Fall 2010

Rhythms: Music at the University of Northern Iowa, v29, Fall 2010

University of Northern Iowa. School of Music.

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Greetings from the University of Northern Iowa! Our ongoing celebrations, connected with the opening of the newly renovated Russell Hall and the 10-year anniversary of the Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center, have given us time to reflect on the past accomplishments and the vast opportunities available for our future students. Music at UNI has played a significant role in the history of the university, with courses being offered during its founding in 1876. At that time music was part of the Art Department until 1892, when each specialty became its own independent department. Change, which was apparent from those early days, continues as the School of Music joins a newly formed College emanating from the consolidation of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts and the College of Natural Sciences. We feel very fortunate that our new Dean, Joel Haack, formerly the Dean of the College of Natural Sciences, is a pianist; and Provost Gloria Gibson, who appointed him, is also a pianist. While President Ben Allen is not a pianist, we felt fortunate to have an economist at the helm during one of the most challenging fiscal times in the history of the university. UNI has continued to move forward because of strong leadership, dedicated faculty members, quality students and many generous supporters.

While our strong music education and performance degree programs continue, I’m pleased to report that our faculty have made sweeping curriculum changes to enhance the Bachelor of Arts degree program. Beginning this fall, students may select the general B.A., Jazz Studies, Music Technology, String Pedagogy or Performing Arts Management tracks. These new B.A. specialities give students more choices and will prepare them for professional careers and changes occurring in the 21st century. The faculty will maintain the high quality musicianship standards expected of traditional B.A. students, while offering a diversity of new courses available to all musicians.

One of the highlights for the School of Music this year included a major performance presented during the visit of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet. UNI student performing ensembles and faculty conductors were involved in a special large-scale music composition as part of the Dalai Lama’s keynote address. Faculty composer Jonathan Schwabe wrote and premiered the new composition and dedicated it to the Dalai Lama. His Holiness lauded the standing ovation performance by bringing the composer back on stage for special recognition.

Experiences like the Dalai Lama performance continue to motivate students to dream about future possibilities and the events that will shape or enhance their lives. Inside this newsletter, you will read about the continuing accomplishments of our students, alumni and faculty. From teachers in the public schools, to those performing music locally, nationally, or around the globe, you will find that we are proud of their ongoing successes.

Our UNI student enrollments are strong and high quality music-making continues to be our trademark. We look forward to our leadership role as the “music education” school in the state of Iowa and the United States. Our stellar performances and expanding liberal arts programs will continue to serve in our school’s role as a national model of excellence.

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

Sincerely,

John Vallentine, Director

UNI President Ben Allen and Provost Gloria Gibson present His Holiness the Dalai Lama with an honorary doctorate.

John Vallentine, Professor & Director
Composer and UNI School of Music professor Jonathan Schwabe presented the world premiere of a new composition titled, “Follow” at the May 18 keynote address by His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama at the McLeod Center on the UNI campus.

Schwabe currently serves as Professor of Theory and Composition in the School of Music at UNI. His composition was inspired by a verse titled “Joy” one of 423 verses of the Dhammapada—a masterpiece of Buddhist literature—and written in honor of this once-in-a-lifetime visit by His Holiness to the Cedar Falls area. Schwabe’s compositions have been featured at the Spoleto Festival, the Eastman School of Music, the Society of Composer's Midwest Festival and the Kennedy Center as well as dozens of performances in Cedar Falls.

The performance featured over 200 UNI music students from the UNI Men’s Glee Club, Concert Chorale, UNI Singers, UNI Children’s Choir and the Northern Iowa Wind Symphony. The student musicians performed under the baton of conductor Ronald Johnson, who has served in the School of Music as Professor of Instrumental Conducting for over 25 years. He has appeared as a guest conductor throughout the U.S. and in Switzerland, Hungary, Italy, China, Germany, Hong Kong and Israel.

The combined choirs and Wind Symphony were met with roaring applause and accolades following the performance. The Dalai Lama himself was so moved by the piece that, after accepting the original score as a gift from Schwabe, he presented Schwabe with a white scarf and bowed to him in thanks. The performance was an awe-inspiring experience for all student and faculty musicians involved.
The UNI Varsity Men’s Glee Club launched a celebration of its 50-year anniversary with a thrilling tour to Italy this spring. The group of students and alumni traveled through Rome, Venice, Florence and more on their ten-day adventure, enjoying the sights, sounds and culture of Italy. Most notably, the group was offered the honor of performing several pieces for the mass at St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome including “Salvation is Created,” “Promised Land,” “Dona Nobis Pacem,” and “Ave Maria.”

Reflecting on the tour, Glee Club member Ian Goldsmith stated, “Someone once said, ‘Life is not about the number of breaths you take; it’s about the moments that take your breath away.’ If that is true, then I’m sure many of the men in the University of Northern Iowa Glee Club have never felt more alive than during the 2010 summer trip to Italy.”

While their Glee Club brothers were touring the Italian countryside, several members stayed here in Iowa and were able to join the combined School of Music choir that performed at the May 18 visit of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama. Both the men on tour and those at home in Iowa were thrilled to be a part of these once-in-a-lifetime experiences.

Because the UNI Varsity Men’s Glee Club turns 50 years old in 2010, the men are planning a celebration worthy of this historic achievement, set for the first weekend in December 2010. All Glee Club alumni and friends are invited. Please visit the Glee Club web site for more information at www.unigleeclub.com.

Editor’s note: Thank you to Paul Marlow and Ian Goldsmith for their contributions to this article.
UNI alumnus John Hagen (B.M. '87) began a wild ride in the summer of 2009 when his newly formed trio, the “Texas Tenors,” auditioned for the popular NBC television series “America’s Got Talent.” A few months later, Hagen was performing live for millions on national television, where the Texas Tenors out-performed the competition landing them in the top four finalists of the competition.

Hagen wrote to his devoted fan base regarding the experience, noting that “Through your continued support we were able to make it through every level of last year’s ‘America’s Got Talent’ all the way to fourth place out of 100,000 acts. It’s a dream come true.”

Following his success on the show, Hagen continued touring with the Texas Tenors and had the exciting honor of performing for the Van Cliburn Foundation in Fort Worth, Tex. Reflecting on the experience, Hagen seemed awestruck, “We performed a concert on Van Cliburn Way in front of the Kimball Art Museum in Fort Worth. Mr. Cliburn was so moved that he came onto the stage in the middle of our concert and gave an impromptu speech regarding the union of art and music and the passion with which we were singing.” Hagen also proudly credits the School of Music throughout his travels, noting, “I was asked three times that night where I went to school and was proud to say the University of Northern Iowa!”

This summer, Hagen and the other Texas Tenors embarked on a cruise charter through CWT Vacations and Royal Caribbean, while their performance calendar was filled with engagements with the Houston Symphony, a tour of the United Kingdom and a visit to Branson, Mo. “America’s Got Talent” wasn’t the first success that Hagen had experienced since his graduation from UNI. John has been described as “astonishing … a superb tenor of deep musicality” making his Lincoln Center debut in New York City in Teatro Grattacielo’s mounting of Mascagni’s Guglielmo Ratcliff. Hagen created three tenor roles in the world premier of The Lost Dauphane for Pamiro Opera airing on PBS. John has performed a vast array of operatic roles ranging from Alfredo in La Traviata to the title role of Otello for Cleveland Opera on tour. John has received many awards and accolades throughout his career including finalist in the New Jersey Opera Association of Verismo Opera competition held at Carnegie Hall, Metropolitan Opera Auditions Regional Finalist, and winner of numerous competitions mounted by the National Association of Teachers of Singing. Hagen is highly regarded for his performances of the Verdi Requiem and Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9 performing these works with the Austin Symphony, Corpus Christi Symphony, Omaha Symphony, Nebraska Chamber Orchestra, Cedar Rapids Symphony, and the Haverford Chorale in Philadelphia to name a few. John has a deep passion for both art and music. He owns and operates the Henry W. Myrtle Art Gallery in Cedar Falls, Iowa.

Editor’s Note: Thank you to John Hagen for his contributions to this article.

Alumnus Jim Linahon Launches New Television Series

UNI School of Music alumnus Jim Linahon ('73) recently launched a new PBS television series Lilly’s Light, a children’s show for 4 to 9 year olds. In May, the program aired in over 20 million households in Boston and the North East United States, with expanded distribution to additional East coast and South East coast markets planned.

Jim Linahon, who serves as music producer and writer for the show, is the President and owner of Linahon Music Productions, a state-of-the-art analog and digital recording facility based in Los Angeles. He has created more than 300 recording projects for film, television, radio, musical theater, and CD/DVDs for a wide range of artists—from Sarah Vaughan to the All American Boys Choir & the London Symphony. An expert in jazz, Linahon started off as a trumpet and flugelhorn player at UNI, graduating with a degree in music in 1973. His full-service music company (LMP Productions) specializes in television and feature films, CDs and DVDs, commercials, industrial films and infomercials. Since 2006 LMP productions has received an impressive 36 Grammy Award nominations.

Linahon, a UNI School of Music advisory board member, recently visited UNI with film director Daniel Carrey to offer a lecture on life in Hollywood and the entertainment industry. Linahon and Carrey are collaborating again on this new series, with Carrey serving as Director on the set of Lilly’s Light.
UNI Alumna Elly Leslie (‘52) recently recorded a CD in the UNI School of Music’s new Schultz Jazz Studio. The CD, titled *Here’s To Us!*, was released in August 2010 and 100 percent of proceeds from the album sales will go to the James Coffin Visiting Artist Jazz Fund at UNI (see below).

The album features songs that are personal to Leslie, who sang in the first UNI jazz program concert in 1951. “The two big band charts on my CD were arranged by Warren Hatfield (‘52), who has been doing charts for me since 1951,” Leslie mused.

