Rhythms: Music at the University of Northern Iowa, v31, Fall 2012

University of Northern Iowa. School of Music.
In this issue
School of Music Celebrates 50 years at Russell Hall, 120 Years on Campus
Music Ensembles Tour Italy, Germany and Austria
Professor Sean Botkin Performs with Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Greetings from the University of Northern Iowa! During this academic year, the School of Music is celebrating its 120th anniversary at UNI and 50 years of music-making in Russell Hall. Our theme, “The Road to Excellence,” gives us an opportunity to look back at our tremendous history and growth, while at the same time looking forward to new possibilities for our students. With record enrollments in the school, we find ourselves at the crossroads of our development at the university. It is time to build on our rich tradition of music education excellence and trumpet (pun intended) our students’ and faculty members’ many successes. If we are to continue to attract the best musicians and scholars, we ask our students, friends and alumni to assist us as we continue our future development, while not forgetting those from our memorable past. Spread the word along with us and celebrate the arts with renewed spirit as we enter the next stage of our history.

One of the most significant aspects of the culture of the UNI School of Music is the ability of professors to to serve as tremendous musicians, scholars and role models, while at the same time focusing on exceptional educational experiences for our students. The concepts of striving for the highest standards of musicianship, demonstration a can-do attitude in the classroom, studio or rehearsal hall, and continuing to dream are alive and well. One of the highlights for the School of Music this year included faculty member Sean Botkin’s performance with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO). While I could write numerous paragraphs on the successful activities of each faculty member—in fact you will see those later in this newsletter—Sean’s performance with the CSO really reached a pinnacle milestone of his career. Such a performance serves as a reminder of the quality of faculty members teaching in the school, demonstrates to our students that we believe in the highest standards of achievement, and represents to the public that we are moving forward with intended musical gusto.

We look forward to our continuing leadership role as the “music education” school in the state of Iowa and the United States. With state-of-the-art facilities, our stellar music education, performance, theory, music history, composition and expanding liberal arts programs in jazz studies, performing arts management, music technology and pedagogy are making a difference in the lives of students. Our quest to be a “national model of excellence” in the heartland of America is alive and thriving.

Please join us and visit Cedar Falls on your next journey in Iowa. We would love to welcome you to campus.

Sincerely,

John Vallentine
Professor & Director

Professor Sean Botkin performs with Chicago Symphony Orchestra

School of Music faculty artist and associate professor of piano at the University of Northern Iowa Sean Botkin was invited to perform with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra on Aug. 2. The concert was held at the beautiful and historic Ravinia Festival Pavilion. Botkin performed Rachmaninoff’s Piano Concerto No. 4 in G Minor, Op. 40. The rarely performed Fourth Piano Concerto received its first Ravinia performance in a decade. The concert also featured Nicole Cabell, soprano.

Reflecting on the performance, Botkin discussed the unique repertoire selection. “This concerto is rarely performed and has not enjoyed the success that the other concertos have had,” Sean noted. “It doesn’t have the long, sweeping, romantic concerto form that others have.”

Botkin began studying the piano at age five with his mother, making his first orchestral appearance four years later with the Honolulu Symphony. He went on to study privately with Neal O’Dea at the University of Washington and, under his direction, performed with the Seattle Symphony, Spokane Symphony and Seattle Philharmonic Orchestra. Sean has garnered prizes in an impressive list of international piano competitions: Buconi International Piano Competition, Cleveland International Piano Competition, World Piano Competition in Cincinnati, Dong-A International Music Competition of Korea, International Music Competition of Japan and the Washington D.C. International Competition. A graduate of Stanford University, the Juilliard School and Indiana University at South Bend, Sean has studied with eminent artists Adolph Baller, Martin Canin and Alexander Toradze.

Botkin has performed extensively in the United States, Europe, Central and South America, Asia and Russia. He has been praised by the New York Times, noting that he was “…vibrant in Bach’s Concerto in A, [and] ended the program with a gripping, boldly expressive account of the D minor Concerto.” Sean made his New York debut at Alice Tully Hall in 1993 performing Bartók’s Piano Concerto No. 2 with the Juilliard Symphony, conducted by Carl St. Clair. During the summer of 2009, he made a CD recording of Rachmaninoff’s Piano Sonata No. 1 in D minor and recently performed a series of concerts in Europe sponsored by Alexander Rachmaninoff and the Rachmaninoff Foundation.

The performance at Ravinia was a highlight in Sean Botkin’s already impressive career. “It is like a dream come true for me to perform at Ravinia and especially with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, one of the best orchestras in the world,” Botkin said, “It’s certainly a milestone in my career.”

School of Music celebrates 50 years at Russell Hall, 120 years on campus

The University of Northern Iowa School of Music is celebrating 50 years of making music in Russell Hall. The original dedication ceremony for the building was held on May 6, 1962. It featured a performance by the Symphony Orchestra and the A Cappella Choir with the cantata “Blind with Rainbows,” with lyrics by English faculty member James Hearst and music by faculty member William Latham. Also included in the ceremony was a march written by Edward Kurtz, former head of the Department of Music.

While excellence in music education has been consistent since the doors first opened, Russell Hall has undergone a major transformation in recent years. In 2008, the newly renovated $10.2 million home to the School of Music reopened its doors. New features include a chamber music hall, jazz studios, an instrument repair room, two new classrooms and a music technology laboratory. Renovated features include updated studios, classrooms and practice rooms. Students at UNI continue to call the hall “the music building,” as it was known back in the ’60s. “Russell Hall has been an important home to our classes, applied lessons, performances, workshops, master classes, rehearsals and more,” noted John Vallentine, director of the School of Music. “As we look back into the history of making music at UNI, the building has allowed our students and faculty to flourish. It is now a state-of-the-art facility, allowing students to learn and perform great music.”

2012 marks another milestone for the School of Music: the 120th anniversary of the School of Music itself. When UNI was founded in 1876, then known as the Iowa State Normal School, courses in art and music were offered in the Art Department. This department name persisted until 1892, when the school began to go through its first major differentiation of subject matter and department reorganization.

In 1892, the Art Department split into the Penmanship and Drawing Department and the Vocal and Instrumental Music Department. Thus, the first form of what is now a thriving School of Music came to be. In honor of the milestone, the 2012-13 Spotlight Series will be the “120th Anniversary Spotlight Series: Celebrating the 120th Anniversary of the UNI School of Music” and the 31st Annual Scholarship Benefit Concert will be themed “120 Years: The Road to Excellence.” For details on the anniversary celebration concerts in the Spotlight Series or the Scholarship Benefit Concert, see pages 10 and 27.

Editor’s note: Special thanks to Gerald Peterson and to Rod Library Special Collections and University Archives for information used in this article.
Wind Symphony Tours Italy and Celebrates 30th Anniversary

It was a full and exciting year for the Northern Iowa Wind Symphony. The Wind Symphony traveled to northern Italy March 8-17, and was invited to perform a series of six concerts throughout the region with concert sites in San Paolo d’Argon, Alzano Lombardo (Bergamo), Pontevico, Brescia, Costa Volpino and Arese (Milano). Concert venues included the PalaBrescia in Brescia, the Teatro Parrocchiale in Arese and the Basilica di San Martino in Alzano Lombardo. Faculty artists John Hines, bass, and Amanda McCandless, clarinet, joined the group on tour and performed on all six concerts.

The group, under the direction of UNI School of Music professor and conductor Ronald Johnson, previously toured Italy in 2004 and has taken three tours in Hungary. Reflecting on the trip, Johnson noted, “It was quite an experience for the students to perform for full houses and enthusiastic audiences, to be received with so much applause, asking for encores. This was a great testament to the talent and abilities of our students.”

While in Italy, the Wind Symphony served as the ensemble for a two-day intensive conducting workshop with several of northern Italy’s most esteemed band conductors. The ensemble was also presented with an honorary diploma by the President of the Luca Marenzio Conservatory of Music in Brescia, one of the most prestigious Italy’s music institutions. Senior music student and clarinetist in the Wind Symphony, James Gummert commented, “This tour taught us a lot about each other and the world. While the language barrier was a struggle, the connection we made was an extraordinary one—we communicated through music.”

