

**Northern Illinois University
School of Music
September 2004 Newsletter**

Hello and welcome back to another school year!

SCHOOL OF MUSIC AUDITION DATES

Formal audition dates for brass, percussion, piano, violin (music education), and woodwinds for Fall 2005 entrance to the School of Music are:

Friday, February 11, 2005
Saturday, February 12, 2005
Friday, March 4, 2005
Saturday, March 5, 2005

Voice auditions:

Thursday, February 10, 2005, 7 – 9 p.m.
Friday, February 11, 2005
Saturday, February 12, 2005
Thursday, March 3, 2005, 7 – 9 p.m.
Friday, March 4, 2005
Saturday, March 5, 2005
All Friday & Saturday days begin at 9:00 a.m.

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 for assistance.

All audition repertoire can be found at our website: <http://www.vpa.niu.edu/music>

Auditions for Spring 2005 semester are also on a private basis. Please contact Lynn Slater for details.

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

University Open Houses

Monday, October 11, 2004 (Columbus Day)
Thursday, November 11, 2004 (Veteran's Day-observed)
Monday, February 21, 2005 (President's Day)
Friday, March 25, 2005 (Good Friday/Spring Break)

The Midwest Clinic

December 14-18, 2004
We'll be at booth 223 in the Southeast Hall. Be sure to stop in!

IMEA

January 27-29, 2005
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:

October 2, Huskie Football HS Band Day, for high school marching bands
For information regarding this date, please contact Peg Ortega, director of the Huskie Marching Band, at 815-753-7978.
October 20, Choir Day, for all choirs
February 4, Jazz Day, for all jazz bands
February 9, Women's Chorus Day, for treble choirs
March 8, Jazz Combo Day, for individual jazz players
March 9, String Day (New!)
March 19, NIU Clarinet Cornucopia

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.

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/>

September

October

NEW FACES!

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

Greg Beyer, percussion
Anthony Pursell, Marching Band assistant director
Rodrigo Villanueva, jazz studies, Jazz lab Band
Jui-Ching Wang, World Music, music education
A hearty NIU School of Music welcome to all!

FACULTY NEWS

Robert Fleisher's *Five Songs from Carl Sandburg's "Prairie"* were premiered by soprano and NIU alum Emily Truckenbrod and pianist Amy I-Lin Cheng on March 6 at the University of Central Oklahoma, during the national conference of the Society of Composers. The *Prairie* songs were performed again by Diane Ragains and William Koehler on the March 23 "Music by NIU Composers" concert, during which Steve Duke and Greg Barrett also premiered Fleisher's *Second Thoughts* for soprano saxophone and clarinet. On June 6, Fleisher's *Expanse* (electronic music for multiple compact disk players) was performed in Lunel, France, during the 3rd *Rencontres musiques nouvelles*.

Last spring, **Ron Carter** was conductor of the Director's Jazz Band - Bands of America in Bloomington, IL, guest conductor for the Vermont All-State Jazz Band in Burlington, VT, and a guest clinician for the Essentially Ellington High School Jazz Festival & Competition in New York, New York. Ron was the director of the NIU Summer Jazz camp in July with over 88 students enrolled. He was the program director for Jazz at Lincoln Center Band Directors Academy at Michigan State University, also in July. He was Director & Lead Artist for the Gallery 37/ Chicago Park District - South Shore Youth Jazz Ensemble this summer. He has been selected as guest conductor for the IMEA District IX Jazz Band in November. He performed with Orbert Davis and the Chicago Jazz Philharmonic at the Chicago Jazz Festival in Grant Park this month.

Anthony Pursell joined the Northern Illinois Huskie Bands as the Interim Assistant Director this year. Mr. Pursell is currently completing his doctorate from Ball State University (Indiana) in Instrumental Conducting and Music Education. His study, *The Effectiveness of a Visual System of Analyzing Rhythm on the Ability to Sight-Read*, will involve junior high school level bands. If any junior high band director is interested in participating, you can contact Mr. Pursell at apursell@niu.edu or you may call (815) 753-1043 for further information.

Tom Garling has a new album released this summer called "Campin' Out." If anyone is interested, they can email him @ tgarbone@aol.com.

In July **Greg Barrett** participated in and performed at the Weimar (Germany) Klezmer Week. In September he will be performing with the Ars Viva Symphony and the Chicago Sinfonietta.

Steve Duke recorded "Helix" for solo alto saxophone and chamber ensemble by Jan Bach with the Chicago Philharmonic in July. The recording will be released on the Equilibrium label. Professor Duke also will be performing "Tableaux: Convolution on a Theme" by Larry Austin at Electronic Music Midwest, a festival of electroacoustic music held at Lewis University, Sept. 16 through 18.