Reflecting on the album, which features standards like “Blue Skies,” “It Had to Be You,” and more, Leslie says, “The album is a tribute to the UNI Jazz program, which will be 60 years old in February of 2011. I sang in that first concert, February 28, 1951. Jim Coffin (B.A. ’52, M.M. ’64) played drums. Jim is known as UNI’s Father of Jazz. I’m so excited about this Visiting Artist Jazz Fund named for him, as I know how expensive it is to bring jazz greats to campus and I want to assist in doing so in any way possible.”

Elly felt it was important to make this album to support bringing outstanding visiting jazz artists to UNI, “because it gives the students such great exposure to talent and expertise and longevity.” Leslie continued, “They learn there are many other aspects to a music-based education and occupation than performance alone.”

“Here’s To Us!” means I salute that group of talented and creative students who defied authority and protocol 60 years ago to present a jazz concert on campus. All except one music professor were against our participation and we were all told not to take part. So, now UNI has the longest continuous collegiate jazz program in the nation and I say ‘here’s to us…just look at what we started!’”

The album is available at University Book and Supply, the Waterloo Barnes & Noble Store or by contacting the School of Music office at 319-273-2024 or music@uni.edu.

**Here’s To Us! School of Music Alumna Elly Leslie Releases New Album**

**Giving Back: James Coffin Visiting Artist Jazz Fund**

Many of you have found life-long pursuits, friends and have great memories to cherish from your time spent as part of the Jazz Studies program at UNI. While the road to your careers, families or personal paths moved onward, you were all shaped by your years at Northern Iowa.

It is now time to ask for your help! Your support is vital to ensure the ongoing success of the jazz studies program and the ability to continue to host exceptional guest artists at UNI.

The James Coffin Visiting Artist Jazz Fund was launched in April 2009, after Jim “Big Daddy” Coffin was inducted as the first-ever honoree into the UNI School of Music Jazz Hall of Fame. The purpose of the fund is to support the continued excellence of the UNI jazz program by funding residencies, clinics, and performances from outstanding national and international jazz performers, composers and conductors. For over 50 years, the jazz program at UNI has hosted an exceptional roster of professional visiting artists including Clark Terry, Stan Kenton, Maria Schneider, Kenny Werner, David Sánchez and many more.

Arts Midwest saluted the UNI Jazz Studies Program as “one of the best,” while *All About Jazz* applauded UNI Jazz Band One’s most recent recording *Thinking Globally, Acting Locally*, stating, “UNI has beyond any doubt one of the country’s finest undergraduate Jazz Studies programs, first with the renowned Bob Washut and now (Chris) Merz at the helm, an opinion affirmed by its many awards over the years for big-band excellence.”

It is through the extraordinary educational and performance opportunities provided to our students that this program continues to grow and thrive.

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 319-273-7118 or John Vallentine in the School of Music Office at 319-273-2024.
This year was one of outstanding musical achievement in the UNI School of Music Jazz Division. Fall began with excitement as the Jazz Division performance season opened with a Jazz Combos concert on October 6, followed by the Jazz Band One concert on October 30. Also in October, the Jazz Panthers toured to South East Polk High School to perform at the Honors Band Festival held in the Des Moines area. The Jazz Panthers Spotlight Series Concert followed on November 5, featuring guest artist Steve Owen, saxophone. Owen’s works have been performed by Bobby McFerrin, Dave Weckl, Anne Marie Moss, as well as the nation’s finest college and professional jazz ensembles. A respected educator with an abundance of enthusiasm for music and teaching, Owen has presented clinics at MENC conventions across the nation and has directed All-State jazz ensembles in Arizona, Texas, Nevada, California, Nebraska, and Minnesota as well as Oregon.

The spring 2010 jazz performance season opened with the always stellar Tallcorn Jazz Festival, including the 59th Annual Sinfonian Dimensions in Jazz concerts featuring guest artists the Matt Wilson Quartet. The MWQ, known nationally and internationally, have performed at the Monterey Jazz Festival, the Stockholm Jazz Festival, IAJE Conventions and more. The group, created and led by drummer and Wichita State University graduate Matt Wilson, approached their performance at Tallcorn with a sense of musical vulnerability and even a little danger, encouraging students to feel alive throughout the performance and not to hold back. “We love interacting with the students,” Wilson stated.

On March 23, guest artist and UNI alum JC Sanford visited and encouraged jazz division faculty and student musicians to sit in on a live performance of his original score to the 1925 film Ben-Hur. Faculty members Chris Merz, Tom Barry, Chris Buckholz, Bob Dunn and Bob Washut performed along with student Robert Espe and visiting artists.

The Jazz Panthers continued the string of successful performances on April 22 in Bengston Auditorium, with Mark O’Connor as guest saxophonist as well as a commissioned piece by alumni Ryan Middagh (B.M., ’08).

On April 23 at the Jazz Band One Spotlight Series Concert, the UNI School of Music inducted Bob Shafer (BA ’51, MA ’65) as the third member of the UNI Jazz Hall of Fame. One of the original members of the 1951 UNI (then Iowa State Teachers College) jazz band, Bob served as a music educator in the Waterloo schools for 36 years. During his teaching years, Bob also traveled the fair circuit with Keith Killinger’s group as a lead alto player, backing such stars as Liberace, Sonny & Cher, Bob Hope, Lennon Sisters and the Lawrence Welk group. Bob played bassoon for five years in the Waterloo Symphony, saxophone and clarinet in the Waterloo Municipal Band and also directed the band for three years.

After a successful spring concert and Jazz Hall of Fame Induction, the Jazz Band One also took a turn at touring in May. Under the direction of Chris Merz, the band offered performances at West High School in Iowa City, Iowa, Robbie’s House of Jazz in Webster, Missouri and in St. Louis, Missouri at the Jazz Education Network Conference.

Another year wrapped up 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.
UNI School of Music alumnus Dave Lisik, who received a Master of Music degree in Jazz Pedagogy from UNI in 1998, was recently appointed to the position of Professor of Jazz Composition at the prestigious New Zealand School of Music. He also recently released a recording of original music for jazz orchestra that features several major international jazz musicians. Lisik was kind enough to contact the School of Music while reflecting on the impact that his studies at UNI are having on his career and success.

“I can’t say enough about the jazz situation at The University of Northern Iowa. It is still a major point of reference for much of what I do musically. Two college trips to Chicago, hearing UNI’s Jazz Band One at the Elmhurst College Jazz Festival (and especially hearing the UNI CDs), solidified my interest in attending the school for graduate study. I was initially accepted to UNI as a composition major and jazz teaching assistant. However, it didn’t take more than about five minutes scoping things out on campus to realize the opportunity I’d be missing by not being in the jazz pedagogy graduate program. I applied and switched majors before the first week of classes.

I was fortunate to have attended an undergraduate school that was exceptional in the area of music education, but the jazz education experiences at UNI have become particularly valuable. My success teaching high school band and jazz in Canada had a lot to do with my UNI jazz pedagogy degree. While I started at a high school with more potential than ability, the jazz teaching skills I learned at UNI, especially with the instruments of the rhythm section, allowed me to produce pianists, bass players and drummers who were quickly recognized at regional and national festivals, often needing to start the players from scratch and have them play in the top bands at festivals during the same year. Our jazz bands won gold awards at the national jazz band finals in only their second year of existence and won regional gold awards in the highest category, each of my five years, built almost entirely with the skills I picked up at UNI.”

Editor’s Note: Thank you to Dave Lisik for his contributions to this article.
Get ready for the magic and romance of an evening in Paris! Join us on Friday, September 24 at 7:30 p.m., and get swept away to a land of enchantment while the twinkling lights of the Eiffel Tower shine throughout the Gallagher-Bluedorn lobby!

The concert will feature music by the UNI Opera Ensemble, the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra, Jazz Band One, faculty artists Dmitri Vorobiev, piano, Polina Khatsko, piano, Yu-Ting Su, horn, and the Northern Iowa Wind Symphony with combined choral ensembles 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 music in the lobby, as well as post-show performances featuring School of Music faculty and student musicians in Davis Hall. You won’t want to miss it!

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.

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** -- $2,500 or more (up to 40 complimentary tickets available at this level of giving)
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- **Benefactors** -- $100 to $249 (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, September 10, 2010.
The 2009 Scholarship Benefit Concert marked the 25th anniversary year of University Book & Supply being a special donor. Our most consistent and loyal corporate supporter might already be familiar to many. For over 70 years, University Book and Supply has been serving the University of Northern Iowa and has had a strong history of supporting our community. Corporately and individually, University Book & Supply gives thousands of hours of time and talent to community organizations each year, while they also give of their financial resources to the campus and greater community. In addition to generously supporting and sponsoring the School of Music’s Scholarship Benefit Concert, University Book & Supply extends support to many UNI campus and student activities from scholarships to campus building projects including the Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center, Scholarship Funds, Teaching Awards, Homecoming and numerous student organizations. University Book & Supply also contributes to many community activities and organizations such as American Red Cross, Greater Cedar Valley Chamber of Commerce, Cedar Valley United Way and many, many more.

The supportive presence of University Book & Supply has stretched beyond the already noticeable impact it is having on student scholarships through the Scholarship Benefit Concert, and has also grown to support outstanding non-tenured professors at UNI. This spring, UNI School of Music professor Chris Buckholz, was also honored with a University Book & Supply Outstanding Teacher award.

University Book & Supply President Rose Lorenz stated that, “Because the university seeks to maintain a high level of academics through hiring dedicated professors, UBS offers these awards to uphold that value.”

The UNI School of Music wishes to extend our warmest thanks to our longest-supporting corporate sponsor University Book & Supply and Rose Lorenz!

Editor’s note: Thank you to the Office of University Relations for information used in this article.

There are still many practice rooms, corridors, offices and other spaces throughout Russell Hall that are available for naming opportunities for donors. For more information, please contact Debra Umbdenstock at 319-273-7727.