Upon their return from Europe, Johnson and the ensemble began preparations for the return of more than 40 Wind Symphony members for the 30th Anniversary Celebration and Reunion, held April 20-21. Wind Symphony members who had graduated from 1980 to 2008 returned to enjoy a banquet and reception, as well as to rehearse and perform in concert under the baton of Johnson. Rebecca Wilson, a returning alumna, reflected, “I always felt grateful to be able to play with the Wind Symphony. Even though I wasn’t a music major, I loved being a part of such a wonderful group of musicians. [Johnson] was a very strong conductor and I liked that he held us responsible for our commitment and professionalism.”

The two-day celebration was a time of music-making and reflecting on the group itself as well as its long-time conductor. Wind Symphony alumna Cheri Schreiberman echoed the thoughts that many shared throughout the weekend, “Ron Johnson encouraged me to go places I had never thought of and to dream dreams that sustain me in my everyday life. I am eternally grateful for all the advice, both professional and personal, and for the music I was allowed to experience along the way.”

Editor’s note: If you are a Wind Symphony alumni member and could not attend the April 2012 reunion, but would like an electronic copy of the memory book created for the event, please contact Caroline.Boehmer@uni.edu.

The Wind Symphony performs on tour in Italy.

San Martino in Alzano Lombardo.

Wind Symphony members performed on all six concerts.

Northwestern Iowa.

University of Northern Iowa.

School of Music on Tour

Varsity Men’s Glee Club Tours Germany and Austria

The UNI Varsity Men’s Glee Club launched a thrilling tour to Germany and Austria this spring. The group of students and alumni traveled through Munich, Salzburg, Vienna and more on their 10-day adventure, enjoying the sights, sounds and culture of Germany and Austria. Notably, the group was offered the honor of performing at Salzburg Cathedral (Dom) and St. Stephen’s Cathedral in Vienna.

In addition to the extraordinary performance opportunities, the Glee Club members were immersed in the culture of Germany and Austria. On their first full day in Germany, the group made a meaningful visit to Dachau, Nazi Germany’s first concentration camp. In the following days, the group visited King Ludwig II’s Neuschwanstein Castle and St. Peter’s Church and churchyard in Salzburg. The tour also stopped to see the Parliament Building and State Opera House of Vienna, as well as the Schönbrunn Palace and Gardens.

The men on tour were thrilled to be a part of this once-in-a-lifetime experience. Dylan Keller, junior history and political communications double major, came back with a passion for travel. “Being a part of the UNI Varsity Men’s Glee Club, it was an amazing opportunity to experience the origins of classical music in Salzburg and Vienna. If students have the opportunity to travel or are on the fence about leaving the comforts of Iowa, I would encourage them to go for the adventure. Once you sing in a cathedral that is more than 800 years old…you cannot reach a greater moment in your life at this age.”

Reflecting on the tour, Glee Club member and UNI freshman English education major Jacob Ferguson stated, “The histories of music and of World War II now mean so much more to me than something that I read in a textbook. This trip helped to bring the history to life.”

The Glee Club plans to continue its tradition of camaraderie and excellence with the Christmas variety shows scheduled for Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 this year. Please visit the Glee Club website for more information at www.uni-gleeclub.com.

Editor’s note: Thank you to John Wiles, Dylan Keller and Jacob Ferguson for their contributions to this article.

School of Music Ensembles Offer Shared Concert in Marshalltown, Perform “Requiem”

The Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra, UNI Concert Chorale, UNI Singers, UNI Cantorei and faculty artists toured Marshalltown, Iowa, on April 23 to present a concert in the Marshalltown High School/Community Auditorium. The ensembles were led by UNI faculty and conductors Rebecca Burkhardt, Ryan Meyer and John Wiles. The concert was made possible by the Mayme Ward Olson Music Enrichment Endowment Fund.

The Marshalltown performance was offered in advance of the UNI ensembles’ home concert on April 25 where School of Music ensembles collaborated to present W.A. Mozart’s seminal work “Requiem” by combined UNI choirs and the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra.

From L to R: Aiddy Phomvisay (Marshalltown High School principal), Rhonda Swick (granddaughter of Mayme Ward Olson), Diane Curtis (UNI Foundation) and John Valenteine (director, UNI School of Music).
Apfelbaum
Peter

Jazz concerts featuring guest artist
the 61st Annual Sinfonian Dimensions in
stellar Tallcorn Jazz Festival, including
continued in the spring with the always
latter. Jazz Band One performed on Oct. 7
17 with Jazz Band III joining them for the
performance season opened with a Jazz
album by the UNI Jazz Band One should be
program on an upward course since he
go to Merz who has kept the Jazz Studies
One, much of the credit for which must
triumph for UNI's impressive Jazz Band
Jack Bowers from "All About Jazz"
was met with critical acclaim. Reviewer
I Could Write a Book

Jazz combos took to the stage in
The jazz performance season
Fall began with excitement as the jazz

Milt presently performs with the
the UNI School of Music Jazz Division with
consistently excellent educational and
musical pursuits, and with an eye to the
future and more excitement to come.

T his year was one of outstanding
musical achievement in the UNI School of
Music Jazz Division.
Jazz Band One’s release “Let Go”
was met with critical acclaim. Reviewer
Jack Bowers from “All About Jazz”
magazine stated, “Let Go is clearly another
triump for UNI’s impressive Jazz Band
One, much of the credit for which must
go to Merz who has kept the Jazz Studies
program on an upward course since he
replaced its founder, Bob Washut, nearly
a decade ago. If the past is a reliable
measuring stick, another exemplary
album by the UNI Jazz Band One should be
available in another year or so.”

Jazz Band One's Latest Release, "Let Go"
Fall began with excitement as the jazz
performance season opened with a Jazz
Combos concert on Oct. 4, followed
by Jazz Panthers concerts on Oct. 6 and Nov.
17 with Jazz Band III joining them for the
latter. Jazz Band One performed on Oct. 7
and Nov. 4.

The jazz performance season
continued in the fall with the always
stellar Tallcorn Jazz Festival, including
the 61st Annual Sinfonian Dimensions in
Jazz concerts featuring guest artist Peter
Apfelbaum. For more on Apfelbaum, see
page 27.

Jazz combos took to the stage in
Russell Hall on Feb. 27, and the Jazz
Panthers continued the string of successful
performances on April 3 in Bengston
Auditorium, with guest Matt Harris,
composer and arranger. For more on
Harris, see page 18.

The jazz division ensembles also hit
the road and promoted new recordings
this year. The Jazz Panthers toured to
Des Moines on April 2. They were involved with performances at Newton High School and the Adventureland Inn with the Des Moines Big Band.

On April 6 at the Jazz Band One
Spotlight Series Concert, the UNI School
of Music inducted Milton Mikesh (BA ’55)
as the sixth member of the UNI Jazz Band of Fame. Mikesh is a UNI graduate and played
first trumpet with the first-ever UNI Jazz Band.

After his graduation from UNI (then
Iowa State Teachers College), Milt pursued a
dual career of teaching and professional
performance. Milt’s career as a music
educator included positions in Arlington,
Delawen and Waterloo. During those years
he also played in several area bands.

He toured on the State Fair/Canadian
Provincial Exposition circuit and played
lead trumpet for many nationally known
personalities. In 1970, Milt formed his own
band, The Rhythm Club, featuring several
musicians from the UNI Jazz Program. Milt
retired from teaching in 1986. He became a registered piano tuner with the
Piano Technicians Guild and managed
his own tuning and repair business while
continuing to play trumpet professionally.

Milt presently performs with the
UNI New Horizons Band and conducted
his hometown band for the twenty-third
consecutive summer in 2012. He and his
wife Shirley celebrated their 61st
anniversary in June, and have three
children, eight grandchildren and 10
great-grandchildren.

After the conclusion of the academic
year, the UNI Jazz Combo Camp kept the
music going through the summer. Campers
hit campus June 17-22 for this hands-on
experience. Now entering its 12th year,
the UNI Jazz Combo Camp is an intensive
exploration of small group jazz playing and
improvisation. Students participate in daily
comba rehearsals, group instruction on
their instruments, theory and ear training
classes, jam sessions and more. The camp
featured performances by faculty and
participants each night, and concluded with the final concert Friday, June 22.

