

**Northern Illinois University
School of Music
September 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/>

[September](#)

[October](#)

[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

The School of Music is pleased to announce it has completed a successful national search for a Director of Athletic Bands, and the new faculty member is **Dr. Thomas Bough** (in Tom's words - pronounced "boo" like Halloween!). NIU Athletic Director Jim Phillips said, "Intercollegiate

Athletics is very excited that Tom will be joining the Huskie family as the Director of Athletic Bands. We're very much looking forward to continuing the close relationship Athletics enjoys with the band program as it is a focal point for Intercollegiate Athletics. It is a pleasure to welcome Tom to Northern Illinois University." Paul Bauer, Director of the School of Music adds, "Tom Bough brings a good mix of experience, enthusiasm, and enterprise, in addition to his high level of musicianship and established record of research and artistry that should serve NIU well." Tom earned both his graduate degrees from the Arizona State University and his undergraduate degree from Southwest Missouri State University. His experience as a conductor includes athletic bands, concert bands, and brass bands at the university or professional level. His professional performance as a tubist includes orchestra, brass quintet, concert band, brass band, and Dixieland Jazz. He performed for two seasons with the DCI Phantom Regiment Drum and Bugle Corps and as a member of the Walt Disney World All-American College Band. His research and artistry interests include articles on conducting, low brass pedagogy, and music education, as well as wind literature analysis and guest conducting.

The NIU School of Music is pleased to announce it has completed a successful national search for a new faculty member to serve as Philharmonic Conductor/Opera Workshop Music Director, and his name is **Dr. Brett Mitchell**. Brett received his Masters and Doctoral degrees in Orchestral Conducting from The University of Texas and his Bachelor of Music in Composition from Western Washington University. He currently holds the post of Dominion Foundation Associate Conductor of the Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble, with whom he has been since 2001. Prior to his appointment at NIU, he served for four seasons as Music Director of The University of Texas University Orchestra, and has also served as Music Director of the Bellingham Chamber Orchestra and the North Sound Youth Symphony. During the 2004-05 season, he served as cover conductor with both the Austin Symphony and Austin Lyric Opera, and made his European debut in a series of three concerts with the Brasov Philharmonic Orchestra, to which he has since been invited for a return engagement during the 2005-06 season. Mitchell's principal conducting teacher has been Kevin Noe; he has also studied conducting with Kurt Masur, Leonard Slatkin, Gerard Schwarz, Gunther Schuller, Jorma Panula, and Larry Rachleff. Upon accepting the position, Brett said, "I am terribly excited to be there working with an enthusiastic faculty and enthusiastic students. I could not ask for more." "The combination of Dr. Mitchell's experience as a conductor of instrumental and vocal repertoire and background as a pianist provide NIU with an outstanding addition to our faculty. His excellent grasp of opera literature and styles and extensive knowledge of the orchestral repertoire will serve our students well," said Paul Bauer, Director of the School of Music.

The NIU School of Music is pleased to announce another tenure track faculty appointment, Artist/Teacher of Steelpan and Co-Director of the NIU Steel Band, **Liam Teague**. Liam received his Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in steelpan from NIU, the only institution in the world to offer both degrees. Previously, Liam Teague served as a Steelpan Research Associate in the NIU School of Music. He joins Pan Hall of Fame member Cliff Alexis as Co-Director of the NIU Steel Band. NIU steelpan program founder Al O'Connor stated, "When I first met Liam, I recognized he would be the best student I would ever teach, and it turned out to be the case." Teague has said, "I want to make NIU the Mecca, at least in the United States, of the steelband. I want to make this the place people come to study." "Liam Teague is recognized as the pre-eminent steelpan virtuoso in the world, and he understands our legacy as the first university steelpan program in the country, as well as the cultural significance of the steelpan and its music as a native of Trinidad. We are quite excited to have him join us as a faculty member," said School of Music Director Paul Bauer.