Donor Spotlight: University Book & Supply

**Thank you to the “Special Donors” from the 2009 Scholarship Benefit Concert**

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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, 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 celebrated its 34th year with the annual spring concert, numerous outreach performances and guest clinicians. The school continues to sponsor two community orchestras, the Northern Iowa Youth Orchestra and the Northern Iowa Junior Orchestra. Membership is by audition.

In 2009-2010, the Suzuki School proudly announced the addition of guitar to the program. Suzuki Guitar Teacher Bob Dunn noted, "After years of consideration, I decided to become a Suzuki Guitar Teacher in the spring of 2009. I knew the program was well-established, both on an international basis and at the UNI Suzuki School and the curriculum was thoroughly tested. I purchased all levels of the books, made an audition video and was accepted for teacher training." Dunn went on to acknowledge his excitement for the program and his commitment to helping the Suzuki Guitar Program to grow and thrive. "As I have become more familiar with the excellent teachers in the UNI Suzuki School, I am constantly impressed with their level of musicianship, their effectiveness with students, and their sincerity and helpfulness to a beginner like myself," Dunn stated, "I have also discovered that Suzuki principles and methods have helped me to be a better teacher of college students and adults. I look forward to further training and to building a Suzuki Guitar Program at UNI that will be worthy of our founder, Martha Holvik."

Regarding the development of the new program, Suzuki School Director Julia Bullard added, "I was so excited when Bob Dunn proposed adding a guitar program to our Suzuki School. Having known Bob as our faculty colleague in the School of Music for several years, I was certain of two things: 1) that he would be a fantastic and devoted Suzuki teacher, as he has been for our college students; and 2) that his warm and caring personality would ensure a quick building of the program." In other Suzuki news, this summer Bullard stepped down as Director in order to accept the position of Associate Director of the School of Music. "For the past seven years, it has been my great privilege to serve as Director of the UNI Suzuki School,” Bullard said, “I feel so fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with my very talented and committed staff, as well as hundreds of wonderful students in our program.” Watch for more news this fall on the newly hired Suzuki School Director and Artistic Advisor.

The UNI Community Music School (CMS) continues to enjoy growth in enrollment and program development. Enrollment for the 2009-2010 CMS programs reached 458 with...
an additional 174 children enrolled in our three summer camps for a grand total of 632 participants during the past year. The CMS mission, “Music Should Last a Lifetime,” is reflected in our curriculum which serves ages three months through senior citizens. These programs include: private lessons (woodwinds, brass, percussion, and piano), Kindermusik, Orff classes, UNI Children’s Choir, and UNI New Horizons Band. We welcome Julie Smith to our CMS Piano Studio teaching staff. We also are pleased to announce the new Recreational Music Making (RMM) classes for adults who want to learn to play the piano in an informal group setting. Nicole Green is the instructor for RMM.

Each area also enjoyed opportunities to share their music with family and friends. Kindermusik and Orff Classes offered an enjoyable opportunity to watch as the children enjoyed dancing, moving, and improvising to a variety of musical styles and rhythms. Our private lesson studios participated in area festivals as well as the CMS fall and spring recitals.

The UNI Children’s Choir experienced another very successful year. The youth ensemble, under the direction of School of Music instructor Michelle Swanson, performed at the Celebrate Singing festival in Ames, and for the Dalai Lama UNI campus visit.

The group continues to offer outstanding musical opportunities for elementary students. It also provides practical opportunities for the volunteer music education students at UNI. “I learned so much,” commented freshman Jordan Lechband. “I even conducted a piece on the concert!” Auditions for the upcoming school year and or performance bookings can be scheduled by contacting Swanson at michelle.swanson@uni.edu.

The Great Hall of the Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center was filled for the New Horizons Band winter and spring concerts (as well as the well-attended and well-loved receptions that followed!).

During our Summer Session, UNI CMS hosted three summer music camps. During Camp Kindermusik, children ages four months through seven years explored music as they rode the “Zoo Train” and went “On The Road.” At Camp Musicmania, campers grades kindergarten through fifth enjoyed learning about the culture and music of China as they prepared for the Camp Musicmania 2010 Musical A Taste of China. New to the CMS Summer Camps was the West African Drumming Expedition. During WADE camp, middle school age campers were led on a trip through time and space to learn about the culture, history, and performance of West African Drumming. They used the UNI West African drums in rehearsals and created their own Dashikis by stamping them with the Adinkra symbols.

Plans are underway to continue the West African Drumming Expedition throughout the upcoming year. UNI Community Music School is committed to the development of a community-based partnership that will both promote and utilize the many resources and facets of cultural diversity at UNI and in the Cedar Valley.

Editor’s note: Thank you to Cathy Craig, Cindi Mason and Michelle Swanson for their contributions to this article.
Opera Program Thrives at UNI

Last April, the UNI School of Music Opera Ensemble presented two one-act operas for the first time in Bengtson Auditorium. The performances were presented under the direction of Sandra Walden, director, and Korey Barrett, vocal coach, and featured the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra led by Rebecca Burkhardt, conductor.

The operas presented were *Riders to the Sea* by Ralph Vaughan Williams and *Prima Donna* by Arthur Benjamin. *Riders to the Sea*, with text from J.M. Synge's play of the same title, told the story of the emotional journey of a family and the forces of the sea. Director Sandra Walden noted that the lives of the characters and their interaction with the sea, "suggest the universal and eternal human struggle to survive in a capricious, somewhat brutal world." Whereas *Riders to the Sea* was a dense, emotional story, Walden mused that *Prima Donna* was, "the battle of the divas!" A lighter piece with playful chaos and dueling sopranos, *Prima Donna* was a delightful closer to the spring opera performances.

Reflecting on launching the first full production in the auditorium, Walden said, "This is our maiden voyage as a producing entity, and it has been exciting to see the scenery unfold onstage."

The UNI Opera Ensemble and voice division host several concerts and performance events throughout the year. We hope that you'll join us in 2010-2011 for the winter opera scenes performance or for the Opera Ensemble’s return to the Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center Great Hall for *Die Fledermaus* in January.

Faculty Spotlight: Jean McDonald

Jean McDonald, Associate Professor of Voice in UNI’s School of Music, has continued to thrive as an adored performer and educator in 2009-2010. McDonald, an active contributor to creative life at UNI, has appeared as a featured soloist in Faculty Showcase and Spotlight Series events, and has performed a broad variety of literature with an emphasis on chamber works, including several premieres. Recent performances have included, Ravel’s *Sheherazade* with the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra, Britten’s *Abraham and Isaac* for the Cedar Valley Chamber Music Festival, and *Il Tramonto* by Respighi with the UNI Faculty String Quartet. In 2006, McDonald showcased the work of faculty colleague and composer Jonathan Schwabe in a premiere of *Anyone Lived in a Pretty How Town* for mezzo soprano and orchestra.

McDonald has appeared as a soloist throughout the region and with several New Music organizations throughout the country. Most recently, McDonald was a guest with the 2008 Mendocino Music Festival in performances of Beethoven’s *Symphony No. 9*. A familiar face to Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony Orchestra patrons, she has appeared with Des Moines Symphony, Cedar Rapids Symphony, Quad-Cities Mozart Festival and the Messiah Festival of Music and Art (Lindsborg, Kan.), in performances of opera, oratorio and song. She holds degrees from the University of Iowa and Simpson College and several competitive honors, including awards from the National Association of Teachers of Singing, the University of Northern Colorado and the National Association of Teachers of Singing Artist Auditions and the District Metropolitan Opera Auditions.

McDonald’s students have earned numerous honors and awards and have secured placement in programs and positions of significant repute throughout the country. In 2009-2010, eight of McDonald’s students took top honors at the National Association of Teachers of Singing competition in Rock Island, Ill. Her students have also placed well in the Schubert Club Scholarship Auditions and have earned positions with the San Francisco Opera program, Des Moines Opera program and more.

For more on McDonald’s award-winning students, see the Student Awards section on page 14. To see McDonald and her students in action in 2010-2011, visit the UNI School of Music and join us for a voice division concert.
School of Music Welcomes New Faculty Members

Joining the School of Music faculty this year are Theresa Camilli, instructor in piano pedagogy and music education, and John Wiles, assistant professor in choral conducting. We are pleased to introduce both of them to you and welcome them to the UNI School of Music.

Theresa Chardos Camilli joined the University of Northern Iowa’s School of Music in the fall of 2010 teaching Group Piano classes and Piano Pedagogy courses. Prior to studying as a doctoral student at the University of Oklahoma, she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and a Bachelor of Music degree in Music Therapy from Loyola University in New Orleans. She completed her Master’s degree in Music Therapy at the University of Iowa and has worked as a board-certified Music Therapist. She is currently completing her dissertation, “Parental and Personal Factors that Predict Length of Piano Study.”

Professor Camilli previously held a faculty position at the University of South Carolina teaching Applied Piano and Piano Pedagogy courses. She also served as the Piano Division Coordinator of USC’s Community Music School. Professor Camilli enjoys teaching students of all ages and abilities in both group and private settings. Active in both the fields of music education and music therapy, Professor Camilli continues to present research at local, regional, and national conferences. Her research interests include areas such as music student’s self-concept, peer teaching, professional development of music therapists and environmental factors that influence piano study.

John Len Wiles is assistant professor of choral conducting at UNI where he conducts the UNI Singers and the Varsity Men’s Glee Club and teaches graduate students in choral conducting. Prior to his appointment at UNI, Wiles was a lecturer and fellow of conducting and ensembles at The University of Texas at Austin where he conducted university choirs and taught courses in conducting, score reading, choral arranging and piano. An active clinician, he has worked with colleges, high schools and middle schools in Arizona, Nebraska and Texas. His choirs have toured internationally to France and Mexico and in 2009, Wiles was invited to conduct the St. Petersburg State Symphony Orchestra (Russia) in a performance of Brahms’ Symphony No. 3.