Another successful year for the
UNI School of Music Jazz Division with
consistently excellent educational and
musical pursuits, and with an eye to the
future and more excitement to come.

Giving Back
Your support is vital to ensuring the
ongoing success of the jazz studies
program and the ability to continue
to host exceptional guest artists at UNI.

If you would like to contribute to
the James Coffin Visiting Artist Jazz Fund
or if you would just like to learn
more, please call Debra Umbdenstock
in the UNI Foundation at 319-273-7727.

School of Music Welcomes New Faculty Member
Alison Altstatt holds an M.A. in
history from the University of California,
Berkeley and a Ph.D. in musicology with
a second field in historical performance
practice from the University of Oregon.
Her dissertation, “The Music and Liturgy of
Kloster Preetz: Anna von Buchwald’s Buch
im Chor in its Fifteenth-century Context,”
was awarded the American Musicological
Society’s Alvin H. Johnson AMS-50
Fellowship in 2010.

At the University of Oregon and
Western Oregon University, Altstatt taught
courses in music history and in early
music performance. As visiting assistant
professor at Indiana University’s Jacobs
School of Music, she taught survey courses
in medieval music, operatic literature,
chamber music literature, and the music
of Robert and Clara Schumann, and
c-ordinated the Early Music Institute’s
Concertus ensemble in performances of
medieval chant from original
transcriptions.

Altstatt’s primary research interest
is in medieval chant, with a focus on the
music and liturgy of women’s monastic
communities, the music of the medieval
office and the medieval sequence. She
has presented her research at regional
and national meetings of the American
Musicalological Society, the College Music
Society, the Cantus Planus meeting of the
International Musicological Society and
the International Congress on
Medieval Studies. Her publications on the
transmission and performance practices of
the medieval sequence repertoire have
appeared in the volume ‘The Sequences
of Nidaros: A Nordic Retrospect and Its
European Context’ (2006) and ‘Cantus
Planus: papers read at the 13th meeting,

Alison’s works in progress include
a monograph on the music and Liturgy of
Kloster Preetz, an edition of Anna von
Buchwald’s Buch im Chor and a study of
music attributed to the 10th century
composer Reginald of Eichstätt. She is an
active singer of medieval and Renaissance
music and plays the viola da gamba.
The University of Northern Iowa School of Music
Cordially invites you to attend the

31ST ANNUAL
Scholarship Benefit Concert

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2012

Get ready for a celebration as we commemorate the School of Music’s 120-year history on Friday, Sept. 28 at 7:30 p.m.

The evening will be filled with exceptional performances by student and faculty musicians including faculty artists Sean Botkin, John Hines and Randy Grabowski, Northern Iowa Wind Symphony, Varsity Men’s Glee Club, Jazz Band One, UNI Opera Ensemble, Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra, UNI Singers, Concert Chorale, Women’s Chorus and more!

As always, the end of the concert is only the beginning of the festivities. Plan to stay for excellent hors d’oeuvres and a champagne reception in the lobby, as well as post-show music featuring School of Music faculty artists in Davis Hall.

You won’t want to miss it!

BECOMING A SPECIAL DONOR

The Scholarship Benefit Concerts have been raising scholarship funds for exceptionally talented music students and students in need since 1982. In addition to the income from tickets sales for the concerts, we have developed a network of community, small business, corporate and university-related donors. The extent of this support has been most gratifying to the students and faculty at UNI’s School of Music.

To allow us to continue the support we have provided in the past, please consider becoming a special donor*. Donor categories are as follows:

President’s Circle – $5,000 or more (up to 40 complimentary tickets available at this level of giving)
Dean’s Circle – $2,000 to $4,999 (up to 12 complimentary tickets)
Director’s Circle – $1,500 to $1,999 (up to 8 complimentary tickets)
Underwriters – $1,000 to $1,999 (up to 6 complimentary tickets)
Guarantors – $500 to $999 (up to 4 complimentary tickets)
Patrons – $300 to $499 (up to four complimentary tickets)
Benefactors – $150 to $299 (up to two complimentary tickets)

To become a special donor and receive complimentary tickets, contact the School of Music office #72 Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center by calling 319-273-2025.

All seats for the benefit concert are reserved. The final date for adding names to the special donor section of the acknowledgement page of the benefit concert program is Friday, Sept.14, 2012.

Individual tickets* may be purchased in person at the Gallagher-Bluedorn box office, by calling 319-273-4TIX or 877-549-SHOW (7469) or by visiting us online at www.unitix.uni.edu.

*All contributions and ticket costs for the Scholarship Benefit Concert are tax deductible less $5 for each person receiving champagne and hors d’oeuvres.

THANK YOU TO THE “SPECIAL DONORS” FROM THE 2011 SCHOLARSHIP BENEFIT CONCERT

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Guarantors - $500 or more
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Patrons - $300 or more
Angeleita Floyd &amp;amp; Scott Cavetti
Bill &amp;amp; Mary Shepherd
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Joyce A. Gault
Lee &amp;amp; Margo Nicholas
Marlela Matheson
Martha Holvik

You won’t want to miss it!

University of Northern Iowa
Success Stories: Community Outreach Programs at UNI School of Music

The UNI School of Music celebrated another wonderful year of helping to create and sustain a vibrant, musical presence in the Cedar Valley community. Our ongoing outreach programs span all ages, all abilities and experiences and cater to many interests. Community members are always sure to find a musical opportunity to suit their lifestyle. The UNI Suzuki School, UNI New Horizons Band, Kindermusik, UNI Children’s Choir and UNI Community Music School are bringing music to the lives of many eager community musicians.

The UNI Suzuki School continues to provide a variety of experiences and opportunities for both Suzuki and UNI School of Music students. Two School of Music graduate students were an integral part of the school’s activities in 2011-12. Graduate student Michaela Gansen joined the school as an intern with duties including teaching group and individual lessons, developing instructional materials, researching instructional methods and assisting with the administration of school activities. Graduate student John Holloway developed and taught a theory course for the older Suzuki students and helped develop a collaborative chamber music project with CMS and the Suzuki School.

UNI Opera and the GBPAC present ‘The Magic Flute’

In January, UNI Opera (Sandra Walden, director) and the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra (Rebecca Burkhardt, conductor) performed the perennial Mozart favorite, Die Zauberflöte (The Magic Flute). The production was produced with the Gallagher Bluedorn, and was featured as part of its Artist Series. "We were thrilled to be back in the Great Hall this year," Walden said. "I think the Great Hall was born to be an opera stage – the acoustics are superb, and scope of the stage and house are perfectly suited for the grand scale of opera."

"We made the decision with this production to sing in German, but to speak the dialogue in English. So, while Corey Barrett (vocal coach) worked tirelessly with the singers on their German diction and understanding of the language, I wrote an original English libretto," Walden continued. "I wanted to find a way to make sense of a mixed language production, and I also wanted to significantly expand the roles of the Three Spirits, in order to give more singers the opportunity to have principal roles in the production. The Three Spirits became narrators, moving between our world and the world of the opera, making it clear that, although it is Mozart with deeply profound music and ideas, Die Zauberflöte is also a comedy!"

Singers in principal roles were double-cast (ranging from sophomores to graduate students), including Mackenzie Whitney and Juan Ahumada as Tamino, Samantha Kantak and Kaethe Henning as Pamina, and Megan O’ Brien and Valeria Kishunus as Queen of the Night. The role of Sarastro was sung by faculty artist John Hines.

"We were also thrilled to have the Men’s Glee Club (John Wiles, conductor) join us," Walden added. "Mozart wrote stunning music for the priests’ chorus, so the Glee Club very graciously agreed to be our Chorus of Priests. It was thrilling to see more than 80 men on stage, in costume and to hear the fullness of their sound in that music. It was a spectacle, in the best sense of the word!"

The School of Music opera program and orchestra will collaborate with the Gallagher-Bluedorn production crew again in spring 2013 when they will offer an Opera Gala.