James Tucker, director of the NIU Opera Workshop, has recently written the libretto for "The Nightingale," a new opera based on a story by Hans Christian Andersen, with music by Canadian composer Imant Raminsh. Jointly commissioned by three American children's choruses, the opera received independently-staged premieres by each organization: the Children's Chorus of Washington, D.C. (Joan Gregoryk, director), on May 14; the Chicago-suburban Glen Ellyn

Children's Chorus (Emily Ellsworth, director) at Edman Chapel on the campus of Wheaton College on May 20 and 21; and the Portland (Ore.) Symphonic Girlchoir (Roberta Jackson, director) on June 11. In addition to creating the text, Tucker also staged the GECC production, which featured the renowned baritone Kurt Ollmann in the role of the Emperor.

The opera was previewed, via videotaped rehearsal segments, at a special presentation at the national ACDA convention in Los Angeles in February 2005, as reported in the article "It Won't be Over Until the Little Lady Sings" by staff writer Chris Pasles that appeared in the Feb. 13 edition of the "L.A. Times." In a review of the subsequent D.C. premiere in the May 16 edition of "The Washington Post," critic Joan Reinthaler wrote " 'The Nightingale,' a children's choral opera that had its Washington premiere Saturday at Lisner Auditorium, is a delight. Composer Imant Raminsh, librettist James Tucker, and Joan Gregoryk and her splendid Children's Chorus of Washington have collaborated to produce a work that might aspire to a place in the repertoire alongside Britten's 'Noah's Flood' or Humperdinck's 'Hansel and Gretel.' "

After its performances in Wheaton, Tucker's GECC production was repeated at the national convention of Chorus America on June 3 at Preston Bradley Hall in the Chicago Cultural Center and subsequently broadcast by Chicago's classical radio station WFMT. In July, the GECC performed scenes from the opera throughout its tour of Hong Kong (participating in the World's Children's Choir Festival) and mainland China, culminating in a complete presentation of the opera (with Chinese soloists) on July 22 at the Forbidden Palace Concert Hall in Beijing, as part of the Gateway to Music Festival. Incidentally, the GECC production featured splendid choreography by Sandra Kaufmann, a graduate of NIU Theatre and Dance program recommended for the project by faculty member Randy Newsom.

Jui-Ching Wang's Clinic Session Proposal, "An Unbalanced Diet: Multicultural and Popular Music in the Teacher Education Curriculum," has been selected for inclusion in the Research Paper Reading Session at the IMEA Convention in Peoria in January 2006.

Colin Holman conducted the Chicago Brass Band at the World Music Festival in Kerkrade, Holland, this summer in the first World Brass Band Championships. The band members were representatives of the United States and Canada and placed seventh, a remarkable achievement since the band is only in its third season. The band also includes NIU alum Laura Shea-Clark (nee Smith). The band also performed other concerts in Holland and Belgium as part of an eight-day tour. The band performed three concerts in June with international euphonium virtuoso Steven Mead at the 2005 Great American Brass Band Festival in Danville, KY, to nearly 40,000 people. Holman recently submitted an article to be published next year in the Detroit Festschrift series (Harmonie Press) titled "Celebrating the Constitution: Music in Philadelphia (1787)."

Concertino For English Horn And Strings by **A. Oscar Haugland** was specially featured in the final concert of the International Double Reed Society Conference held in Austin, Texas. It was performed on June 8 by Carolyn Hove, a former double reed instructor at N.I.U., who currently plays oboe and English Horn in the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra.

Ronald Carter performed with the Chicago Jazz Philharmonic on August 29 at the opening of the Chicago Jazz Festival concerts in Millennium Park. He conducted the performance of the Chicago Park District South Shore Cultural Center Youth Jazz Ensemble at the Chicago Jazz Festival on Sunday, September 4 in Grant Park. He will be special guest artist with the Michigan State University Faculty Jazztet October 11-13 in East Lansing and Detroit, Michigan. He will also be the guest conductor for the District I IMEA Junior High Jazz Band on November 12.

Ron Carter and **Glenda Cosenza** will be presenting a jazz workshop "Swingin' On The Bars" for the Vermont Music Educators' Association on October 20.