A tenor, Wiles has sung with professional theaters and opera companies in Arizona, Idaho, Maine and Texas and has appeared as tenor soloist with orchestras in diverse repertoire, including Cavalli’s Missa pro defunctis (Requiem), Monteverdi’s Vespers of 1610, over twenty Bach cantatas, Mozart’s Requiem and more. He has also performed as soloist with the UT Chamber Singers in several recordings for Naxos and Koch International. Wiles is also an accomplished church musician and has served a variety of churches in Arizona and Texas. Marked by diversity, his sacred music experience includes several traditions as well as Anglo-American, Hispano-American and African-American congregations.

John completed a Doctorate of Musical Arts in Choral Conducting at The University of Texas at Austin. Prior to UT, he received Master of Music, Master of Divinity and Bachelor of Music degrees at Baylor University.

Susan A. Akerman ’64 died in 2005.

This fall six music students will be able to attend UNI because Susan took time to imagine the impact she could have in the lives of others.

Your bequest to the UNI School of Music will impact students and may provide you with many benefits, including:

• Your assets remain in your control during your lifetime
• You can direct your bequest to a particular purpose or program
• You can modify your bequest at anytime

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

**Michael Conrad**, a senior majoring in Music Composition/Theory and Music Education with a Jazz Emphasis, was honored when his composition for large jazz ensemble, *Transcen-Dance*, was selected as the first prize winner in the Ithaca College (New York) Jazz Ensemble 2010 Composition Contest. The prize carries with it a cash award, guaranteed publication, and was performed by the Ithaca College Jazz Ensemble at their April concert in the Whalen Center for Music in Ithaca, N.Y.

**Courtney Beadel**, a senior majoring in Music Composition/Theory with a Jazz Emphasis, was a recipient of an American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) Young Jazz Composers Award. The Young Jazz Composers program, established in 2002, was created to encourage gifted jazz composers from throughout the United States. The recipients, who receive cash awards, range in age from 15 to 29, and are selected through a juried national competition.

At our 2010 Spotlight Series Performance Competition Finals, **Rebecca Buseman**, piano, was named the 2010 Presser Scholar and awarded the $4,800 Presser Foundation Award. Buseman performed Frédéric Chopin’s *Sonata No. 2*, Op. 35. Rebecca is majoring in both music and accounting. In high school, she won the Terrace Hill Piano Competition and the Iowa Music Teachers Association (IMTA) State Piano Competition. Last year, she represented the state of Iowa at the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) West Central Young Artist Piano Competition. Currently, she serves as accompanist for the University of Northern Iowa Varsity Men’s Glee Club. Rebecca is a piano student of Professor Sean Botkin.

The $1,500 Charles and Marleta Matheson Award was awarded to **Aaron Hynds**, tuba, who won the judge's panel over with his performance of *Concertino* for tuba and piano by Rolf Wilhelm. Aaron is a music major from Decatur, Ill., pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree and studying tuba performance. He is the recipient of a UNI School of Music Star Scholarship and hopes to continue his studies in tuba performance at the master’s level. He is a student of Jeffrey Funderburk.

**Logan Vander Wiel**, trumpet, and **Isaac Brockshus**, piano, shared the honor and $100 prize. In November 2009, another group of extremely talented students competed for the coveted title of Instrumental Concerto Competition Winner. Both **Angela Reynolds**, flute, and **Tatiana Zueva**, violin, shared the honor as a tie was announced and both were declared the 2009 winners. Angela Reynolds is currently pursuing a Master of Music degree in flute performance at UNI. In 2007, she received her Bachelor of Science degree in Music Performance and Education from Austin Peay State University in Tennessee. At UNI, Angela studies with Angeleita Floyd and participates in the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra and Flute Choir. Formerly, she was a finalist in the 2004 Mid-South Young Artist Competition, and has been awarded second place in the Sigma Alpha Iota National Graduate Performance Awards.

Logan is an Instrumental Music Education Major in trumpet. He has lived in Cedar Falls his entire life. Logan graduated from Cedar Falls High School in 2007. After college he plans on teaching band at the middle- or high-school level. He is a student of Randy Grabowski.

The People’s Choice Award, voted on by the audience at the Concerto Competition Finals Concert each spring, was a tie this year! **Logan Vander Wiel**, trumpet, and **Isaac Brockshus**, piano, shared the honor and $100 prize.
School of Music earns high Honors

With the long list of awards and honors that School of Music students earned this year, it may come as no surprise to learn that many of our students are part of the Honors program at UNI. The purpose of the program is to offer a more challenging, rewarding and engaging experience to UNI students through advanced coursework in liberal arts and other Honors curriculum as well as a final senior thesis/project. The School of Music is proud to congratulate our Honors program students and those who have earned a place on the Dean’s List or as a Dean’s Scholar this year. Scholars are as follow:

Honor’s Program Students:
Leslie Aboud, Ashley Armstrong, Jordan Bancroft-Smith, Kristin Conrad, Zac Cornell, Dylan Freking, Anneliese Gentzsch, Betsy Groat, Sonia Han, David Hoobler, Aaron Hynds, Katlin MacBride, Emily Miller-Todd, Alisa Nagel, David Naylor, Chelsea O’Donnell, Stephanie Opsal, Rebecca Payne, Brooke Peters, Emma Peterson, Samantha Skaalen, Kelsey Staudacher, Amy Stellmaker, Kelsey Terror, Mary Thiry, Jennifer Titus, Nicole Vallentine, Hanna VanHemert, Spencer Walrath, David Wasserman and Ashley Williamson.

Dean’s Scholars:
Any Stellmaker
Nicole Vallentine
Spencer Walrath

The School of Music would also like to congratulate the more than 50 music majors who appeared on the Spring 2010 Dean’s List. To be included on the list, a student must have earned a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale, while taking at least 12 hours of graded work during the semester.

Congratulations to each of the above students on their excellent work!

Aboud was awarded the 2010 Meritorious Scholarship Award. Aboud was also selected to present at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research held in April in Missoula, Mont. Aboud’s research was titled, “Playing Like a Girl: An Analysis of the Role of Gender in Trumpet Performance.”

Allison Offerman, senior oboe student and a student of Tom Barry, performed in a master class given by Humbert Lucareli on Saturday June 26 at the International Double Reed Society’s conference in Norman, Okla. Graduate student Renee Rapier earned second place at the 2010 Schubert Club Scholarship Auditions, St. Paul, Minn. She was also a finalist, and awarded a position with the Merola Young Artist Program at the San Francisco Opera for summer 2010. Rapier recorded a CD with La Donna Musicale that was released in May, and appeared as a soloist with the group in fall 2009 at the Radcliffe Memorial Event, Boston Early Music Festival and Connecticut Early Music Festival. Rapier was also awarded the Young Artist Award by Chautauqua Opera in summer 2009.

Isaac Brockshus, UNI music composition major from the studios of Alan Schmitz and Jonathan Schwabe, was accepted into the Music Composition Class at the Freie Universitat Berlin for a six week summer session taught by well-known composer Samuel Adler. Only 15 students are accepted into this highly regarded class each summer.

Several students represented the School of Music at the Graduate College’s Symposium for Creative Performance in April 2010. Graduate student Billy LeGrand took third place (and earned a $750 award) for the presentation of his research paper titled, “That There Not Pass to the Indies: Examining the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and the Music of Cuba.” Congratulations!

Editor’s Note: At the time of press, no photos were available for Tatiana Zueva.
2009-2010 was another exciting year in the School of Music, filled with exceptional guest artists and clinicians visiting and sharing their talent and experience with School of Music students and faculty. Through hands-on master classes, thrilling performances and interactive discussions, these inspiring guests and masters of music offered students a world of opportunity to find out why choosing music is truly an 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 2009

September ushered in the arrival of guest artists the Oswego Jazz Project. The Oswego Jazz Project is the faculty jazz quartet-in-residence at SUNY Oswego. Since its inception in 2006, the OJP has released two well-received CDs, both featured in various print publications (Syracuse Post-Standard, Palladium-Times) garnering enthusiastic reviews. OJP fuses a high level of skill and artistry with a profound commitment to education and access for students and the community alike.

The exciting guest artists kept coming in September with the arrival of lecturer James Kopp. James Kopp is a bassoonist, reed maker, and writer on musical topics. He has performed with the New Jersey Symphony, Riverside Symphony, and Pavarotti in Concerto Orchestra, as well as many operatic and chamber ensembles in the New York area. He is also a performer on bassoons of early centuries, appearing with the New York Collegium, Smithsonian Chamber Orchestra, and Handel & Haydn Society (Boston), among many other period instrument orchestras.

Stellar pianist and UNI School of Music alumnus Vladan Milenkovic also visited in September to perform alongside Robert Washut and other Jazz Division friends. While studying biology at the University of Belgrade, Vlad led his acclaimed jazz trio in former Yugoslavia before receiving a scholarship to study jazz composition at Berklee College of Music in Boston in 1991. He completed his Masters degree at University of Northern Iowa and is currently on faculty at Augsburg College in Minneapolis.

September’s roster of outstanding guest artists wrapped up with a visit by the percussion duo Maraca2. Maraca2 offered both a master class and recital during their visit to the School of Music. Maraca2 are a young percussion duo who have been making waves in the music scene since they met while both studying on the Undergraduate percussion course at the Birmingham Conservatoire. The duo is committed to performing new music and premiere works, and they are heavily involved in music education, frequently performing in schools, colleges and other institutes of learning in addition to working regularly with the Southern Sinfonia Orchestra as part of their excellent education projects.

### October 2009

October was full of exciting guest artist visits, including the October 2-3 visit by The Verdehr Trio. An acknowledged leader in the field of new music for over thirty years, the Verdehr Trio has concentrated on molding and defining the personality of the violin-clarinet-piano trio. The Trio has created a large repertoire by commissioning some 200 new works from some of the world’s most prominent and exciting composers. The Verdehr Trio has performed throughout the world: in seventeen European countries, the former Soviet Union, in South and Central America as well as in Asia, Australia and all 50 of the United States.