Editor’s note: Thank you to Sandi Walden for her assistance and contribution to this article.

University of Northern Iowa
Student Awards

The UNI School of Music proudly recognizes last year’s competition winners and acknowledges the many honors and awards that our students have earned.

At our 2012 Spotlight Series Performance Competition Finals, Stephanie Opas, clarinet, was named the 2012 Presser Scholar and awarded the $4,800 Presser Foundation Award. Opas is a third year music education major and she plays clarinet in the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra and UNI Wind Symphony, which recently toured northern Italy. She also performs with JOES Clarinet Quartet and the UNI Clarinet Ensemble. Stephanie is a student member of the National Association for Music Education and Iowa Bandmaster’s Association. She is also an active member and Peer Group Leader of the UNI Honors Program.

The $2,000 Charles and Marleta Matheson Award was awarded to Betty Kreassig. flute. Betsy is a third year double major in music education and flute performance. She previously studied with Amy Sams and is currently a student of Angeleita Floyd. Betsy is a member of the UNI Wind Symphony, the Northern Iowa Flute Choir and the flute quartet Flutastic Four. She was the founding president of the UNI student chapter of the Iowa Bandmasters Association and is currently the UNI School of Music Tech Student Supervisor.

Gabe Scheid, alto saxophone, was awarded the $1,000 Myron and Ruth Russell Award for his performance of Ibert’s Concertino de Camera, 1st movement. Gabe is a third year jazz studies major from Sioux City. He performs with the UNI Wind Symphony and Jazz Band One, along with other groups including the UNI Saxophone Quartet and the Jazz Band Four Jazz quartet. Gabe serves as the jazz chairman for the School of Music Student Advisory Board, is a member of the student recording studio and is an office holder in the music fraternity Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia.

The People’s Choice Award, voted on by the audience at the Concerto Competition Finals Concert each spring, was awarded to Sarah Draffen, soprano. Draffen is a third year vocal performance major. She sings in the UNI Concert Chorale and has been an active member of the UNI Opera Ensemble since starting at UNI.

She is a two year division winner of the National Association of Teachers of Singing Auditions as well as a recipient of the Fort Dodge Choral Society Scholarship. She is also the School of Music representative to the Dean’s Student Advisory Board.

In the Graduate Division, Mackenzie Whitney of Cedar Falls earned second place; Whitney is a student of Jeff Brich.

In the Senior Women Division, Ashley Armstrong of Winterset took first place honors; Armstrong is a student of John Hines. Samantha Kantak of Webster City earned second place honors in the Senior Women Division; Kantak is a student of Jean McDonald. In the Senior Men Division, Eric Etcheberge of Waterloo earned second place; Etcheberge is a student of John Hines. In the same division, James Healy of Jefferson earned third place; Healy is a student of Jean McDonald.

In the Junior Men Division, Rhys Talbot of Cedar Falls took first place; Rhys is a student of John Hines. Sarah Draffen of Reinbeck earned first place in the Junior Women Division; Draffen is a student of Jeffrey Brich.

Joey Spivey of Pleasant Hill took second place honors in the Sophomore Men Division; Spivey is a student of Leslie Morgan. In the Sophomore Women Division, Kayla Kjeldeeh of Sioux City earned third place; Kayla is a student of Jean McDonald.

In the Freshman Men Division, Colin Wilson of Iowa City earned first place; Wilson is a student of Leslie Morgan. Additional student accomplishments include:

David Hoobler was awarded the Beth Gilbert Excellence in Music Education Scholarship award. This scholarship is awarded to a student who demonstrates superior teaching abilities and great potential as a future music educator. The recipient is selected by the UNI Music Education faculty.

Senior Rebecca Buseman (B.A. music and accounting) from the piano studio of Dmitri Vorobiev was first place in the MTNA Young Artist Competition state round. She advanced to the regional round in Boulder, Col. in January.

Abi Coffier, second year graduate student (M.M. flute performance), was recently selected as the second alternate in the National Flute Association (NFA) Young Artist Competition.

Student award recipients (L to R) Sarah Draffen, Gabe Scheid, Stephanie Opas and Betty Kreassig.

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Gabe Scheid, alto saxophone, was awarded the $1,000 Myron and Ruth Russell Award for his performance of Ibert’s Concertino de CAMERA, 1st movement. Gabe is a third year jazz studies major from Sioux City. He performs with the UNI Wind Symphony and Jazz Band One, along with other groups including the UNI Saxophone Quartet and the Jazz Band Four Jazz quartet. Gabe serves as the jazz chairman for the School of Music Student Advisory Board, is a member of the student recording studio and is an office holder in the music fraternity Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia.

The People’s Choice Award, voted on by the audience at the Concerto Competition Finals Concert each spring, was awarded to Sarah Draffen, soprano. Draffen is a third year vocal performance major. She sings in the UNI Concert Chorale and has been an active member of the UNI Opera Ensemble since starting at UNI.

In November, 2011, Abi Coffier, flute, was awarded the top honor at the UNI School of Music Instrumental Concerto Competition Finals. In the summer of 2006, Miyawaka Young Artist Abi Coffier was nationally recognized when she won first place in the National Flute Association (NFA) High School Soloist Competition in Pittsburgh. She was also honored with the NFA’s Best Performance of Newly Commissioned Work, as well as the Geoffrey Gilbert Scholarship. Since then, Abi has won competitions including Mid-South Flute Festival’s Young Artist Competition (2010), BachFest (2009) and the Flute Society of Kentucky Young Artist Competition (2009), Abi is a second year M.M. student and graduate assistant studying under Angeleita Floyd.

In addition to our own performance competitions, UNI School of Music students earned numerous other honors throughout the year.

More than 300 students from across the state of Iowa competed in the Iowa State NAIS competition held Oct. 28-29, 2011 at Drake University. Ten UNI School of Music students received honors at the competition.

Instrumental Concerto Competition winner, Abi Coffier.

In the Graduate Division, Mackenzie Whitney of Cedar Falls earned second place; Whitney is a student of Jeff Brich.

In the Senior Women Division, Ashley Armstrong of Winterset took first place honors; Armstrong is a student of John Hines. Samantha Kantak of Webster City earned second place honors in the Senior Women Division; Kantak is a student of Jean McDonald. In the Senior Men Division, Eric Etcheberge of Waterloo earned second place; Etcheberge is a student of John Hines. In the same division, James Healy of Jefferson earned third place; Healy is a student of Jean McDonald.

In the Junior Men Division, Rhys Talbot of Cedar Falls took first place; Rhys is a student of John Hines. Sarah Draffen of Reinbeck earned first place in the Junior Women Division; Draffen is a student of Jeffrey Brich.

Joey Spivey of Pleasant Hill took second place honors in the Sophomore Men Division; Spivey is a student of Leslie Morgan. In the Sophomore Women Division, Kayla Kjeldeeh of Sioux City earned third place; Kayla is a student of Jean McDonald.

In the Freshman Men Division, Colin Wilson of Iowa City earned first place; Wilson is a student of Leslie Morgan. Additional student accomplishments include:

David Hoobler was awarded the Beth Gilbert Excellence in Music Education Scholarship award. This scholarship is awarded to a student who demonstrates superior teaching abilities and great potential as a future music educator. The recipient is selected by the UNI Music Education faculty.

Senior Rebecca Buseman (B.A. music and accounting) from the piano studio of Dmitri Vorobiev was first place in the MTNA Young Artist Competition state round. She advanced to the regional round in Boulder, Col. in January.

Abi Coffier, second year graduate student (M.M. flute performance), was recently selected as the second alternate in the National Flute Association (NFA) Young Artist Competition.

The Power of Purple!

Your UNI Alumni Association is the place for keeping us up to date with what’s going on in your life. Looking for a former classmate? The online alumni directory provides information easily and quickly. Want to get together with a large or small group of your former Panther friends? The Alumni office will help you with that reunion. Know of someone who would benefit from the UNI experience? Share that information with us and the admissions office will swing into action! Or perhaps you would like to help with career advice for a current student, or by talking with your local state legislator.

