

Northern Illinois University

School of Music

September 2006 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 the [on-line music calendar](#) or the NIU website: <http://www.niucalendar.edu/>

SCHOOL OF MUSIC AUDITION DATES

Formal audition dates for brass, percussion, piano, violin (music education), voice and woodwinds for Fall 2007 entrance to the School of Music are:

Friday, February 9, 2007
Saturday, February 10, 2007
Friday, March 2, 2007
Saturday, March 3, 2007

Additional voice auditions:

Thursday, February 8, 2007, 7 - 9 p.m.
Thursday, March 1, 2007, 7 - 9 p.m.

Auditions for violin (performance), viola, cello, bass (jazz & classical), organ, jazz piano, and guitar (jazz & classical) 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 on our website: <http://www.niu.edu/music>
Auditions for Spring 2007 semester are also on a private basis. Please contact Lynn Slater for details.
lslater@niu.edu or 815-753-1546

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

University Open Houses

Monday, October 9, 2006 (Columbus Day)
Friday, November 10, 2006 (Veteran's Day-observed)
Monday, February 19, 2007 (President's Day)
Friday, April 6, 2007 (Good Friday/Spring Break)

The Midwest Clinic

December 19-23, 2006

We'll be at booth 223 in the Southeast Hall. Be sure to stop in!

IMEA

January 25-7, 2007

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:

Friday, February 2, 2007 - Jazz Day

Wednesday, February 7 2007 - Women's Chorus Day

Wednesday, February 14, 2007 - String Day

Tuesday, March 6, 2007 - 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

Tim Blickhan's general anthem, "With What Shall I come Before the Lord?" was performed by the choir of Holy Trinity Church, Skipton, England, on September 10. A number of Tim's choral works are available for free download on the Choral Public Domain Library, <http://www.cpdlib.org>.

Rich Holly was interviewed by NPR. Here is the website link to check out the story. <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5630542>

Rich Holly, Professor of Percussion and Associate Dean of our College of Visual and Performing Arts, spent the first week of August in Korea as a participant in the 2006 Sacheon International Percussion Festival. This festival, held on the waterfront of the beautiful southern coastal city of Sacheon, featured nearly 100 performers from 4 continents, with over 2000 people attending each night's concert.

The Chicago Jazz Festival closed down in style with Willie Pickens' 75th Birthday Celebration at the Petrillo Music Shell with performances by such acts as Hijazz, John Watson, Maurice Brown/Corey Wilkes, and Joey DeFrancesco Trio with Dr. Lonnie Smith and Ron Blake. Happy Birthday, Willie!

Ron Carter and Glenda Cosenza have a new publication now available: "Swingin' On The Bars,"

A Collection of Jazz Standards Arranged for Xylophones, Metallophones, Solo Bb & Eb Instruments, Percussion & Voice, Alfred Publications.

Ron Carter has been elected Vice-President of the International Association for Jazz Educators. This is a two year term. IAJE currently has 5,500 members in 25 countries.

Ron continues to tour and give clinics: He will be program director and lead teacher for the Canadian - Jazz at Lincoln Center Band Directors' Academy, October 18-21, 2006. He will guest direct the Iowa All-State Jazz Band in February 2007. He directed the South Shore Youth Jazz Ensemble at the 17th Annual African Festival of the Arts in Washington Park in Chicago on September 6, and will be the guest clinician/conductor for the San Francisco All-Stars at the end of September.

Robert Chappell's composition "Open Window" (premiered at NIU in 2005), won the Percussive Arts Society 2006 Composition Contest (\$1,500 award). It will be published by Drop6 Media and should be performed at the 2006 Percussive Arts Society International Convention in Austin in November.

The Liam Teague + Robert Chappell Duo will be busy with performances at Millennium Park, Chicago, the Three Lakes Artist Series, and the Alaska Day of Percussion.

Panoramic (Liam Teague, Robert Chappell, former faculty Orlando Cotto, NIU alums Doug Stone & Josh Ramos, and former student Phil Beale), have received rave reviews on the "Rhythm Through the Unobstructed View" CD. Check out www.karionpresskits.com for a compilation. The CD was the top added new jazz CD for the week of August 21.

