Sinfonietta at Dominican University on Sunday 2/7/99 at 2:30 p.m. and at Symphony Center on Monday, 2/8/99 at 7:30 p.m. For ticket info, please call the Chicago Sinfonietta office at 312-857-1062. (If you are subscribers to their mailings, check out the 'map' page - John Fairfield, our horn professor, is pictured.)

Jan Bach's *Variation on a Theme of Brahms* for orchestra will be performed by the Richmond Symphony Orchestra (Richmond, Indiana), Guy Bordo, director.

Marlene Rosenberg, visiting assistant professor of string bass and jazz, along with the Marlene Rosenberg Trio will be performing every Sunday in September & October from 7:30-10:30 at Pete Miller's Steak House in Evanston. Stop in & hear some great jazz! For more info, call 847-328-0399.

NEW FACES!

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

Julia Bentley has joined us as a visiting assistant professor of voice. She holds degrees in vocal performance from the Indiana University School of Music with additional studies at the Hochschule für Musik in Vienna,

Austria.

Tim Brent will be directing JazzVox, our vocal jazz ensemble this year. He is an alumnus of Western Michigan University's Gold Company.

Roger Cichy will be teaching theory classes to freshman and sophomore students. Roger has a diverse background as both a composer/arranger and a music educator.

Brian Groner will be conducting the Philharmonic this fall semester while Steve Squires is on sabbatical. Larry Livingston will join us as a guest conductor for the October 1 concert.

Eric Johnson joins us as our Director of Choral Activities. His previous position was with Beloit College.

A hearty NIU School of Music welcome to all!

STUDENT/ALUMNI NEWS:

A huge "Congratulations!" to The Avalon Quartet, our Graduate String Quartet-in-Residence, on winning the grand prize at the Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition. The quartet consists of graduate students Blaise Magniere, Mary Wang, Sarah Kreston, and Katie Schlaikjer.

Congratulations to Holly Bowling for being awarded the Schaumburg 1998 Mayor's Community Scholarship. Holly is currently student teaching at Nathan Hale Elementary School in Schaumburg for eight weeks, then will switch to Jacobs High School in Algonquin. She will be graduating in December.

In the May issue of All About Jazz (<http://www.allaboutjazz.com>), Jack Bowers lists the Top Twenty Big Bands. Included is NIU Alum's Rob Parton's JAZZTECH Big Band. Also mentioned is the fine work of drummer (and NIU alum) Tom Hipkind. Check out the Genres, then the Big Band section, and finally the archive section of the site. Congrats Rob and Tom!!

The U.S. News Graduate rankings are in! The NIU jazz program ranks #10 in the nation!

The NIU World Music Summer Group, led by Dr. Kuo-Huang Han, performed Southeast Asian bamboo music and Balinese Gamelan at the Brookfield Zoo on July 18. All of the performers were summer students - most of whom were music teachers. The same group also gave an outdoor world music concert in the Music Building courtyard on July 15 as part of our Brown Bag Concert Series. Members of the Dance Camp from the School of Theater also participated in this concert.

Melissa Dye (BM '88) has been selected as the recipient of the NIU 1998 Outstanding Young Alumni Award for the College of Visual and Performing Arts. She is currently touring and performing in *Ragtime*.

Our heartfelt congratulations to the following alumni that received nominations for the Chicagoland Outstanding Music Educator Award: John Armstrong at Dirksen JHS in Joliet, Bryan Miller at East Leyden HS, and Paul Windsor from Lakeview JHS in Downers Grove.

MISCELLANEOUS STUFF

Steve Duke will be getting married to LeAnn Spencer in November, ending 44 years of bachelorhood! Congrats!!!

The Huskie Marching Band has broken the 200 mark in membership this year! Performances for the season include a trip with the football team to the University of Central Florida and a performance at Walt Disney World. Go Huskies!

The June issue of All About Jazz (<http://www.allaboutjazz.com>) lists the NIU Jazz Ensemble as one of the top 20 Collegiate and School jazz ensembles. Awesome!

Calling all Marching Band alums! If you are interested in serving on the board of the NIU Huskie Marching Band Alumni committee, please contact:

Cory LaVigne
700 East College Blvd., A104
Pensacola, FL 32504
850-474-1100
clavigne@webtv.net

The board is looking for members to serve on various committees. Give Cory a call or send an email!

The 1998 Huskie High School Band Day will take place on Saturday, October 31 in Huskie Stadium. This annual non-competitive marching band event attracts high school marching bands from throughout the state in a massed-bands halftime show with the Huskie Marching Band. The kick-off time for this football game (NIU vs. Toledo) will be 11:05 p.m, so participating bands will have plenty of time to return home after the game for Halloween revelry. There is currently a waiting list, but interested directors may still contact Larry Stoffel, Director of Huskie Bands, at 815-753-1042.

Let us know if you have info you would like to share with other music educators. We can add it to our next newsletter (1st of each month). Just send us a reply!