Whether it’s coming back for Homecoming, a social in your hometown or just sharing your life’s events through the Northern Iowa Today, your UNI Alumni Association is the place to make it all happen. Let us know how we can help. Email info@uni-alum.org, call 888-UNI ALUM or visit www.uni-alum.org.

Alumni Association membership dues provide all these services and more. Join today at www.uni-alum.org!
works written specifically for her and she has premiered and recorded several.

Salvador, the Czech Republic and Portugal.

serves as professor of clarinet at California Clarinetist. Heinen currently

recently at the Aston Magna Early Music Festival, Tafelmusik Baroque Summer

instrument master classes, festivals and

Go Yamamoto coming in September with the arrival of guest artist.

is truly an inspiring path.

masters of music offered students a world of opportunity to find out why choosing music is an on inspiring path.

Many of our guest artists were able to join us thanks to the generosity of the Dorothea and Robert W. Dean Visiting Artist Fund. The School of Music continues to extend its gratitude for the contributions of Dorothea Dean.

September ushered in the arrival of guest percussionist Nani Agbeli. Nani Agbeli is an internationally acclaimed Ghanaian master dancer, and he often gives workshops and performances in traditional drumming and dancing from all tribes in Ghana, West Africa. He received his drum and dance training from his father, Gyamfi Agbeli, who was the chairman of the National Folkloric Company at the Arts Council of Ghana.

The exciting guest artists kept coming in September with the arrival of violinist Go Yamamoto. An acclaimed artist, Yamamoto has performed at period instrument master classes, festivals and workshops throughout North America, including the Bloomingtont Early Music Festival, Tafelmusik Baroque Summer Institute, where he was a featured soloist for two consecutive years, and more recently at the Astor Magna Early Music Festival.

September’s roster of outstanding guest artists wrapped up with a visit by clarinetist Julia Hein. Hein is currently serves as professor of clarinet at California State University, Northridge. As a soloist, Julia Hein has performed hundreds of concerts and recitals around the world including Brazil, Argentina, Salvador, the Czech Republic and Portugal. She has premiered and recorded several works written specifically for her and recently released a CD featuring six new works on the Parma Label.

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Guest artist Barry Green poses for a photo in the Russell Hall lobby.

Bassoonist Maurice Allard. He has recorded extensively with many of the most important period orchestras in Europe today, such as Le Concert Spirituel, and le Petit Bande, and his recently released CD of the Dor 6 Saxonatas for Bassoon has won critical acclaim.

February began with a visit from guest artist Philip Brison. Brison is Director of Music and Organist at the Catholic Cathedral of the Assumption in downtown Louisville, the oldest, largest Catholic cathedral in continuous use in the country. In addition to his duties at the cathedral, Brison is also Chorunmaster for the Kentucky Opera Orchestra. He is an associate professor at the University of LCLEm and has given recitals throughout the United States.

The annual Northern Festival of Bands was held in February with guest conductors Claudio Re and Lázaro Marosi. Re is a visiting assistant professor of music at Kenton College in Ohio, where he conducts symphonic wind ensemble. He has a diploma in trombone performance from theifu core of the University of Florida. Marosi is conductor of the Symphony Orchestra at the University of Central Florida. He studied conducting at the Franz Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest, where he graduated in 2002. He has developed one offering a wide range of orchestral and chamber music throughout Europe, Asia, South America, Africa and the United States. Sturm received his doctorate from Northwestern University and is currently an Associate Professor and Chair of the String Department at Ball State University.

Susan Rider presented a concert of madrigals in March with guest artist Mark Minch. Minch is organist at the First Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The program included music by Palestrina, Hassler, and Vivaldi.

Students were gearing up for midterms and spring break, the School of Music continued to celebrate the artistry of several more incredibly talented guest artists. Guest artist Hans Sturm visited UNI to offer a double bass recital on March 1. Sturm has performed as soloist, chamber, orchestral, jazz and improvisational musician throughout Europe, Asia, South America, Africa and the United States. Sturm received his doctorate from Northwestern University and is currently an Associate Professor and Chair of the String Department at Ball State University.

The final month of the 2011-12 performance season was packed with exciting guest artist performances and programs. Early April welcomed award winning trumpeter Barry “Green” for a guest artist performance. Green, a native Californian, is an instructor at Indiana University, Purdue University and Ector County Independent Schools, and has performed with numerous groups including the New World Symphony, Robert Guillaume and The Moody Blues.

While students were gearing up for midterms and spring break, the School of Music continued to celebrate the artistry of several more incredibly talented guests.

Barry Green poses for a photo in the Russell Hall lobby.

Student 2011-2012 was another exciting year in the School of Music, during which our visiting guest artists and clinicians visiting and sharing their talent and experience with School of Music students and faculty. Through hands-on master classes, performances and interactive discussions, these guests and masters of music offered students a world of opportunity to find out why choosing music is an on inspiring path.

Many of our guest artists were able to join us thanks to the generosity of the Dorothea and Robert W. Dean Visiting Artist Fund. The School of Music continues to extend its gratitude for the contributions of Dorothea Dean.

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A look back at our visiting artist
served as the Principal Bassist of the Cincinnati Symphony for 28 years and professor of bass at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. As former executive director of the International Society of Bassists, he is currently directing a young bassist outreach program for the San Francisco Symphony Education Department. He is currently principal bassist with the California Symphony, the Sun Valley Summer Symphony and active as a bass soloist and teacher.

On April 3, the Jazz Panthers were joined by guest artist Matt Harris, composer and arranger. Harris graduated with a B.M. from the University of Miami and an M.M. from the Eastman School of Music. He moved to Los Angeles after touring, writing, and recording with jazz legends Maynard Ferguson and Buddy Rich. Harris is co-director of Jazz Studies at California State University Northridge, and is a current faculty member at LoyolaU’s Arts summer jazz workshop.

The University of Iowa Faculty Piano Quartet arrived in April to offer a master class for UNI students as well as a recital featuring works by Mozart, Martinu and Dvorak. The quartet features University of Iowa faculty artists Scott Conklin, violin; Elizabeth Oakes, viola; Hannah Holman, cello; and Rene Leucuona, piano.

April 12 and 13 were a treat for music lovers strolling on campus, as the School of Music welcomed visiting artist Karel Keldermans. Keldermans offered a recital performance from the campanile carillon at noon on both days. Keldermans is one of the preeminent carillonneurs in North America. During the past 30 years, he has given carillon concerts all over the world. He was President of the Guild of Carillonneurs in North America for five years, and has released six solo Carillon CDs, as well as a duet CD with Belgian guitarist Wim Brienon.

Support of these artist visits was provided by: The Dorotea and Robert W. Dean Visiting Artist Fund, the College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences and the UNI School of Music.

Guest Artist Series 2012–2013
Don’t miss the upcoming season of wonderful guest artists coming to the UNI School of Music. Join us!

Michael Chandler, music educator
James Miller, trombone
Jeff Nelsen and Bernhard Scully, horns
Arthur Greene, piano
Amy Pfrimmer, soprano
Keith Lemmons, clarinet

Faculty Spotlight: David Rachor

David Rachor, professor of bassoon and internationally published researcher, has spent recent years submerged in the study of historical bassoon and reed making. Rachor recently presented a lecture on Historical Bassoon and Reedwind at the Savory Conference at Bern Conservatory in Switzerland. He also presented a lecture on the dulcian at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. Originally from Philadelphia, Rachor joined the University of Northern Iowa School of Music faculty as professor of bassoon in 1989. He is an internationally recognized scholar and performer on both the modern and period bassoon. Since the early 1990s, Rachor’s career has taken on an increasing international scope. Rachor has traveled throughout Europe, presenting recitals and master classes and historical reed-making seminars at conservatories in Hungary, Switzerland, Belgium, France and the United Kingdom, among others.