Robert Fleisher was a participating composer at the 2005 College Music Society International Conference in Spain (June 13-17), held at the Aula de Música, Universidad de Alcalá (Alcalá de

Henares). On June 15, soprano María José Sánchez and pianist Sebastián Mariné performed Dr. Fleisher's *Five Songs from Carl Sandburg's "Prairie."*

This summer **Greg Barrett** had performances in Tokyo, Xi'an, China; and at the Mammoth Lakes Chamber Music Festival in California. This fall Greg will be performing in the Chicago area with the Ars Viva Symphony Orchestra and the Lake Forest Symphony.

On the 24th and 25th of September, **Greg Beyer** will be playing percussion in a new opera production by composer Ushio Torikai and the company, Mabou Mines, called *Red Beads*. This is a world premiere performance, taking place at New York University's Skirball Center for the Performing Arts. For more information about the show, see the following websites:

<http://www.redbeads.info> and <http://www.maboumines.org>

Greg will also be playing in a show with the very talented singer/songwriter David Berkeley. This concert is part of a music marathon at Lincoln Center by CMJ. The marathon is taking place at Lincoln Center, but also at clubs and miscellaneous venues throughout New York City. They are performing at a downtown club called the Lion's Den that evening. For more information, see the following websites: www.davidberkeley.com and <http://www.cmj.com>

The **Tom Garling** Sextet played at the Chicago Jazz Festival on September 2nd on the Jackson Stage. They also played at the On The Waterfront Festival in Rockford on September 4th. Visit www.tomgarling.com for upcoming gigs.

NIU Philharmonic and Opera Workshop Music Director **Brett Mitchell** has been invited to participate in the Second Eduardo Mata International Conducting Competition in Mexico City this November. Only 18 conductors (including only one other American) were accepted to this prestigious competition from a worldwide pool of nearly 100 applicants. Brett spent this past summer in his fourth season as Associate Conductor of the Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble, conducting several world premieres over the course of the five-week festival. He also served as both percussionist and actor with the ensemble this season.

Richard Hoskins played the third of the dedicatory recitals for St. Chrysostom's new organ, Opus 123 by C. B. Fisk of Gloucester, MA, on May 15th, a program which included the premiere of a new work for organ by Frank Ferko commissioned for the new Fisk: "Variations on Veni Creator." In June he was the organist for the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra's performances of Britten's War Requiem (Andreas Delfs, Conductor, Nathan Gunn, Allesandra Marc and James Taylor, soloists). In July he attended the Summer Organ Festival at McGill University, Montreal, auditing masterclasses given by Olivier Latry (Notre Dame, Paris) and Marie-Claire Alain (Paris). He was the organist for 2 performances with the Grant Park Orchestra and Chorus (Handel, Vaughan Williams). In August he was one of two organists accompanying the choir of Christ Church, Winnetka, for a week's residency at Durham Cathedral. He is playing four concerts this fall: St. Chrysostom's (Oct. 2), Chicago Theological Seminary (Oct. 16), Kenilworth Union Church (Nov. 6), and Fourth Presbyterian Church (Nov. 16). He also appeared regularly on WTTW's Sunday program "30 Good Minutes" as organist for the Chorale under the direction of Bruce Barber.

STUDENT/ALUMNI NEWS:

Margaret (Peg) Cornils, M.M.'85, B.M. '82, is currently residing in Dubuque, Iowa. She continues to perform nationally on flute and piano. She is now a published composer. Her current projects include finishing up her soon to be released first flute CD "The Voice Outside." Composition projects and performances continue to keep her very busy, one of which include the complete premiere of "God Left Us Alone Here" which is a group of five pieces written for men's choir. It was inspired by Iowan John Gaps III, an ex-Associated Press photojournalist, who wrote and compiled a book of poems and pictures of the atrocities of war while he was recovering from a

sniper's bullet. Part of the work was premiered several years ago on the IPTV (Iowa Public Television) show, *Living in Iowa*. Peg continues to teach at Clarke College, NICC and NISOM, all of which are located in Dubuque. She will also be included in the Second Edition of the reference book, *Music Inspired by Art: A Guide to Recordings* compiled by Gary Evans, and published by Scarecrow Press. Peg's flute composition, *Harlequin* written for Tadeu Coelho will be the entry to this book. Peg also hopes to have her own music publishing company up and running in the next two years. Wish her luck! Peg would love to hear from you! Check her out at:

www.margaretcornils.com

Rob Deemer, B.M. '94, M.M. '01, P.C. '01, accepted an offer by the University of Oklahoma as Teacher of Composition and Coordinator of the Composition Department at the rank of Visiting Instructor. He will be giving private instruction to undergraduate and graduate composition students, teaching the fall and spring Orchestration classes, running the weekly Composition Forum and supervising students in organizing student composition recitals. There is a possibility for working with the New Century Ensemble as well. Rob will be participating in the Doctoral Commencement ceremonies and attending a performance of his orchestral work, "Lacrymae," by the Austin Civic Orchestra. This piece was the winner of their first annual composition competition.

Liberace Foundation for the Performing and Creative Arts is funding the NIU Liberace Jazztet for a fifth straight year. The \$12,000 award goes directly to six students to fund junior/senior/graduate student scholarships or GA appointments. The continuing hard work of students, faculty and staff has paid off again. One of the positive factors in NIU's application for renewal was the result of the cultivation of the relationships Jazz Studies Coordinator Ronald Carter has developed with the people at Jazz at Lincoln Center (JALC) in New York City. The Liberace Jazztet performed by invitation at the new JALC Dizzy's Club Coca Cola as the first collegiate ensemble from outside of New York. The 140-seat jazz club offers views of the Manhattan skyline and Central Park. Upon hearing the group perform, Dizzy's Club Artistic Manager Todd Barkan said, "Any band that good can be here any time." The School of Music plans to make an annual performance in New York part of the Liberace Jazztet student experience. Successful renewal of funding is also due in part to the detailed work of staff member Lynn Retherford. She completes and submits several required reports and packets of information throughout the year to the funding foundation. This year's Liberace Jazztet members include senior Garrett Arrowood on trombone, and graduate students Alejandro Fernandez on bass, Chris Lougeay on guitar, Chris Mahan on vibraphone, Timothy Stamps on saxophone, and Shirazette Tinnin on drumset.

Kevin Michael Sheehan, B.M. '97, celebrated his 8-year anniversary on the road with the Glenn Miller Orchestra.

Brian Bosler, B.M. '03, currently resides in Fairfax, Virginia, located a half hour west of Washington, D.C. Brian is currently the Director of Academy Music at Fair Oaks Academy. In addition to overseeing the music department, he teaches 3rd grade recorder, elementary band and all choral and instrumental music for grades 7-12. Brian is also very involved at his church singing and soloing with the choir and playing a myriad of instruments for praise and worship including trumpet, saxophone, bass guitar, synthesizer and drumset. Brian can be reached at: contrabass8@hotmail.com

Matt Novack, B.M. '02, received a graduate certificate in Scoring for Motion Pictures and Television from the University of Southern California. He recently worked on two episodes of "Alias" as an assistant to Michael Giacchino and assistant conductor, and is currently working full time for composer Steven M. Stern as an assistant and orchestrator.

Ed Partyka, B.A. '91, has accepted a part time teaching position at the Conservatory of Music in Vienna, Austria. He will continue to teach at the Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz,

Germany. Ed will be "Artist in Residence" with the Western Australia Youth Jazz Orchestra for three weeks in September. As an instrumentalist Ed can be heard on recent CD releases from the Vienna Art Orchestra, Marko Lackner, Erika Stucky, Rainer Tempel, Oliver Leicht and the Kent/Langthaler Seven. Ed will be touring with the Vienna Art Orchestra for five weeks this fall through Europe and South America. Ed has been commissioned by the HR Big Band in Frankfurt to compose/arrange a project for performance at the Frankfurt Jazz Festival this October and will be composing a modern jazz version of the ballet Sleeping Beauty for the dance company of the "Landestheater Eisenach" in Germany. The premiere will be in May 2006. Ed's website is www.edpartyka.com