Panoramic performances this fall include: The Trinidad & Tobago Steelpan and Jazz Festival where they will share the bill with Len Boogsie Sharpe and Andy Narell and Sekesho. Other performances include UW-Milwaukee, UW-Madison, Charlotte's Web, The House, University of N. Dakota, Minot State University, and Iowa State University. For more info, go to the website: www.panoramicmusic.net

Brian Hart's article "Vincent d'Indy and the Development of the French Symphony" (May 2006): 237-61 was published earlier this summer in Music and Letters 87. This is the most prestigious British journal of musicology.

Robert Sims is thrilled to announce the debut of Simon, Sykes & Sims featuring Metropolitan Opera great Simon Estes, Sony recording artist Jubilant Sykes, and Sims in a concert of Freedom Songs, Spirituals and Broadway Songs on Friday, February 2, 2007 in Chicago at the University of Chicago's Rockefeller Chapel. This historic concert, produced by Canti Classics with the DuSable Museum of African-American History, is the Gala opening for the exhibit 381 Days: The Montgomery Bus Boycott Story. Tickets are \$25 (General), \$50 (Priority Seating), \$75 (Priority Seating & Reception) and can be reserved by contacting Arthur White at Canti Classics (773) 262-9655. Tickets will go on

sale October 1.

Robert Fleisher's Five Songs from Carl Sandburg's "Prairie" were performed by soprano Lynn Eustis (author of "The Singer's Ego") and pianist Elvia Puccinelli at Henderson State University (Arkadelphia, AR) on August 27 and at the University of North Texas on September 7. Both performers are currently members of the UNT music faculty.

Director of Orchestras Brett Mitchell traveled to Frankfurt, Germany in September 2006 to compete as one of only 24 participants selected from a pool of over 500 applicants in the prestigious 3rd International Conductors' Competition Sir Georg Solti. After several successful rehearsals with the Frankfurt Radio Symphony, Mitchell advanced as a semifinalist for the 15,000 EU grand prize. Mitchell also recently completed his 5th season as Associate Conductor of the Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble, and celebrated this milestone by recording several world premieres for CD release slated for 2007.

Ann Montzka-Smelser taught at three Suzuki / Chamber music camps this summer in Beaver Creek, Colorado, San Marcos, Texas and Deerfield, Chicago. Ann also played with the Grant Park Symphony and also performed Prokofiev's Sonata for Two Violins with Dana Friedle at the Ford Performing Art's Center in Vail, Colorado. Ann has recently been invited to join a new chamber orchestra called

Virtuosi Chicago ... you can read about the group and future performances on their website www.VirtuosiChicago.com. Ann's article "Reflections from the Practicum" will be published the

next issue of the Suzuki Journal.

STUDENT/ALUMNI NEWS:

Calling all NIU Marching Band alums! The NIU Marching Huskie Band is hosting the alumni band this year. Info and applications are posted on the alumni section of the Marching Band site www.niu.edu/band.

A Recent Review:

... "The Brooklyn Philharmonic closed its season at the Brooklyn Academy of Music on Saturday with a contemporary-music program called "Freedom!"... Even so, the three scores worked well together. Mr. Roumain's score, commissioned by the American Composers Orchestra in 1997, presents unusual challenges, not least the need to balance the omnipresent and assertive percussion against the rest of the orchestra. Chelsea Tipton II, on loan from the Toledo Symphony, where he is resident conductor, deftly led the orchestra through the score's brash textures and complicated cross-rhythms and kept the ensemble tightly unified. He did as much for the Bernstein, which has the benefit of lush string writing and tart brass and woodwind figures, creating an ominous atmosphere in its opening pages, but the piece veers oddly toward bright theatricality toward the end of the

first movement..."

Graciela Nunez will start working again at the National Symphony Orchestra and at the National Institute of Music (Conservatoire) of Panama City, Panama.

Mia Fritze is the Office Manager for the Vermont Youth Orchestra Association, where they will be taking the top orchestra on a 2 week performance tour of China in summer 2007! She is also playing Horn with the Vermont Wind Ensemble & Champlain Philharmonic Orchestra as well as freelancing & teaching.