Rachor spent 2004–05 on leave in France, where he was visiting guest professor of baroque and modern bassoon at the Conservatoire Nationale Supérieur de Musique et Danse in Paris, as well as professor of baroque bassoon at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et Danse in Lyon. He has presented concerts, recorded and toured internationally on period bassoon with The Consorts Spiritibus, Les Grands Hlustobs and Les Cyclops (France), and with Lyric Baroque (Minneapolis) and the Iowa Baroque Orchestra. A respected author, Rachor has published articles in The Galpin Society Journal (Oxford, England), The Double Reed (the journal of the International Double Reed Society), The FMRH Journal (the publication of the Fellowship of Makers and Researchers of Historical Instrumental and Bandwind) (the publication of the American Band College), and in the Texas Bandmasters’ Journal. With a lifelong commitment to music education, Rachor has presented clinics at the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic, Minnesota Music Educators Association Convention, Tennessee Music Educators Association Convention, Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, and is a frequent faculty member at the American Band College in Ashland, Oregon. Rachor holds bachelor of music and bachelor of music education degrees from Peabody College in Nashville, Tenn., and masters and doctor of music degrees from Indiana University. Before his appointment to UNI, Rachor was assistant professor of bassoon and chamber music at Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville. He has served as principal bassoon of the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony and the Cedar Rapids Symphony, and is currently principal bassoon with the Des Moines Symphony.

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Korey Barrett, assistant professor of vocal coaching and collaborative piano
Co-created a new opera company in San Diego called Opera Neo with colleague and Artistic Director Peter Kozma.
Appeared as pianist at the Cedar Valley Chamber Music Festival and many UNI performances.
Served as President of the UNI chapter of Pi Kappa Lambda National Music Honor Society.

Tom Barry, assistant professor of oboe and saxophone
Performed on oboe/English horn for Johnathy Mathis, and as principal oboist with the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony.
Appeared as clinician at the Northern Festival of Bands and the All State Wind, Brass and Percussion Workshops at UNI.
Served as audio recording/sound engineer on 4 events and 2 professional live and studio recordings in 2011–12.

Sean Botkin, associate professor of piano
Performed with the Iowa City Symphony Orchestra at the Ravinia Festival in August 2012 (see pg. 4).
Served as faculty member of the Sixth Aloha International Piano Festival in Honolulu, Hawaii.
Performed several concerts at UNI, throughout Iowa and Minnesota and with Orchestra del Teatro Lirico di Cagliari, Italy.

Melinda Boyd, assistant professor of music history
Presented two research papers as part of the UNI lecture series that she founded titled Musically Speaking: Lectures in Musicology, Music Theory, and Ethnomusicology.

Jeff Brich, instructor in applied voice
Cultivated many honors and achievements earned by students in his studio.
Featured as soloist at “A Night at the Opera” concert with Waterloo Met Chorale and Orchestra, as well as the Cedar Falls Municipal Band and the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony Orchestra.
Served on several School of Music committees.
Christopher Bukholz, assistant professor of trombone
Released a new album titled “La Albéniz” on Albany Records in December 2011.
Appeared as trombonist with the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony Brass Quintet, the Cedar Rapids Symphony, Cedar Falls Municipal Band and Pierson Big Band and Johnny Mathis.
Celebrated five years of service at UNI this year.

Julia Bullard, associate director of graduate studies and associate professor of viola and theory
Awarded the Veridian UNI Community Engagement Award in April 2012.
Presented a concerto performance, master class and music education workshop at University of Caxis do Sul in Brazil.
Established the group Trio 826 and offered performances with the group in Iowa, Italy, and Switzerland.

Rebecca Burkhardt, professor of music and conductor of the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra
Served as master teacher at a two-day intensive conducting clinic in San Paolo, Italy.
Appeared as conductor and music director for several UNI and Iowa community productions including “The Magic Flute,” “The Music Man” and more.

Theresa Camilli, assistant professor of piano pedagogy and music education
Served as editor of Iowa Music Teachers Association magazine, and as executive board member of the Iowa Music Teachers Association.
Created a pedagogy workshop for local teachers to attend titled How To Teach Technique and Artistry to Beginners and Beyond.

Jonathan Chenoweth, associate professor of cello
Coordinated and performed in several community outreach performances in the Cedar Valley, and appeared as guest clinician at the Osakalou Junior Chamber Festival.
Served as pianist for two university workshops and celebrated 20 years of service to UNI this year.

Kevin Droe, assistant professor of music education
Published his article “The Effect of Score on Band Directors’ Written Comments of a Recorded Performance” in Journal of Band Research.
Offered three research presentations including his paper: “What We Know: Effect of Feedback, Motivation and Attribution” presented at Society for Music Teacher Education Conference in Greensboro, N.C.
Appeared as guest conductor and clinician at six Iowa high schools and middle schools in 2011-12.

Angeletta Floyd, professor of flute
Appeared as a guest artist at flute festivals in Costa Rica and Ecuador and as conductor of the Professional Flute Choir at the 39th Annual Convention in Charlotte, N.C.
Published the article “Looking Back: The NFA in Columbus” in The Flutist Quarterly, winter 2012.

Celebrated 25 years of service at UNI this year.

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Jeffery Funderburk, assistant professor of tuba/euphonium
  • Composed and performed a new work with Sandy Nordahl titled Para Logo Electronic
  • Performed as second tuba on the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony Orchestra’s performance of Symphony Fantastique.
  • Served as chair of the UNI Faculty Senate, the Presidential Five Year Review Committee as a representative of the College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences on several committees.

Danny Galyen, assistant professor of music education and director of the UNI Marching and Symphonic Bands
  • Designed, directed and conducted more than 75 performances in 2011-12, including performances of his original drill designs and arrangements by the UNI Panther Marching Band.
  • Served on five committees and chaired one committee at UNI, and appeared as guest clinician at eight events throughout Iowa during the academic year.
  • Released compact disc recording of the UNI Band’s “Cat Scratch Fever,” August 2011.

Randy Grabowski, professor of trumpet
  • Appeared as trumpet soloist and principal trumpeter with the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony Orchestra and the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony Brass Quintet.
  • Performed with Mannheim Steamroller, Johnny Mathis, the Harry James Orchestra, Rod Pierson Big Band and the Metropolitan Chorale.
  • Celebrated 25 years of service at UNI this year.

Robin Guy, professor of piano
  • Performed at the Interlochen Arts Camp, and in New York, Missouri, Michigan and North Carolina in addition to more than 70 student recitals, competitions, recordings and seminars at UNI in 2011-12.
  • Served as chair of the keyboard division, and as member of eight School of Music committees.

Frederick Halgedahl, assistant professor of violin
  • Served as chairman of the School of Music Professional Assessment Committee.
  • Performed several recitals and concerts at UNI and throughout the Cedar Valley including performances at the Cedar Valley Chamber Music Festival and the GBPAC’s Crème de la Crème.
  • Celebrated 26 years of service at UNI this year.

John Hines, assistant professor of voice
  • Performed a series of six concerts throughout northern Italy while on tour with the UNI Wind Symphony and presented a guest artist recital at the Herzen State Pedagogical University in St. Petersburg, Russia.
  • Served as voice division chair in 2011-12.
  • Celebrated five years of service at UNI this year.

Randy Hogancamp, associate professor of percussion
  • Coordinated several outreach percussion performances including a percussion ensemble and West African drum ensemble performance at the Iowa Percussive Arts Society Days of Percussion event in Iowa City.
  • Performed on several concerts including a timpani duo with adjunct faculty artist Matthew Andreini and a djembe solo with UNI Jazz Band One.
  • Served as host to guest artist Nani Agebli.

Ronald Johnson, professor of instrumental music
  • Appeared as conductor of the Northern Iowa Wind Symphony and led the ensemble on a 10-day tour of northern Italy.
  • Served as chair of the division of large ensembles and conducting.
  • Coordinated the 30th anniversary reunion of Wind Symphony alumni and the 2012 Northern Festival of Bands.

Amanda McCandless, assistant professor of clarinet
  • Performed as soloist on a series of six concerts throughout northern Italy while on tour with the UNI Wind Symphony.
  • Organized a faculty and student chamber music recital featuring works by Dan Welcher during the composer’s two-day residency at UNI.

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• Presented guest recitals and master classes in Wisconsin and New Mexico.
• Jean McDonald, professor of voice
  • Performed as soloist with the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra on excerpts from Emily Dickinson Songs by Copland in November 2011.
  • Appeared as adjudicator for the senior level competition at the Rochester Music Festival Competition.
  • Served as member of several university committees, and offered master classes and lessons during the 2011 UNI Vocal Arts Festival.