The first in the 2009-2010 Musically Speaking lecture series was held on October 8, featuring visiting lecturer Ryan S. Haynes. Haynes presented the lecture, “Fields of Opportunity: The Musical Performance of ‘Trans-local’ Identities among the Bosnian Refugee Community of Waterloo, Iowa.” Haynes is a PhD candidate at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. He has presented papers at the Society for Ethnomusicology’s Midwest Conference, as well as the Central States Anthropological Society. He has published reviews in Ethnomusicology Forum and assisted with the editing and publication of Balkan Popular Culture and the Ottoman Ecumene (2007).

Richard Sherman, flute, visited the School of Music on October 18-19 for both a master class and recital. Sherman is professor of flute at the Michigan State University College of Music. Active as a soloist, orchestral musician, and recitalist, he is a dynamic performer of outstanding dramatic power. He received a Bachelor of Music from the Eastman School of Music, a Master of Music from Northwestern University, and had postgraduate study at the Royal College.
of Music in London. Sherman is former principal flute with the Rochester (New York) Philharmonic Orchestra, and is principal flute with the Chautauqua (New York) Symphony Orchestra and the Lansing Symphony Orchestra.

October concluded with a visit from our Iowa neighbors, the Talus Trio. The Talus Trio was formed by three woodwind faculty at Luther College in the spring of 2009 and features Heather Armstrong, oboe, Michael Chesser, clarinet, and Carol Hester, flute. Heather Armstrong is Assistant Professor of Oboe/Music Theory at Luther College. She was recently appointed Principal Oboe of the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony, where she has played since 2006. Michael Chesser has been teaching Clarinet and Saxophone at Luther College in Decorah, IA since 1992 where he is currently a tenured Associate Professor of Music. He holds the Principal Clarinet position with the La Crosse Symphony Orchestra in Wisconsin. Carol Hester is the Associate Professor of Flute at Luther College where she teaches applied flute and the flute portion of Woodwind Techniques. She has degrees from the Florida State University (MM, DM, flute performance) and from Samford University (BM, flute and piano performance).

November 2009

Once again, November was filled with dozens of large ensembles concerts, student recitals and faculty performances. Renowned jazz saxophonist Steve Owen joined the Jazz Panthers for their November 5 concert. For more on Owen, see page four.

The School of Music was also proud to host visiting artists The Maia Quartet. The Maia Quartet, Quartet-in-Residence at the University of Iowa, has established itself nationally as an ensemble of innovation and versatility. Praised by critics for its “sparkling musical intelligence,” the quartet has appeared in major concert halls throughout the U.S. and abroad, including New York’s Alice Tully Hall, Washington D.C.’s Kennedy Center, Beijing’s Forbidden City Concert Hall and the Aspen Music Festival’s Harris Hall. Collaborations with leading chamber musicians have included performances with Joel Krosnick, Andre-Michel Schub, Cynthia Phelps and Daniel Avshalomov.

January 2010

The spring semester began with guest artists Connie Rhoades, clarinet, and Ryan Shirar, piano, offering a recital performance. Connie Rhoades is currently Professor of Clarinet at Eastern Kentucky University. She is the director of the EKU Clarinet Choir who, under her leadership, performed for the International Clarinet Association as well as the University of Oklahoma Clarinet Symposium. She is a member of the EKU Woodwind Quintet and teaches each summer at the Stephen Collins Foster Music Camp. Rhoades earned her Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Oklahoma, her Master of Music degree from Michigan State University and her Bachelor of Music degree from Oral Roberts University.

Ryan Shirar is a pianist, composer, teacher and conductor who lives and works in Central Kentucky. Receiving his B.A. in Music and Mathematics from the University of Kentucky, he currently serves on the music staff of Eastern Kentucky University, Berea College and Centenary School of Music. He is the founding president of Paragon Music Theatre, Lexington’s year-round musical theatre production company. In addition to music directing, he also works with the Kentucky Governor’s School for the Arts program and freelances as a solo pianist and accompanist throughout the region.

February 2010

As always, February was festival time in the UNI School of Music. The annual Northern Festival of Bands was held February 12-13, featuring guest conductor Leon Kuehner. Leon Kuehner has been a music educator for the past 34 years. He recently retired as the band director at Hampton-Dumont High School in Hampton, Iowa. He received both his bachelor’s and master’s degree in music education from the University of Northern Iowa. He has been president of the Iowa Bandmasters Association, state chair of the American School Band Directors Association, and state chair of the Iowa Alliance for Arts Education. Kuehner has served on the boards of the Iowa Music Educators Association and is immediate past-president of the Executive Board of the Iowa High School Music Association. He is currently serving on the Iowa Core Curriculum Fine Arts and Professional Development Committees.

The chill of Iowa February melted away with the arrival of guest artist The Matt Wilson Quartet. The quartet joined the UNI jazz bands for the 59th Annual Sinfonian Dimensions in Jazz concerts during the Tallcorn Jazz Festival. For more information on the quartet and their visit in February, see page four.

February’s amazing guest artist visits continued with the February 23 French Chamber Music Concert featuring Julien Guénebaut. Pianist and conductor Julien Guénebaut was awarded a first prize in piano at the Paris National Conservatoire, where he completed his education in the studio of Bruno Rigutto. His studies continued with Marie-Françoise Buquet and Alfred Brendel. Julien Guénebaut also studied orchestral
conducting with Jean-Sébastien Béreau at the Dijon Regional National Conservatoire and has collaborated with such notable soloists as hornist Radovan Vlatkovic and pianist Nicholas Angelich.

During his visit to UNI, Guénebaut also appeared with the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra on their February 26 concert. Currently, Guénebaut is the pianist and conductor of L’Arcena ensemble (France), which allows him to play and conduct contemporary music and perform concerts in Europe and Latin America. He is also a professor of piano and orchestral conducting at the Conservatory of Music and Dance in Aulnay-sous-Bois, near Paris.

Denson Paul Pollard, trombone, was the final guest artist to visit in February. Pollard has played with the New York Philharmonic, the Chicago Symphony, the Houston Symphony Orchestra and the Los Angeles Philharmonic. He was awarded the Master of Musical Arts degree and the Doctorate of Musical Arts in performance and pedagogy from the University of Iowa, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education from Jacksonville State University in Jacksonville, Alabama. Pollard has taught at the Hong Kong Academy for the Performing Arts, Hong Kong Baptist University and Hong Kong Chinese University. During the 2000 year, Pollard was professor of trombone at the University of Northern Iowa. Currently, Pollard is a member of the brass faculty at Montclair State University and the Conservatory of Music at Purchase College.

Jennifer Iverson visited the School of Music on March 25 to offer the second lecture in the Musically Speaking series. Iverson presented her lecture, “Ligeti’s Sound-Mass Music and the Discourses of the Darmstadt Avant-garde.” Jennifer Iverson currently serves as Assistant Professor of Music Theory at the University of Iowa. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin in 2009, where she was the recipient of the Livingston Dissertation Fellowship. She also holds degrees in Piano Performance and Pedagogy from the University of Northern Iowa (M.M., 2003) and the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse (B.S., 2001). Iverson has presented papers at numerous conferences, including the national meetings of the Society for Music Theory, the American Musicological Society, and the Society for Disability Studies.

Composer Brooke Joyce was the final visiting artist in March 2010. Born and raised in East Lansing, Michigan, Brooke Joyce holds degrees in theory/composition from Princeton University, the Cleveland Institute of Music, and Lawrence University. His music has been performed by such ensembles as the Indianapolis Symphony, the Cincinnati Symphony, the San Francisco Youth Symphony, the St. Louis Symphony, and the St. Petersburg Chamber Philharmonic. In addition to his concert music, Brooke has collaborated on several musical theater works with playwright Frederick Gaines, including Unbekannt, a musical based on the life of the famous Anastasia pretender Anna Anderson, and An Imaginary Line, based on the book Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer. Brooke is the recipient of the Joseph Bearn Prize, the Wayne Peterson Prize, the Darius Milhaud Award, and many citations from the National Federation of Music Clubs and ASCAP. Brooke teaches theory, history and composition at Luther
College in Decorah, Iowa, and is a faculty member at The Walden School, a summer music festival for young composers in New Hampshire.

April 2010

Yeol Eum Son

Our final month of the 2009-2010 performance season was packed with exciting guest artist performances and presentations. On April 17, Van Cliburn Silver Medalist Yeol Eum Son visited the School of Music to offer a piano master class. A native of South Korea’s Kangwon Province, Son drew international attention when she appeared as a soloist with the New York Philharmonic conducted by Lorin Maazel, performing Beethoven’s Concerto No. 2 in B-flat Major, Op. 19 on the Philharmonic’s historic tour to Seoul in 2008. She had previously performed Liszt’s Concerto No. 1 in E-flat Major with the Philharmonic under Maestro Maazel in Daejeon and Tokyo in 2004.

A favorite among international orchestras, Son has also appeared with the Israel, Czech, and Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestras, the NHK Symphony and Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestras in Japan, and Baden-Baden Symphony Orchestra in Germany. She has performed with every major orchestra in her home country of South Korea, as well as orchestras in the United States.

April 22 welcomed guest Nicholas Walker, double bass. Walker leads an exciting career as a freelance musician, composer, and the double bass professor at Ithaca College. He performs with Argentinean virtuoso Daniel Binelli in the quartet Tango da Camara, and collaborates regularly with jazz pianist John Stetch. Recently Walker has played with the Handel & Haydn Society Orchestra in Boston, and the St. Petersburg Chamber Philharmonic. Walker made two trips to St. Petersburg Russia in 2009, one with the contemporary music ensemble, Kulmusik, and another with harpsichordist and pianist Gabriel Shuford, presenting early music and jazz recital program on the viola da gamba.