We received a lovely note from **Thelma Sipe**, B.M. '44. I'm going to print her letter in its entirety: "Reading the letter about Professor Lillios made me remember how lucky I was to have my life because of teaching music and graduating in 1944! Female music teachers were few and usually had to add English & something to do with music. World War II changed all that. We had only four professors – Dr. Annas, Dr. Fouser – how great he was, Vera Wiswall, and Miss Stensland. They worked hard to make it grow and it has done tremendously. Student teaching made you the ones they chose to be critics and I was very lucky to get top ones – had to do both vocal and instrumental. My life was just by the Music Man. I had 43 little children – 3rd grade through high school – none had played before. We started in December & gave our concert in May. The town couldn't have thought it was just as great as the philharmonic. I still see my former students enjoying the music and getting their kids to have them sing & play. I am proud to say that I had 5 children grow to teach professionally & one with the U.S. Marine Band in Washington. When I quit teaching (no going back to teaching at that time) I was always involved with community activities – free from paying but rich in fun and helping a nice community. So – I am grateful for all the learning and assistance that I have had from NISTC – it's made a fine and full life for me. I will be 83 in September and still remember how great it was for us. Thank you and all the ones who have used music."

Erin Horan, B.M. '03, will begin her Masters of Music degree at Northwestern University this fall.

Pat Schumacher-Barnett, B.M. '87, has been the choir director at Maine Township High School East in Park Ridge Illinois for the past 16 years. He just began the Masters in Educational Leadership at NIU this past summer.

Matthew and Jelena Holaves, (both B.A. '97) are happy to report that they both recently graduated with MBA degrees from The Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania. They now live in New York city and both work in investment banking.

Dan Blaufuss, B.M. '99, is currently the senior editor of The Instrumentalist.

Terresa Goodman (Crain), B.M. '86, just celebrated her first wedding anniversary with her husband Ken. They both teach at Sycamore High School in Sycamore, IL, where Terri is the choir director and Ken is the band director.

Meredith Carreira, B.M. '97, completed her Master of Arts Management (MAM) degree from Columbia College in Chicago in March of 2005. Over the past year, she has been working as an arts management consultant working with touring musicians and not-for-profit arts organizations. Her most recent venture is working as a personal manager for a performing artist. Visit her website at www.thaddeusrex.com.

Matt O'Dell, B.M. '05, is working in Chicago as a filmmaker application developer. He tells us that oddly enough they have a bunch of musicians and composers in the office. The CEO has a bachelors of music and a masters in music theory. He's in the process of setting up a private lesson studio so he can still teach.

Dave Tallacksen, B.A. '02, has left the wheat and open spaces of Wichita, Kansas (where he spent the last three years as a news host and producer at public radio station KMWU) for the grime and density of the Big Apple. He recently started a job (Broadcast Production Coordinator) at WBGO, the jazz public radio station for the NYC metro area. As part of the job, he gets to help record and air live performances all around the area. He says it should be great fun, and a return to a more music-oriented focus for him.

Nineteen years ago **Robert Olson**, B.A. '67, founded and has been the artistic director and conductor of the Colorado MahlerFest, an organization that throughout the years has garnered a significant international reputation from the wide variety of things they have done, from recordings to new editions. The international organization charged with all things Mahler is located, naturally enough, in Vienna, Mahler's home for most of his life. Periodically, this organization has recognized major artists, arts organizations, and researchers for their outstanding contributions. They have awarded 4 of these in the last 18 years, and 34 in their entire history. He will be traveling to Vienna in September to receive, on behalf of the Colorado MahlerFest, one of three MAHLER GOLD MEDALS being presented this year as part of their 50th anniversary celebration. The MahlerFest will share the stage with the New York Philharmonic, and an Austrian Mahler organization. To see what an incredible honor this, here is a list of some of the previous recipients:

Conductors

Rafael Kubelik '60
Dimitri Mitropoulos '60
Leonard Bernstein '67
Bernard Haitink, '71
Kyril Kondraschin, '74
Joseph Krips, '74
Carlo Maria Giulini
Vaclac Neumann
Claudio Abbado
Rafael Fruhbeck de Burgos

Orchestras

Concertgebouw '58
Dresden Phil. '66
Vienna Phil., '69, '80
Rotterdam Phil '58
Residence Orch Den Haag '79
Hanover '85
New York Phil, '05

Singers

Christa Ludwig, '80
Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, '80
Thomas Hampson, '99
- Congratulations Robert. We are very proud of you!

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 lslater@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!