Christopher Merz, professor of jazz studies
  • Performed with numerous ensembles across Iowa including the Hands of Time quartet, Equilateral and Eric Thompson and the Talented Tenth in 2011-12.
  • Published his big band composition "Incident @ Perkins" on Walrus Music.

• served as professor, conductor, and composer on the critically acclaimed UNI Jazz Band One release “Let Go.”

Dayn Meyer, instructor and conductor of chamber music
  • Coordinated the 2011 Vocal Arts Festival.
  • Appeared as conductor or pianist at more than 15 performances in 2011-12.
  • Served as member of School of Music committees including music education division and the division of large ensembles and conducting.

Leslie Morgan, associate professor of voice
  • Served on several professional committees in the School of Music in 2011-12.
  • Supported many honors and achievements earned by students in her studio.
  • Celebrated 25 years of service at UNI this year.

David Rachor, professor of bassoon and saxophone
  • Presented a lecture on Historical Bassoon Acoustical Model at the Savary conference in Canada; Sarasota, Fla.; and Pilsen, Czech Republic.
  • Performed recitals in Yellowknife, Canada; Saratoga, Fla.; and Pištin, Czech Republic.
  • Presented master classes at UNI and in Ames, Iowa, as well as Canada and the Czech Republic.
  • Received a two-month summer fellowship to record an album of music by Franz Liszt on the Blue Griffin label.

Sandra Welden, assistant professor of opera and musical theatre direction
  • Directed the UNI Opera Ensemble in the stage production of the Zuberfollie.
  • Welden also wrote an original English libretto for the production.
  • Served as member of several School of Music committees including the Scholarship Benefit Concert committee.

Jonathan Schrabe, professor of composition/theory
  • Celebrated the performance of his original compositions and arrangements at the November 2011 faculty recital of Jeffrey Brich and the September 2011 Scholarship Benefit Concert at UNI, as well as the premiere of his work “A Tall Cometa Vagabonde” at the World Saxophone Congress in Scotland in July 2012.
  • Coordinated five recitals at UNI as well as a weekly composition seminar.
  • Served as member of 11 School of Music committees, and as a member of the Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP).

Yung-Ting (Tina) Su, associate professor of horn
  • Published her arrangement of “Three Bizet Songs” for horn and piano on Veritas Music Publications.
  • Performed as guest artist in New York and Taiwan, and was featured on Iowa Public Radio in October.
  • Celebrated five years of service at UNI this year.

Michelle Swanson, instructor of music education
  • Directed and conducted the UNI Children’s Choir in 2011-12.
  • Appeared as guest conductor for the Iowa Choral Directors Elementary Choir in central Iowa.
  • Coordinated and hosted several music education workshops in the School of Music, and appeared as accompanist at several seminars and recitals at UNI.

John Valentine, professor and director of the School of Music
  • Served as a National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) Visiting Evaluator at Florida Gulf Coast University, Ft. Myers, Fla.
  • Celebrated as Commencement marshal for the fall and spring Commencement exercises at UNI, and represented UNI at the ACDA/IAMM Festival in April.
  • Celebrated 20 years of service at UNI this year.

Dmitri Vorobiev, assistant professor of piano
  • Performed recitals in Yellowknife, Canada; Saratoga, Fla.; and Pištin, Czech Republic.
  • Presented master classes at UNI and in Ames, Iowa, as well as Canada and the Czech Republic.

Alan Schmitz, associate director of undergraduate studies and professor of music theory and composition
  • Coordinated the 30th anniversary reunion of Wind Symphony alumni and the 2012 Northern Festival of Bands.
  • Presented a guest artist recital at the Herzen State Pedagogical University in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Robert Washut, professor of jazz studies
  • Performed as guest soloist with the South Dakota State University Jazz Ensemble and was a clinician for the annual SOSU Jazz Festival in April.
  • Composed the 2011 Iowa All-State Jazz audition etude and two new compositions/arrangements commissioned by Trio 826 and the Sioux City North High School.
  • Appeared as pianist, director and music director with Orquestra Alza Mai and as guest pianist at a dozen more events throughout the Midwest.

John Wiles, assistant professor of choral conducting
  • Conducted the Varsity Men’s Glee Club and led the ensemble on a 10-day tour of Austria and Germany.
  • Appeared as conductor or chorus master for more than a dozen performances at UNI in 2011-12, including four performances as part of the new Bach Eintata Series which Wiles coordinated.

• Served as men’s choir repertoire and standards chair for the Iowa Choral Director’s Association and as member on several School of Music committees.

The School of Music is always excited to hear from our exceptional retiree professors. We continue to see the lasting effect of their years of dedication and service to our students, and are happy to bring you news on a few of them and their current projects and travels.

Marlieta Matheson – Marlieta wrote to us to share stories of her travel this year. She spent Christmas in Hawaii with her son Davis. Matheson also spent time in California visiting with UNI alumni Jia Hyeong Koo, (B.M. ’85, M.M. ’88); Renee Rapier (B.M. ’09, M.M. ’11); and Sheri Jacobson (B.A. ’81, M.M. ’88). In the fall, Marlieta visited Kansas City and spent time with alumna JoDee Davis (B.M. ’80, M.M. ’85). She has enjoyed attending the HD Met Opera performances at the College Square theatres, and worked on improving her golf game this summer.

Bill Shepherd – Bill wrote to let us know that he continues to keep busy as a performer, conductor, arranger and music educator. Bill performed with the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony and presented the second Bill Shepherd Big Band Christmas Concert in Cedar Falls in December. His Dixieland band “Red Hots” also performed at the grand opening of the Waterloo Riverfront Pavilion. In summer 2012, Bill conducted the Waterloo Municipal Band in eight concerts. Additionally, Bill observed student teachers throughout the academic year, and coordinated the 27th annual Iowa trombone workshop.

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School of Music

The School of Music always loves to hear from our graduates. Success stories, new projects, and upcoming performance highlights are all welcome and celebrated. Please take a moment to check out what your former classmates and fellow alumni have been up to recently!

1940s

1948 Rose Irene (Maiden) Beistd, B.A., has composed numerous original works in 2011-12, and is continuing work on her recording projects including, “Rose Irene’s Best Yet” and two other projects.

1950s

1950 Patricia (De Koster) Echeberger, B.A., and spouse, Kenneth, celebrated their fiftieth anniversary by taking their family on a 10-day Hawaiian cruise. Patricia remains active in retirement and is in her forty-third year as a Girl Scout leader. She remains active in her church and with teenage granddaughters, and taught swimming for 26 years. Her love of travel has taken her to 48 states and Scotland, Netherlands, Canada, Mexico and Belgium.

1960s

1960 Janice (Gideon) Cuffel, B.A., Marion, Iowa, retired from teaching piano and organ in her private studio as an organist for churches in the Cedar Rapids area, most recently organist and coordinator of music ministries at Cedar Rapids First Presbyterian Church. She was an accomplished in the area, including two years at Kirkwood Community College, and occasional keyboardist with the Cedar Rapids Symphony Orchestra. She is married to Gary G. Cuffel, B.A., M.A., ’59, retired industrial tech teacher at Cedar Rapids Kennedy High School.

1970s

1973 James Pain, B.M., served as chief sound engineer on a recording project for the Taipei Jazz Orchestra in Taiwan.

1980s

1983 Arthur Baumgartner, B.A., and spouse, Kenneth, celebrated twenty years of marriage. He served as chief sound technician for the Alice in Wonderland production in 2011-12, and is continuing work on his recording projects including, “Rose Irene’s Best Yet” and two other projects.

1990s

1990s

1999 Thomas Blakeman, B.M., is a tenor with the Great American Symphony Orchestra. He is married to Sarah Blakeman, and they reside in Coralville, Iowa.

2000s

2001 Kyle Albertson, B.M., is an assistant professor of music at Western Michigan University. He is married to Jennifer Albertson, and they reside in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

2010s

2010s


2013 Anna (Osborne) Gribbins, B.M., is active in the Temecula Valley Music Teachers Association of California (TVMTA) and is a state adjudicator for MTAC’s Certificate of Merit program. She and spouse Arnold have a four-year old granddaughter.