Richard Hoskins went to Gloucester, Massachusetts, in July for the open house of C. B. Fisk's Opus 123, which will be installed at his church, St. Chrysostom's (Chicago) on September 12th. It is spectacular! A gorgeous, musical instrument in a neo-Gothic case which will stand at the east end of the church and incorporate new choir risers. You can see pictures at <http://saintc.org/openhousephotos.pdf>. He also played the organ part of Britten's War Requiem with the Grant Park Symphony Orchestra and Chorus at the Pritzker Pavillion at the end of August. He also accompanied the Chorale for WTTW's Sunday evening show "30 Good Minutes" - taping nine shows in one day!

Myron Myers spent July 15-August 1 teaching in Vienna, Austria at The German Song Text Workshop Villa Mertin. NIU students that took part included Chris Truesdell, Andrzej Stec, and Barbara Bochenek. The students had a guided tour of the Treasury (Schatzkammer), toured Schönbrunn Palace, which was near the Villa, and sang the final concert in the house in which Schubert was born. They had a wonderful final party in Heurige Mayer, in Grinzing, the wine district in the hills above Vienna. Next year's Workshop will be July 11-23, with the emphasis being the poetry of the songs of Brahms and Wolf. The teachers will be Anne Mertin and Fred Büchel, actors, Ingomar Rainer, pianist (University for Music, Vienna), Benno Schollum, Diction (University for Music, Vienna) and Professor Myers (voice).

Brian Groner performed with Chicago Jazz Trumpeter Orbert Davis at the Chicago Jazz Festival on September 4, both as a violinist and as conductor. In December he will conduct the San Diego Symphony on tour with the Moscow Classical Ballet.

Linc Smelser just completed his 12th year as cellist in the Grant Park Symphony Orchestra. Millennium Park was worth the wait...acoustics and architecture of the new Pritzker Pavilion are phenomenal. He is also very busy with his second consecutive year as chairman of the Grant Park Orchestra Committee. Linc is looking forward to playing cello in the Howard Shore "Lord of the Rings" Symphonic extravaganza at the Auditorium Theater in October. (He's a big LOTR fan)!

Jim Phelps will be performing a solo work that was written for him and involves percussion with interactive electronics. This will be happening at the University of Richmond (Virginia) during their Third Practice festival of contemporary electronic music. The work in question is entitled Veritas Ex Machina, written by Colby Leider. He is preparing the release of his new CD, "Hide Wind", which is offered under the name Jululu on the Thirteenth Record label (translation ... a "roll your own"). This second release on his label reflects new directions in his music, which take him further left-of-center from mainstream electronic/computer music. After going "under the radar" for a couple of years he has resurfaced, with electric guitar in hand, and has hit the road with new music and new affiliations. Jululu refers to a group of artists who work "together" in various manners of collaboration and are Phelps, Luo Ting-Yi of Shanghai, Bart Woodstrup and Mike Taylor, both of Chicago. This new music has already been rolled out during a February Texas tour, two performances in Havana, Cuba and a follow-up performance at the University of North Texas where he was guest performer/composer during the 40th Anniversary celebration of the Center for Experimental Music and Intermedia. The new CD is slated for an early October release.

STUDENT/ALUMNI NEWS:

Kathy Nicholls, who graduated with a Minor in Voice Performance in 1996, was a soloist in Beethoven's Choral Fantasy in May with the Sinfonia da Camera in Champaign under the direction of Ian Hobson. She is working as an accountant.

Congratulations to current NIU grad student Talia Pavia, who has been awarded a University Fellowship for 2004-2005. Students are selected for these awards based on achievement and perceived potential for success in graduate study.

Jon McLear tells us that he will be starting as assistant choir director at West Aurora High School this fall. He is also choir director at Holy Cross Church in Batavia.

Bob Knop has accepted a position at Cal State San Bernardino as assistant professor of music education/jazz. He will build up a jazz program, teach sax, and teach music education majors.

Zvonimir Tot has been selected for the 2005 edition of Who's Who in America by Marquis Publishing. The new edition is to be published in October.

Bill DeJournett is currently in his second year as Assistant Director of Bands at the University of Mississippi.

Pete Madsen (Master of Music, 1995) was the featured trombone soloist with the Amazonia Jazz Band at the International Music Festival of Para, Brazil on June 3, 2004. The performance consisted of a variety of trombone features as performed by the great big bands, including *Rose of the Rio Grande* (Duke Ellington), *Tall Cotton* (Count Basie), *Over the Rainbow* (Stan Kenton), and *Westside Story* (Buddy Rich). Pete Madsen's original composition *Well All Right* was also performed by the trombone and rhythm sections. While in Brazil, Pete gave a series of three jazz trombone clinics to students at the Carlos Gomez Conservatory of Music. Topics covered included jazz solo transcriptions, chord-scale relationships, ear training, and jazz styles. It was the first time that jazz trombone Masterclasses had been presented at the conservatory. Since graduating from NIU Pete has earned a Doctor of Musical Arts Degree in Trombone Performance from the University of Illinois (2000). Pete taught jazz and brass at Adams State College from 1998-2000 before obtaining his current position as Coordinator of Jazz Studies and Trombone Professor at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He and his wife Lee have two children: Christian, age 4; and Ashleigh, age 2.