American baritone Stephen Swanson visited for a recital with pianist David Gompper on April 27. Swanson is a concert and opera singer, a teacher of singing, and a stage director for opera. He earned degrees from North Park College and Northwestern University and served a two-year AGMA apprenticeship with the Wolf Trap Company. After an internship at the International Opera Studio of the Zurich Opera, Swanson sang in opera houses in Switzerland, Germany, Austria, and the Netherlands, amassing a repertoire of 91 roles in operas, operettas, and musicals. Since 1994, he has been Professor of Voice at The University of Iowa.

April 29 and 30 were a feast 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 12:00 noon on both days. Karel Keldermans is one of the preeminent carillonneurs in North America. Over the past thirty years, he has given carillon concerts around the world. He was President of the Guild of Carillonneurs in North America for five years and served on the Board of Directors for nine. In 1998, Karel and his wife Linda were jointly honored with the Berkeley Medal for “Distinguished Service to the Carillon.” They are co-authors of the book, “Carillon: The Evolution of a Concert Instrument,” which has received critical acclaim both in the U.S. and abroad. For 12 years they were owners/publishers of American Carillon Music Editions (ACME), the largest publishing house of carillon music in the world. Karel has been the full-time carillonneur for the Springfield Park District in Springfield, Illinois, for over 30 years, where he is the Director of the International Carillon Festival. He has released six solo Carillon CDs as well as a duet CD with Belgian guitarist Wim Brioen. Karel has composed a dozen original works for carillon, as well as arranged numerous pieces for the instrument and has a Master’s degree from the University of Illinois in Carillon Performance and Campanology.

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

Korey Barrett, assistant professor of vocal coaching and collaborative piano
- Collaborated in performance with John Michael Moore, baritone, on NPR radio broadcast held in Des Moines, Iowa.
- Presented seminars on collaborative piano and vocal coaching topics to pianists as part of a week-long summer institute entitled “Plays Well with Others” in Rochester, NY.
- Recorded Jeremy Beck’s Three Songs with Jeff Brich, tenor, for yet-to-be-released recording.

Tom Barry, assistant professor of oboe and saxophone
- Appeared as clinician at five clinics and workshops throughout Iowa.
- Performed as saxophonist with the Bill Shepherd Big Band at the 2009 scholarship Benefit Concert.
- Served as audio recording/sound engineer on 46 events in 2009-2010.

Sean Botkin, assistant professor of piano
- Recorded CD of Rachmaninoff’s Piano Sonata No. 1 in D minor, Op. 28 at WFMT Studio, sponsored by the Rachmaninoff Foundation in association with the Ravinia Festival; Chicago, Ill.
- Performed Gershwin’s Rhapsody in Blue with the Orchestre Symphonique du Conservatoire; Rebecca Burkhardt, conductor; Aulnay-sous-Bois, France.
- Appeared as principal pianist with the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony Orchestra several times throughout 2009-2010.

Melinda Boyd, assistant professor of music history
- Presented a lecture on Bizet’s Carmen for the Opera Studies Forum, University of Iowa.

Jeff Brich, instructor in applied voice
- Celebrated several honors and achievements earned by students in his studio.
- Currently serves as President of the Iowa Chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing.

Christopher Buckholz, assistant professor of trombone
- Performed with the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony Orchestra as principal trombonist.
- Appeared as clinician at Garner-Hayfield High School and Middle School, February 2010.
- Awarded University Book & Supply Outstanding Teaching Award, February 2010.

Julia Bullard, associate professor of viola and theory
- Appeared as guest artist and offered a recital and master class at The University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana.
- Performed a duo recital with pianist James Nalley at the DeBlasius Chamber Music Series in Glens Falls, N.Y.
- Served as member of American String Teachers Association, American Viola Society, College Music Society and Iowa String Teachers Association.

Rebecca Burkhardt, associate director of graduate studies, professor of music and conductor of the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra
- Awarded an Iowa Arts Council Major Grant as an individual artist for her project/work as a composer on a musical about Governor Ann Richards.

Jonathan Chenoweth, associate professor of cello
- Performed in the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony Orchestra as principal cellist.
- Organized a master class at UNI with guest artist Zuill Bailey in October 2009.

Kevin Droo, assistant professor of music education
- Presented Music Education Research Year in Review—Useful Applications for the Music Classroom at the Iowa Music Educators Association Conference in Ames, Iowa.
- Appeared as guest conductor of the Eastern Colorado High School Honor Band in Limon, Colo.
- Revised his research titled The Effect of a Score of Band Directors Written Comments to a Recorded Performance which was accepted for publication in Journal of Band Research.

Angeleita Floyd, professor of flute
- Appeared as guest artist at Flötmani (Flute Mania), Musikhögskolan Ingesund, Arvika, Sweden.
- Performed as guest artist at II Convención Internacional de Flautistas en el Centro del Mundo, Festival XIX in 2009.

Jeffery Funderburk, professor of tuba/euphonium
- Performed as principal tubist in
Cedar Rapids Symphony.
- Presented a recital of original electronic music developed and performed for the film “The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari.”
- Served on the UNI Faculty Senate and as a representative of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts on several committees.

Danny Galyen, assistant professor of music education and director of the UNI Marching and Symphonic Bands
- Designed, directed and conducted over 20 performances in 2009-2010.
- Released compact disc recording of the UNI Marching Band titled, “Unite or Die” in August 2009.
- Presented research at the 2010 Biennial National MENC Conference Research Poster Session (co-author with Kevin Droe), “Preliminary Examination of Conductor Verbal and Non-Verbal Rehearsal Behaviors with or without a Score.”

Randy Grabowski, professor of trumpet
- Appeared as trumpet soloist and principal trumpeter with the Waterloo/Cedar Falls Symphony Orchestra and Orchestra of Iowa.
- Performed with The Bill Shepherd Big Band on the newly released CD “Christmas in Cedar Falls.”
- Presented two full faculty recitals in September 2009 and January 2010.

Robin Guy, professor of piano
- Performed at the Cedar Valley Chamber Music Festival and Interlochen Arts Camp, in addition to over 30 student, guest artist and faculty recitals at UNI.
- Served as chair of the Keyboard Division and Piano Pedagogy program.

Frederick Halgedahl, assistant professor of violin
- Served as clinician for the UNI Iowa All State Workshops held October 2009.
- Performed several recitals and concerts with the UNI Faculty String Quartet including a performance at the Cedar Valley Chamber Music Festival.

John Hines, assistant professor of voice
- Performed Schubert’s Winterreise, with Sergei Urinav, piano, in St. Petersburg, Russia in July 2009.
- Appeared as a featured artist at the Lakeside Civic Chorus Opera Gala “A Night at the Opera,” in Rockwall, Texas.
- Served as Voice Division chair in 2009-2010.

Randy Hogancamp, associate professor of percussion

Ronald Johnson, professor of instrumental music
- Appeared as conductor of the Wind Symphony and director of the Northern Festival of Bands.
- Served as host to Linn-Mar and Mason City high school bands visiting for performances at UNI in 2010.
- Toured to the Iowa Bandmasters Association 83rd Annual Conference to conduct the Wind Symphony in a performance.

Kui-Im Lee, associate professor of music theory and organ
- Released a new CD of organ music titled “Forgotten Fantasies” to commemorate the 10th anniversary of Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center.
- Performed an organ recital at the Cherry Blossom Festival sponsored by American Guild of Organists Macon Chapter in Macon, Ga.
- Served on the Program Committee of the American Guild of Organists (AGO) Waterloo Chapter.

Amanda McCandless, assistant professor of clarinet
- Performed as soloist, collaborator and as a member of the Northwind Quintet in over two dozen performances in 2009-2010.
- Appeared as guest artist at the State University of New York at Fredonia in October 2009.
- Presented a clarinet clinic for Washington High School in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Jean McDonald, associate professor of voice
- Performed with numerous ensembles across Iowa including the Hands of Time quartet, Equilateral and the Washut/Merz Duo in 2009-2010.
- Elected as President of Jazz Educators of Iowa.

Dyan Meyer, visiting professor and conductor of choral ensembles
- Conducted the Women’s Chorus and Concert Chorale in 2009-2010.
- Performed as pianist with the UNI Children’s Choir at their winter concert.
- Coordinated the 2009 Vocal Arts Festival.

Leslie Morgan, assistant professor of voice
- Served on several professional committees in the School of Music in 2009-2010.
- Celebrated several honors and achievements earned by students in her studio.
- Performed at the Spotlight Series Concert Die Walküre, Act I in February 2010.

David Rachor, professor of bassoon and saxophone
- Published an article titled, “Bassoon Reed-Making: Adapting the reed making technique to the material or forcing the material to the reed making technique” in Fellowship of Makers and Researchers of Historical Instruments Quarterly.
- Performed as principal bassoonist with the Des Moines Symphony Orchestra.
- Researched and studied various historic instruments, reed-making
techniques and acoustics throughout France, the Netherlands, Germany and the United Kingdom.

**Alan Schmitz**, professor of music theory and composition, associate director
- Celebrated the premiere of his composition “Tango Fantasy” for viola and guitar, performed by Julia Bullard and Todd Seelye at the UNI Viola Festival in March 2010.
- Directed undergraduate advising activities for Music Majors/Minors.
- Served as member of Board of Iowa Composers Forum, and launched the new Tornado Alley Composers website with Jon Schwabe, Todd Munnik and Jeff Young.

**Jonathan Schwabe**, associate professor of composition/theory
- Premiered his composition *Follow* at the May 2010 visit and keynote address of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama.
- Composed a commissioned work for Cedar Valley Chamber Music Festival: *Howard’s Pyrograph*, for string quintet and piano.
- Served as member of Society of Composers and Iowa Composers Forum.

**William Shepherd**, associate professor and coordinator of music in general studies
- Directed and conducted the Waterloo Municipal Band.
- Recorded and released a new CD title “Christmas in Cedar Falls” performed by his Bill Shepherd Big Band.
- See more news under “Happy Trails!”