2014 Patricia (Cahoy) Cunningham, B.M., is active in the Temecula Valley Music Teachers Association of California (TVMTA) and is a state adjudicator for MTAC’s Certificate of Merit program. She and spouse Arnold have a four-year old granddaughter.

2015 John Haas, B.M., is an assistant professor of music at Western Michigan University. He is married to Jennifer Albertson, and they reside in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

2016 Callie Stone, B.A., is a freelance book editor and writer. She works with World Library Publications and GIA Publications, and is currently writing books and articles for magazine markets. She and spouse Christian welcomed their fourth child in Dec. 2011.

2017 Thomas Blakeman, B.M., is a tenor with the Great American Symphony Orchestra. He is married to Sarah Blakeman, and they reside in Coralville, Iowa.
13–17, 2012. He is currently in the studio of Steven King, and his upcoming engagements include performances on the Lyric Opera of Kansas City’s opening night production of “Turandot” at the new Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts in Kansas City in Oct. 2011. Fish, a bass baritone, was understudy to the reply card in the center of the Northwestern Wind Ensemble, the Omaha Symphony and Dance Academy. She is an alumnus of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the Cleveland Orchestra, and has served on the faculties of Northwestern University, the University of Michigan, Roosevelt University, and the University of California, Los Angeles. Formerly principal trombone with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, he has held since 1999. His previous orchestral experience includes the North Carolina Symphony, the Long Island Philharmonic, and the New York Philharmonic. Miller earned his bachelor of music education degree from the University of Northern Iowa and his master of music degree from the Juilliard School, where he was a scholarship student of Per Brevig. His playing experience includes performances with the Silk Road Ensemble, the Paragon Ragtime Orchestra, Ensemble ST-X, the Michael Bublé Big Band and a variety of jazz, rock, ska and Latin ensembles. He has been a participant in the Mainly Mozart Festival, the Aspen Music Festival and the Ojai Music Festival as well as being featured on the Los Angeles Philharmonic’s Green Umbrella series. As a composer, he has had world premieres in New York’s Lincoln Center and continues to perform his own works in solo performances throughout the country. He serves on the faculty of the California Institute of the Arts and the University of California, Los Angeles.

A native of Iowa, bass trombonist John Engelkes (B.M. ’78) joined the San Francisco Symphony in 1981. Prior to his arrival in San Francisco, Engelkes was a member of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and has also performed with the Minnesota Orchestra. When Engelkes was twenty-two and still an undergraduate, he won a position with the Florida Philharmonic and stayed there for a year, after which he pursued a master’s degree at Northwestern University. At Northwestern, he studied with Frank Crissalu and Edward Kleinhammer with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. While in Chicago, John performed in the Northwest Wind Ensemble, the Northwestern Symphony, the Civic Orchestra of Chicago and the Lagniappe. Engelkes currently serves on the faculty at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and teaches privately. He performs in numerous chamber music ensembles and numerous recording projects.

Mason City, Iowa native Mark Fisher (B.M. ’83) is the assistant principal trombonist with the Lyric Opera of Chicago and serves the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra. Fisher has performed with virtually every major ensemble in Chicago and as a substitute with many of the nation’s leading orchestras, including the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Minnesota Orchestra and the St. Louis Symphony. An accomplished euphoniumist, he is a past prize winner of numerous international solo competitions, and his solo CD “Euphonious” continues to meet with worldwide acclaim. Head of the trombone department at DePaul University, Fisher has presented recitals and master classes throughout the United States, Canada and Japan. He has served on the faculties of Northwestern University, the University of Michigan, Roosevelt University, Northern Illinois University and the Beethoven International Festival. He is an honor graduate of both the UNI and the New England Conservatory of Music.

JoDee Davis (B.M. ’80, M.M. ’85) is associate professor of trombone at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance. She is second trombone of the Santa Fe Opera and a member of the Missouri Brass Quintet. Davis has served on the faculties of Kent State University and Eastern Washington University. Formerly principal trombone of the Spokane Symphony, she has also performed with a number of other orchestras including the Akron, Canton and Youngstown Symphony Orchestras in Ohio, and the Spoleto Festival Orchestra in Charleston, S.C. and Spoleto, Italy. Currently she plays extra with the Kansas City Symphony and the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra. Davis has presented solo recitals and master classes throughout the United States and has performed and given clinics at international trombone festivals, the Eastern Trombone Workshop, the Midwest Clinic, the Arizona Low Brass Symposium and the Ohio and Texas Music Educators Conferences. She is a member of the highly acclaimed trombone quartet PRISMA. Davis received the doctor of music degree in brass literature and performance from Indiana University, and the master of music performance and bachelor of music degree in music education from UNI. She has released a solo album on the Albany Records label entitled “In the Moment” and is an artist/clinician for the Selmer Company.

UNI School of Music is proud to congratulate these four trombonists and all of our performing graduates on their continued professional success!
We were sad to hear of the passing of our past graduates and friends. We send our sympathies to their families and friends.

Parke H. Behn died peacefully in his sleep at his home on Dec. 4, 2011. Parke was a great supporter of UNI and the arts.


Editor’s note: Thank you to Bonnie Farland for assistance in gathering information for this article.

The UNI School of Music wishes to acknowledge one of our extraordinary friends this year. C. Hugh Pettersen is an outstanding supporter of music at UNI. We are excited to share a little bit about him with you.

C. Hugh Pettersen never seeks the limelight, but with a personal history so filled with deeply supportive and groundbreaking efforts in the arts – it’s hard not to shine a light on him. Pettersen, a long-time influential College Hill business owner and resident, has been a supporter of the School of Music and arts in the Cedar Valley for years.

Pettersen owned The Duke, a College Hill men’s clothing store, for many years, and later the Henry W. Myrtle Gallery. He was the founding director of the College Hill Arts Festival, co-founder of the College Hill Neighborhood Association and the College Hill Merchant & Professional Association, and behind such traditions as the annual College Hill tree lighting ceremony. Pettersen was also a board member of the Hearst Center for the Arts, and the Friends of the Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center, where he conceived of the annual Friends fundraiser “Crème de la Crème,” which started in 2001.

Pettersen was recently honored at the 2012 Crème de la Crème event, and the Cedar Falls City Council recently approved naming the Dry Run Creek Plaza on College Hill as Pettersen Plaza in honor of Hugh’s contributions to the community.

The UNI School of Music wishes to extend our warmest thanks to Hugh for his continued support and art advocacy, and we congratulate him on his recent awards and acknowledgments!

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Wind Symphony & Symphonic Band
Ronald Johnson and S. Daniel Galyen, conductors
Friday, Oct. 5, 2012
7:30 p.m., Great Hall - GBPAC

Concert Chorale
Dyan Meyer, conductor
Tuesday, Oct. 16, 2012
7:30 p.m., Great Hall - GBPAC

Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra
Rebecca Burkhardt, conductor
Friday, Oct. 26, 2012
7:30 p.m., Great Hall - GBPAC

Instrumental Concerto Competition Finals
Kevin Droe, coordinator
Monday, Nov. 5, 2012
7:30 p.m., Great Hall - GBPAC

UNI Singers
John Len Wiles, conductor
Tuesday, Nov. 6, 2012
7:30 p.m., Great Hall - GBPAC

Jazz Panthers & Jazz Band III
Robert Washut, conductor
Thursday, Nov. 8, 2012
7:30 p.m., Bengtson Auditorium, Russell Hall

Chimes of Christmas
featuring UNI choral ensembles and orchestra
Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2012
7:30 p.m., Bengtson Auditorium, Russell Hall

School of Music Faculty Artists Showcase
Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2013
7:30 p.m., Great Hall - GBPAC

Tickets for individual concerts will be $10 – adults, $9 – senior citizens, $8 – non-UNI students. UNI School of Music is proud to offer free admission for UNI students with a current ID, thanks to the Panther Pass program.

Tickets and additional information are available by calling 319-273-4TIX or visiting www.unitix.uni.edu. Tickets may also be purchased at the door.