Steve Avallone has been teaching at Carl Sandburg Middle School in Mundelein, Illinois, for 6 years now where he directs the 7th and 8th grades bands as well as their Jazz Ensemble. He recently completed his Master Degree in Education (spring 06 from St. Xavier) and plans on taking more classes in hopes of obtaining another degree in administration. He also teaches privately in the area and has participated in the College of Lake County's Jazz Ensemble in recent years. His most exciting news is that his wife Sarah and he are proud parents of a beautiful baby girl ~ Gabriella Assunta Avallone ~ born on May 2. He would love to hear from friends and staff anytime.
savallone75@hotmail.com

Robert Olson states that he was our very first B.M. degree candidate ever (bassoon). Last September he was honored, along with the NY Philharmonic, with the Mahler Gold Medal from Vienna, Austria, an honor bestowed only on a very few artists/orchestras/conductors in their fifty year history (previous winners were Leonard Bernstein, Claudio Abbado, the Vienna Philharmonic orchestra). He has been written up in the NY Times, and has conducted major orchestras in Beijing and Seoul.

Congratulations to Joel & Laura Shute on the birth of their new son (according to them - the future President of the United States) Joshua Scott Shute.

Ben Wahlund's composition "Four Sketches for Sam" won the 3rd place prize in the same contest that Robert Chappell's piece won - the 2006 Percussive Arts Society Composition Contest. Ben's piece is also scored for a duo of steel pan and marimba.

Congratulations to Clark Chaffee (MM 1979) for receiving the Special Recognition Award 2005 at the Illinois American String Teachers' Association Annual Luncheon. You deserve it Clark!

As part of the International Trumpet Guild's 2006 Conference Recital at Rowan University in New Jersey, here is what reporter Neville Young had to say, "... Next was Brent Michael Davids' Trumpeting the Stone, performed by Christopher Moore and pianist Seth Beckman. In his introduction Moore explained about his Native American heritage, which as a member of the Oneida tribe he shares with the composer, a Mohican, and which led to this work being explicitly based on Native American themes and ideas, even down to the title which refers to the Oneida's other name: People of the Upright Stone. Surprises in the work included a march and a hymn tune, both evidence of the

Europeanization of the culture being absorbed and reflected back. There were some sensitive, fluting moments on flugelhorn and bold, vital passages on trumpet: Moore also played a traditional water-drum and a horn rattle which added drama, as well as interesting texture, to his riveting performance of this interesting and unusual piece."

The following appeared in the latest issue of the magazine *The Voice of Chorus America*: ...After a 10-month international search, the Rochester Oratorio Society has chosen Eric Townell to succeed retiring music director Roger Wilhem. Townell joins ROS as the third director in its 60-year history... More about Eric and what he has been doing can be found on the ROS web site.

The Liberace Jazztet wowed the crowds at the Iowa City Jazz Festival in July. Members included Tim Stamps (sax), Shirazette Tinnin (drums), Chris Lougeay (guitar), Chris Mahan (vibes), and Alejandro Fernandez (bass).

"American Masterpieces: Three Centuries of Artistic Genius," 2006, will show off some of our country's best artistic work to as many people in as many communities as possible. A project of the National Endowment for the Arts "American Masterpieces" supports tours of performances and exhibitions that reach large and small communities in all 50 states. NEA Chairman Dana Gioia said, "On the occasion of the Arts Endowment's 40th anniversary, I'm delighted that we can celebrate our country's artistic achievements with an exemplary American Masterpieces program. More than 2 million people are expected to attend "American Masterpieces" events and activities in communities ranging from Issaquah, Washington to New York City, from Crossville, Tennessee to Los Angeles." Directed by experienced choral directors leading renowned choruses, "American Masterpieces" will feature regional choral festivals and tours highlighting an American repertoire and focus on the work of these American composers: Dominick Argento, Samuel Barber, Leonard Bernstein, William Billings, William Bolcom, Harry T. Burleigh, Chen Yi, Aaron Copland, BRENT MICHAEL DAVIDS, William Dawson, R. Nathaniel Dett, Stephen Foster, Jennifer Higdon, Moses Hogan, Charles Ives, Aaron Jay Kernis, Libby Larsen, Morten Lauridsen, Norman Luboff, Gian Carlo Menotti, Alice Parker/Robert Shaw, Stephen Paulus, Ned Rorem, William Schuman, Conrad Susa, Randall Thompson, Virgil Thomson, Eric Whitacre.

Dave Stamps was recently promoted to Managing Director of the Center for Jazz Composition at the University of South Florida where he also teaches Jazz Composition/Arranging and directs the 2nd Jazz Ensemble, fondly dubbed "The Deuce." He also started his new publishing company, Slide-Effect Music, which will be launched internationally in February. The rest of his time is filled gigging in the Tampa Bay area.