**Yu-Ting (Tina) Su**, assistant professor of horn
- Performed with the Northwind Quintet, Orchestra of Iowa, Dubuque Symphony and the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony Orchestra.
- Presented master classes at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, N.M., at Tung Hai University in Taichung, Taiwan and at the Idyllwild Art Academy in Idyllwild, Calif.
- Awarded the UNI Graduate College Summer Fellowship.

**Michelle Swanson**, assistant professor of music education
- Directed and conducted the UNI Children’s Choir in 2009-2010.
- Appeared as guest conductor at the Upper Iowa Junior High Vocal Festival.
- Coordinated and hosted several music education workshops in the School of Music.

**John Vallentine**, professor and director of the School of Music
- Appointed by President Allen to serve on the Steering Committee for the visit of the Dalai Lama.
- Appeared as Conductor at the Northeast Iowa Bandmasters Association Honor Band Festival Concert in December 2010.
- Served as Commencement Marshal for the fall and spring Commencement exercises.

**Dmitri Vorobiev**, assistant professor of piano
- Performed a duo recital with violinist Stephen Shipps in Pilsen, Czech Republic.
- Appeared live on Iowa Public Radio in a program concentrating on the 200th anniversary of Chopin and Schumann.
- Served as an adjudicator for Iowa Music Teachers Association auditions.

**Sandra Walden**, assistant professor of opera and musical theatre direction
- Directed the School of Music production of *Riders to the Sea* and *Prima Donna*.
- Served as member of several School of Music committees including the Graduate Curriculum Committee and the Scholarship Benefit Concert Committee.
- Appeared as Stage Director for the Vocal Chamber Concert at Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara, Calif.

**Robert Washut**, professor of jazz studies
- Conducted and coordinated Bob Washut’s 2010 Dream Band, a big band comprised of UNI colleagues, former students and other outstanding jazz musicians to headline the Iowa City Jazz Festival in July 2010.
- Composed the 2009 *Iowa IAJE All-State Jazz Audition Etude*.
- Performed as pianist with the Merz/Washut Duo, guest artist Vladan Milenkovic, vocalist Sarah Jones and on the guest artist recital performance of JC Sanford’s original *Ben-Hur* score.

**Additional News of Note:**

**Tom Giampietro**, percussion instructor who offers drum set lessons to UNI students via web conference, has accepted a faculty position in the jazz studies program at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

Community Music School Instructor **Teresa Rose** successfully completed all requirements for MTNA National Certification in Clarinet and Piano and is now an MTNA Nationally Certified Teacher of Music (NCTM).

**Happy Trails**

The UNI School of Music wishes to congratulate **Claudia Meyer** and **Bill Shepherd** on their recent retirement! Claudia Meyer retired in November 2009 after 21 years of service to UNI and Bill Shepherd retired in December 2009 after 34 years of service to the School of Music. A celebration was held for both retirees in late November. The dedication and outstanding service that these two provided to the School of Music has been greatly appreciated and both Bill and Claudia will be greatly missed!
Alumni Update

The School of Music always loves to bear from our graduates. Success stories, new projects and career or 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!

'31 Imogene (Anderson) Darrah B.A., celebrated her 101st birthday in August 2009. She is retired and lives in Oregon, Ill.

'39 Jane (Carl) Lunder, B.A. is now retired after teaching in the schools and in her private violin studio for more than 25 years. She also previously appeared as violinist with the Sioux Falls Symphony under the direction of Leo Kuchinski. She lives in Sioux Falls, S.D.

'48 Rosie Irene Bolstad, B.A. is working toward the completion of her latest album, “Rosie Irene’s Best Yet.” She and her husband Bernie live in the Pacific Northwest.

'49 Elinor (Engelhorn) Meyer, B.A. retired after 40 years of teaching piano and voice, and directing her church choir. She lives in Lake Hills, Texas.

'52 Elly (Stettler) Leslie, B.A. recorded a CD in the UNI School of Music’s new Jazz Studio. The CD will be for sale at University Book and Supply and the Waterloo Barnes & Noble, with 100 percent of proceeds going to the “James Coffin Visiting Artist Jazz Fund” at UNI. For more on this project, see page three.

'60 Constance Speake, B.A. retired in December 2005, and entered the Peace Corps in June 2006, where she served in Armenia for 3.5 years. She now lives in Chicago, Ill.

'65 Byron G. Henn, B.A. retired in 2009 after serving for 25 years as clergy person in the United Church of Christ. Prior to pursuing his master’s degree in divinity, Byron taught vocal music for 16 years.

'66 Rosemary (Erickson) Allen, B.A. retired from teaching elementary music in 2009. She lives in Appleton, Wis.

'69 Jim Oleson, B.A. & Frankee (Horn) Oleson, B.A. ’69, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary in 2009; they met at UNI while playing in the orchestra and marching band. Jim retired from Iowa State University in 2008 after 34 years, while Frankee continues to serve as Executive Director of the United Way of Story County. The couple lives in Ames.

'Thank you to all who e-mailed or wrote to Alumni News. If you wish to contribute to the next issue, please refer to the form on the back page. We look forward to hearing from you!

'73 Jane (Reynolds) Heisterkamp, B.A. retired in 2008 after 35 years of teaching elementary music. She continues to serve as church organist and choir director at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Salix, Iowa.

'73 James Linahon, B.A. recently launched a new PBS television series Lilly’s Light, a children’s show for 4 to 9 year olds. Also, Linahon’s recording studio (LMP Studios) artists, arrangers and engineers received 15 Grammy-award nominations in seven categories this year. For more on Linahon, see page nine.

'74 Bill Hesse, B.A. retired after 35 years teaching elementary and middle school music in Dubuque Community Schools. He lives in Bella Vista, Ark.

'75 Jeff Tower, B.M. retired after 33 years of teaching in 2008. Jeff is still very active playing trombone for local gigs and bands as well as some studio recording. He serves as chairman of Idyllwild Arts Summer Jazz Workshop, Sales Director for LMP Studios and is a member of the UNI School of Music National Advisory Board. He lives in Hemet, Calif.

'76 Rosemary (Erickson) Allen, B.A. retired from teaching elementary music in 2009. She lives in Appleton, Wis.

'77 John A. Aboud, B.M., M.M. ’89 retired from Algona High School after 33 years of teaching and serving as band director. He will continue to live in Algona, Iowa.

'79 James Fritz, B.A., M.A.’85 & Elizabeth (Gall) Fritz, B.M. ’83, celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary at homecoming; their first date was campaniling. Both are music educators in Iowa and Elizabeth currently serves as head of the Iowa Band Masters Association.

'79 Nadema Sheronick, B.A. teaches piano part time and is a member of a community choir. She also performs at weddings part-time and currently lives in Mission Viejo, Calif.

'80 Russell Alexander, B.M. is the band director at Seymour Schools in Seymour, Iowa. He lives in Centerville.

'80 Cheryl (Miche) Metz, B.A., M.A. ’86 teaches fifth grade in the centralized gifted program in Rockford, Ill.

'81 Gary Schwatzhoff, B.A. was awarded the Morris D. Hayes Award for outstanding contributions to choral music in Wisconsin. He is a professor of music and director of choral activities at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

'82 Les Aldrich, B.A. is a band teacher at Oelwein Community Schools. He recently had his 20th piece of music published by C.L. Barnhouse Co. and has transcriptions in the Harvard University Band Library. His latest project is writing the music for a Monty Python Spamalot Marching Band show. Aldrich lives in Oelwein with his wife Tammi.

'86 Darla (Onken) Richardson, B.A. teaches kindergarten and her husband, Will Richardson B.A. ’87 teaches sixth grade social studies for the Alvin Independent School District in Alvin, Texas.

'88 Nancy Allen, B.A. is an associate professor of music at Viterbo University in LaCrosse, Wis.
'88 Mark Walters, B.A. appeared as Enrico in Lucia di Lammermoor with Florida Grand Opera and as Germont in La traviata with Greensboro Opera in the 2009-2010 season. In summer 2010, Walters traveled to Bergen, Norway to perform with Den Nye Opera.

'89 Clark Duhrkopf, B.M. is the September 2001 founder and director of the Carpe Diem Vocal Ensemble. In the summer of 2008, Clark was asked to premier a soprano saxophone and pipe organ piece at the National Guild of Organists Convention in Minneapolis.

'89 Susan Rider, B.M. was recently promoted to Master Sergeant (E-8). Rider, a trumpeter, performs with The President’s Own Marine Band.

'94 James ‘JC’ Sanford, B.A. was the conductor of John Hollenbeck’s “Eternal Interlude” which was nominated for a Grammy in the “Best Large Jazz Ensemble” category. He lives in Brooklyn, NY.

'95 Brian Lovig, B.A. owns a custom furniture and cabinet business, Lovig Woodworks.

'97 Eric Allen, M.M. released a book of etudes and excerpts titled “Success in All Keys” designed to help instrumental students improve their reading skills and proficiency in all key signatures. For more information, visit www.betterbandsandorchestras.com.

'02 Rebecca Johnson, B.M. completed her D.M.A. at University of Illinois. She holds degrees from the University of Louisville and the Royal Northern College of Music as well.

'04 Matthew Boucher, B.A. completed an M.M. in music performance at Indiana University and has been an instrument builder with Shire’s Trombones for three years. He was recently accepted into the Acoustics and Music Technology program at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland.

'04 Ben Cook-Feltz, B.A. is a performing musician and has been touring throughout 2010 with his group Ben Cook-Feltz and the Glorious Percussion Armada. He lives in Minneapolis, Minn.

'05 Veronica Mitina, M.M. returned to Virginia Opera in fall 2009 as Puccini’s tragic heroine Mimi in “La Boheme.” For more on Veronica’s career and achievements, see page 25.

'06 Dane Philipson, B.M. earned the position of Principal Oboe with the Atlanta Opera. Philipson grew up in Ottumwa and currently resides in Atlanta, Ga.