Brent Michael Davids' *We The People* was Co-Commissioned by The Choral Arts Society of Washington and Pacific Chorale through a generous gift from the National Endowment for the Arts in honor of the opening of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, DC. It will premier in the United States on the East Coast by The Choral Arts Society of Washington on November 7, 2004 at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and on the West Coast by Pacific Chorale in the fall of 2005 at The Orange County Performing Arts Center. This piece is composed and orchestrated for large chorus and full orchestra for the opening of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI). The complete lyric for *We The People* combines all of the tribal names in the continental United States including Alaska, and a tribute to the Indigenous languages of the Washington DC region. Just as the NMAI pays tribute to all Indians across America while physically resting in Washington DC, *We the People* honors the many tribal names across America while lyrically resting in the Washington DC languages, including Patawomek. The Indigenous People of the North American continent name themselves in their own self-determined ways: We Sun People, We Earth People, We Wind People, We Water People, We Desert People, We Mountain People, We Fire People, We Bird People, We Animal People. This piece is a choral accolade that recognizes and celebrates the over 500 unique and vital First Nation Peoples by proclaiming their tribal names for

the length of twenty minutes. The hallmark of this piece is a complete singing of these names listed one after another without repeats.

The alumni speaker for the New Student Convocation on August 20th was Nicholas Brooks. Nicholas was recruited to NIU as a singer for the Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of Ron Carter. Nicholas traveled across the U.S. and Europe touring with Jazz legends Wynton Marsalis, Frank Wess, Benny Golson and many more. Nicholas made several radio and television appearances singing the National Anthem at high profile professional sports games such as the Chicago Bears and White Sox. He was the 2001 Homecoming King. The Chicago Tribune named Nicholas as one of the top rising artists in the U.S. Upon his graduation from Northern, the City of Batavia (Nicholas' hometown) awarded him with "Nicholas Brooks Day" on May 11, 2002. Since that time Nicholas signed a contract with Celebrity Management (manager Jimmy Jay Smith) beginning his professional solo career in Las Vegas and abroad. Nicholas has been working with some of his musical idols and famed celebrities and working a Las Vegas headliner. He just informed us that he is booked for a big Vegas style show at the Norris Cultural Arts Center in St. Charles on Saturday November 6th. Here is Nicholas' website, if you are interested. <http://nicholas-brooks.com/>

Jermaine Stegall let us know that after graduating from NIU, he went on to receive his M. M. in Composition from the University of North Texas, married Karen Stegall in 2003, went to USC where he worked on an Advanced Studies in Scoring for M.P. and T.V. degree and in 2004 was the winner of the BMI endowed scholarship for outstanding achievement in Film Scoring. He now has an internship with composer Marco Beltrami (marcobeltrami.com) and his wife, Karen, is attending CALARTS pursuing her MFA in Film Directing. Good luck to both of you!

Michael McLemore from the Greenhoe Value and Custom Conn Trombone Company will be on campus on September 28th from 11 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Recital Hall for a demonstration.

David and Teresa Ehrlich founded a community music school in Blacksburg, Virginia, in 1993, called the Renaissance Music Academy of Virginia. This school currently has an enrollment of over 250 students from all of southwest Virginia. Students range in age from 3 years old through adult. It is somewhat similar to the Community Music School at NIU and they have visited this school as a way of sharing and exchanging ideas and information. David is the conductor of the RMA Youth Chamber Orchestra. In June, 2004, the orchestra had the unique honor of being invited to perform in festivals in Ireland, including the West Cork Chamber Music Festival, in Bantry, Ireland, one of Europe's most prestigious professional music festivals. They were the first American youth group ever invited to be part of this festival. In addition, the orchestra performed in the cities of Cork, and Waterford. The orchestra has in the past received the honor of performing twice for Governor Mark Warner, including his inauguration, as well as having been chosen to represent the southeastern United States in the national conference of the National Guild of Community Music Schools. You can visit their website at: www.rmahome.com

Where are they now? If you've ever wondered where the graduate string quartets (who work closely with the Vermeer Quartet) ended up, here you go!

Shanghai Quartet, Montclair State University, www.shanghaiquartet.com

Westbrook String Quartet, Bay View Music Festival & Summer conservatory, www.bayviewfestival.org

Arianna String Quartet. University of Missouri-St. Louis, www.ariannaquartet.com

Pacifica Quartet, University of Illinois, www.pacificaquartet.com

Avalon Quartet, Indiana University, www.avalonquartet.com

Enso String Quartet, Shepherd School of Music at Rice University, www.ensoquartet.com

Azmari String Quartet, Northern Kentucky University

Congratulations to the NIU Chamber Choir. They have been invited to perform at the IMEA convention in Peoria in January.

Correction from our May newsletter: It was the Chicago Brass Band that won the North American Championship (not the Chicago Brass Quintet!). Other alums in the band: Laura Shea-Clark, cornet, Brian Shelton, euphonium, and Colin Holman, NIU faculty, is the director. They have a web site if you'd like to learn more: www.chicagobrassband.org Sorry for the error.

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!

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