James Tobin and Alicia Cool recently became engaged. Congratulations! Alicia is teaching at Johnson Elementary School in Charlottesville and has 13 cello/violin private students; James is teaching and performing in Charlottesville.

Brian Shelton was recently offered and accepted the position of Interim Director of Bands at Texas A & M University-Kingsville. He will direct the Javelina Marching Band,

the Wind Symphony, and the Symphonic Band. He will also teach conducting and possibly observe student teachers. It is his first college job in what he hopes will be a long career at the collegiate level.

Michelle Hooper is the choir director at Sandwich High School with 3 choirs: Treble Choir, Mixed Choir, and Jazz Choir. She is also the director of the spring musical and coaches the Sandwich Dance Team.

Rob Deemer sent us an update on where he is now and what he is doing. To catch, go to his website: www.robdeemer.com. It is awesome!

Nick Fryer recently joined the faculty at the Chicago Academy for the Arts teaching jazz combos. He is teaching there three days a week. He also joined the faculty (adjunct) at Harold Washington College teaching a group piano class for beginners.
NickFryerMusic.Com

Kirk Lundbeck continues to perform with Kishwaukee Symphony, The Symphony of Oak Park/River Forest, where he serves as co-principal. He also now serves as an extra with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. He recently appeared with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Leonard Slatkin in a performance of the Pines of Rome by Respighi at Ravinia. He has been a member of the DeKalb Municipal Band for 27 years and has served as Principal Trombone for the past 13 seasons. Often sought after as a featured soloist and clinician, Lundbeck free-lances throughout the Midwest, is the former lead trombonist of the "Shenanigans" Big Band, the "Class Act" Big Band and the leader of his own jazz trio, "The Black Tie Jazz Trio" which performs regularly throughout Northern Illinois. He currently serves as the Minister of Music of St. John's Lutheran Church in Sycamore, Illinois where he conducts two vocal groups, an instrumental ensemble and composes music for all those groups. In January of 2006, an article featuring Lundbeck appeared in the International Trombone Journal Magazine. One of his most recent articles called "The Think System" appears on Chicago Symphony Orchestra's Principal Trombonist Jay Friedman's website www.jayfriedman.net. He continues to study trombone with Mr. Friedman and also gives low brass lessons from his home studio. Kirk's e-mail address is: kirkl@sycamoreparkdistrict.com

John Carlson released an independent CD titled "Expressions Of Instrumental Worship" - 15 tracks of all instrumental jazz/rock/acoustic/big band arrangements on modern worship songs that he did when he worked for Willow Creek Community Church. The CD is available for sale at <http://cdbaby.com/cd/johncarlson>. His website is <http://www.johncarlsonmusic.com>. After serving as Music Director at Willow Creek Community Church in South Barrington, IL for 10 years, he and wife Chris made a move to the Dallas area in 2002 to get a change of scenery. He worked at a smaller young church there for 2 1/2 years. Health problems with his elderly father brought them back to the Midwest in July of 2004 where he is now Instrumental Music Director at Parkview Church in Iowa City, IA and they love it here. <http://www.parkviewchurch.org>. Rather than traditional church music, or a lot of jazz, he generally leads a lot of college age

musicians from U of Iowa in music and worship that all sounds a lot like U2! (And they do a little bit of jazz once in awhile!) He plays a lot of keyboards, percussion, and drums, in addition to, of course saxophone when called for. Chris is doing well and also works part time for the church as well as being a Mom to their 8-year-old daughter, Shailee.

Jennifer Chesher got married in May, making her new name Jennifer Wygant. She also just began a job here in Illinois as a High School counselor in Byron, IL. Congratulations Jennifer!

Peter Juffernbruch just started the PhD program in composition at the University of Iowa. He is studying composition with David Gommper.

Congratulations to the NIU Chamber Choir for another wonderful upcoming season. After returning from a week's residency at the historic Worcester Cathedral in Worcester, England in August, the choir will be preparing this fall for upcoming performances not only on campus, but in San Antonio, Texas where they have been invited to perform at the National Collegiate Choral Organization. Five days later, the Concert Choir will join forces with the Chicago Sinfonietta under the direction of Maestro Paul Freeman to perform Prokofiev's "Alexander Nevsky" at Orchestra Hall.

Our web site is updated almost daily.

Check it out! <http://www.niu.edu/music>

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!

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