'08 Joel Nagel, B.M. was selected as one of three finalists for the Eastern Trombone Workshop Solo Jazz Competition.

'08 Chris Van Leeuwen, B.A. won the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music Brass Department’s Concerto Competition in March 2010. Van Leeuwen, who is currently pursuing his M.M., also represented the Jacobs School in Washington, D.C. in May, as part of the Kennedy Center Conservatory Project.

'08 Joel Waggoner, B.M. a native of Waterloo, Iowa, recently received The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) Foundation Max Dreyfus award. Waggoner was honored at the December 2009 14th Annual ASCAP Foundation awards ceremony at Lincoln Center in New York City.

Final Cadence

We were sad to hear of the passing of our past graduates and former faculty. We send our sympathies to their families and friends.

Helen E. Sheman BA ’32, died December 14, 2009.

Anna (Blesie) Deaton BA ’38, died March 25, 2010.

Anton M. Lund BA ’40, MA ’61, died July 9, 2010.

Mary (Wombolt) Chapman BA ’48, died April 1, 2010.


Roland Swale BA ’51, Fairborn, Ohio, died December 26, 2009.

Jack Olson BA ’52, Oakland, Calif., died April 24, 2010.


Jane (Schneider) Friesen BA ’67, died May 29, 2010.

Mark A. Acord BA ’77, died February 14, 2010.


Editor’s note: Thank you to Bonnie Farland for her assistance in gathering information for this article.
The School of Music is always proud to bear about the success and accomplishments of our alumni, and sometimes truly exceptional accomplishments stand out. Vocalists Kyle Albertson, baritone, and Veronica Mitina, soprano, have been making waves in the opera world since their graduation from UNI.

American Baritone Kyle Albertson is renowned for his powerful and versatile voice. His recent portrayal of Henry Kissinger in Nixon in China at Long Beach Opera was hailed as “...superb ...beautiful and first rate.” (David Gregson, www.operawest.com April 2010) He made his Austin Lyric Opera debut as Count Monterone in Verdi’s Rigoletto. Also in 2009, he made his debut as Leporello in Don Giovanni at Opera on the James to great reception.

In 2009, Albertson completed his second summer as an Apprentice Artist at Santa Fe Opera. Over the past summers, his responsibilities included covering Howard Joyce in the world premier of Paul Moravec’s The Letter, covering Baron Duphol in La Traviata, covering Hercules in Gluck’s Alceste, and performing the role of Antonio in Le nozze di Figaro. Albertson is a graduate of the Resident Artist Program at Minnesota Opera. During his time there, he performed the roles of Count Ribbing in Un Ballo in Maschera, Haly in L’Italiani in Algeri, and Capulet in Roméo et Juliette, Lindorf/Dr. Miracle in Les Contes d’Hoffmann, Bartolo in Le nozze di Figaro, Archibald Douglas in Rossini’s La donna del lago, covered the role of Noah in Ricky Ian Gordon’s The Grapes of Wrath, and Nilakantha in Lakmé, a role in which “Kyle Albertson made an imposing Nilakantha, bringing life to a character that is barely two-dimensional.” (Opera News- July 2007)

Albertson also enjoys a strong relationship with Chicago Opera Theater, having performed Quince in A Midsummer Night’s Dream and Henry Kissinger in Nixon in China, lauded by the Chicago Sun Times and The Chicago Tribune for his “watchful” and “effective” portrayal.

Albertson was a National Semi-Finalist in the 2008 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. In 2007 and 2006, he was a Regional Finalist in the Upper Midwest Region and Central Region MONC respectively.

Albertson holds a Master of Music from DePaul University where he studied with world renowned mezzo-soprano Susanne Mentzer, and a Bachelor of Music from the University of Northern Iowa where he studied with David Smalley. He is currently in the studio of Dr. Steven King.

Veronica Mitina recently returned to Virginia Opera to reprise her portrayal of the fragile Mimi in La Bohème. Earlier this summer she returned to France’s Lyrique-en-Mer Festival to sing Cio-Cio San in their production of Madama Butterfly. In 2009, she made her Carnegie Hall - Weill Concert Hall debut singing Act II of Tosca under the auspices of the Italian Academy Foundation, followed by debut appearances as a guest soloist with Charlottesville Symphony and Annapolis Opera singing Nedda in I Pagliacci. In the 2007-2008 season she triumphed as Tatiana in Virginia Opera’s new production of Eugene Onegin, followed by singing Minnie in La Fanciulla del West with Opera New England, as well as making her European debut in France singing Tosca at the Lyrique-En-Mer Festival. She will continue the 2009-2010 season by making her debut with Anchorage Opera in their production of Eugene Onegin and then a return to Opera North to reprise her Mimi.

Mitina has been a member of the Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, Des Moines Metro Opera, Opera North, and Sarasota Opera apprentice programs, where she performed in Norma, Les Pêcheurs de Perles, Nixon in China, Orpheus in the Underworld and Die Fledermaus. She made her American concert debut as soloist in the Verdi Requiem with Boston ProMusica and is an active recitalist on the East Coast and is a specialist in Russian song and chamber music repertoire.

Mitina studied voice at Herzen University in her native St. Petersburg, Russia before coming to the United States to complete a master’s degree at the University of Northern Iowa. An accomplished pianist, she also holds degrees from the Mussorgsky College and Herzen University in St. Petersburg.

Among her many awards and honors, Mitina won the Metropolitan Opera National Council District Auditions, the Bel Canto Foundation of Chicago, the International Czech and Slovak Voice, and the Greek Women’s University Club competitions. She is the recipient of a Metropolitan Opera National Council Career Development Award, a MacAllister Foundation Grant, and Sarasota Opera Guild’s Leo Rogers Scholarship.

UNI School of Music is proud to congratulate Kyle and Veronica on their stellar musical achievements!
Emeritus Faculty Activities

The School of Music is always excited to hear from our exceptional retired 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 their current projects and travels.

Joyce Gault – Joyce dropped us a note to let us know that she began 2010 with open heart surgery. Throughout her recovery, as well as last fall, she enjoyed visits from many former students.

Marilou Kratzenstein – Marilou was pleased to announce that in fall 2009, she accepted the position of Associate Organist with First United Methodist Church. She also accepted a second part time position as organist, and was excited to begin a musical relationship with both groups. Marilou lives in La Mesa, Calif. and enjoys catching up on the current events in the UNI School of Music whenever she can.

Don Wendt – Don and his wife Dorothy reported that they are now living in Waterloo at Lakeview Lodge and stay involved in activities in Waterloo. Dorothy continues to play the piano, and the couple hopes to make it to Cedar Falls soon for a performance and to see friends at future School of Music events.

Editor’s note: Thank you to the emeritus faculty who wrote with information and updates. Please continue to keep us posted on your projects and activities.

Blast from the Past

The 1976 Northern Brass Quintet featuring left to right: Bruce Chidester (Emeritus Faculty), Rob Krueger, Don Little, Jon Hansen (Emeritus Faculty) and Keith Johnson.

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. E-mail info@unialum.org, call 888-UNI ALUM or visit www.unialum.org.

Alumni Association membership dues provide all these services and more. Join today at www.unialum.org!

The 1976 Northern Brass Quintet featuring left to right: Bruce Chidester (Emeritus Faculty), Rob Krueger, Don Little, Jon Hansen (Emeritus Faculty) and Keith Johnson.
2010-2011 Spotlight Series Performances

Wind Symphony & Jazz Band One
Ronald Johnson and Chris Merz, conductors
Friday, October 8, 2010
7:30 p.m. Great Hall, GBPAC

UNI Singers & Women’s Chorus
John Wiles and Dyan Meyer, conductors
Thursday, October 21, 2010
7:30 p.m. Great Hall, GBPAC

Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra
Jonathan Girard, conductor
Friday, October 22, 2010
7:30 p.m. Great Hall, GBPAC

Instrumental Concerto Competition Finals
Kevin Droe, coordinator
Monday, November 1, 2010
7:30 p.m. Great Hall, GBPAC

Chimes of Christmas
featuring UNI choral ensembles
Tuesday, December 7, 2010
7:30 p.m. Great Hall, GBPAC

School of Music Faculty Artist Showcase
Wednesday, February 2, 2011
7:30 p.m. Great Hall, GBPAC

Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra
Jonathan Girard, conductor
Friday, February 25, 2011
7:30 p.m. Great Hall, GBPAC

Concert Chorale
Dyan Meyer, conductor
Thursday, March 24, 2011
7:30 p.m. Great Hall, GBPAC

UNI Singers & Women’s Chorus
John Wiles and Dyan Meyer, conductors
Friday, March 25, 2011
7:30 p.m. Great Hall, GBPAC

Performance Competition Finals
Chris Buckholz, coordinator
Monday, March 28, 2011
7:30 p.m. Great Hall, GBPAC

Jazz Band One
Chris Merz, conductor
Friday, April 8, 2011
7:30 p.m. Bengtson Auditorium, Russell Hall

Symphonic Band
S. Daniel Galyen, conductor
Wednesday, April 13, 2011
7:30 p.m. Great Hall, GBPAC

Jazz Panthers
Robert Washut, conductor
Thursday, April 14, 2011
7:30 p.m. Bengtson Auditorium, Russell Hall

Wind Symphony
Ronald Johnson, conductor
Friday, April 15, 2011
7:30 p.m. Great Hall, GBPAC

UNI Varsity Men’s Glee Club
John Wiles, conductor
Wednesday, April 27, 2011
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. For more information, call (319) 273-2028.
Alumni Response Form

To keep us and your UNI colleagues informed of your activities, please complete the form below and return to “Music at Northern Iowa,” School of Music, UNI, Cedar Falls, IA 50614-0246, or send an e-mail to music@uni.edu. We are particularly interested in the current career paths of our alumni.

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Is this a new address? ___ Yes ___ No

E-mail address ____________________________________________________________

spouse’s name Is spouse a UNI alum? Yes No

Your position and employer

News items of interest:

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