Rhythms
Music at the University of Northern Iowa

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Greetings from the UNI School of Music!

As I write this in late summer, we have finished another very successful year for the UNI School of Music and are planning for the next.

Once again, performing groups traveled the globe including the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra trip to Brazil, Women’s Chorus to Germany and Men’s Glee Club to Ireland and Wales. The UNI Wind Ensemble concluded its first year under the directorship of Dr. Danny Galyen with a tremendously successful tour to the Minneapolis area and then a featured performance at the Iowa Bandmasters Association conference.

After 38 years at UNI, Dr. Robert Washut retired at the end of the spring semester. His impact on students and the UNI Jazz program is immeasurable and he will be missed. We had a wonderful celebration of his career earlier this spring and a great concert celebrating the release of Washut’s CD Journey to Knowhere, available at artistalliancerecords.com.

Beginning in the fall, a former UNI student and now very successful professional musician, Michael Conrad, will be joining the UNI jazz faculty. Michael holds a master of music degree from the Eastman School of Music and is completing his doctorate at the University of Northern Colorado. He also taught for two years at Waterloo West High School, so he is already well known in the Cedar Valley.

In January, I was honored to accept the position as Director of the School of Music. It has been a great privilege this year to work with the many talented students, faculty and staff that make up our School of Music. This is an amazing place and I truly believe that its best days lie ahead. I look forward to the coming years as we work together to realize the potential.

In the following pages, you will learn about many of the events of this past year and find a few hints of things to come. If you are in the area, I hope you will consider joining us for this year’s Scholarship Benefit concert on September 21, 2018. It looks to be a terrific evening with a few changes to our traditional format that we think you will like.

Thank you for your continued interest and support of the UNI School of Music. I hope you will be able to join us for some events this year. Even if you are not in the area, you can watch many of our concerts streamed live by visiting our home page and clicking on the link on the right hand side labeled ‘Live Stream.’

If you are in the area, please come visit us!

All the best!

Jeffrey Funderburk
Director & Professor
The Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra (NISO) returned to southern Brazil last March to perform with the musicians of the Orquesta Sinfónica da Universidade de Caxias do Sul (OSUCS), Manfredo Schmiedt, music director. From March 10-18, UNI students sat side-by-side with their Brazilian counterparts to perform American works by Bernstein, Corigliano, and Williams. The combined orchestra, under the direction of Dr. Rebecca Burkhardt, gave two performances, one at the University of Caxias do Sul (UCS) to a sold-out crowd, and the second at the Teatro Feevale in nearby Novo Hamburgo to an audience of over one thousand. Dr. Ross Winter, UNI assistant professor of Violin, was the featured soloist on Corigliano’s Red Violin Chaconne. During their stay, students rehearsed with the OSUCS musicians for two four-hour rehearsals. They then performed a formal chamber music concert at the UCS Teatro, three impromptu outdoor concerts on the UCS campuses in Caxias and Bento Gonçalves for students traveling to and from class. Six members of NISO formed a jazz ensemble that played at a local jazz club, again to a packed audience who called for numerous encores. While not rehearsing or performing, the students attended traditional Brazilian churrascos complete with folk dancing and music, went sightseeing in Caxias and Porto Alegre, played in a Brazilian percussion workshop with the faculty and students of UCS, toured the Vale dos Vinhedos, hopped on an outdoor tram ride in Garibaldi, and - of course - performed a pop-up, outdoor chamber music concert in beautiful Gramado.

Graduate student Tom Mortenson summed up the group’s experience by saying, “I have learned many things because of this trip, but the most profound is that people, North, South, or any place else, are the same. We as people need to do our best to understand this and be able to give whatever we have to share. This trip was about so much more than music. It was about human connections, community and love. Thank you so much.”

In addition to the hosts in Brazil and the tour leaders, that thanks goes to all of the donors who helped make this trip possible for our students. We could not have done this without your help. Obrigado!

Editor’s note: thank you to Rebecca Burkhardt for her contribution of this article, and to Tom Mortenson for his quotation.
The UNI Varsity Men’s Glee Club toured Ireland and Wales in May and offered six concerts to standing-room-only audience. Departing Cedar Falls on May 12, the Glee Club performed a concert sponsored by the UNI Alumni Association in Chicago at Hyde Park Union Church. Alumni drove from over 400 miles away to hear the Glee Club perform.

After landing in Dublin, the Glee Club performed concerts in St. Patrick’s Cathedral and Abbey Presbyterian Church, including a shared concert with the Dublin Welsh Male Voice Choir. After the joint concert, the Dublin Welsh Male Voice Choir treated the Glee Club to an afterglow at the Dublin Teacher’s Club, where the singing continued until late at night.

Following a recording session at St. Kevin’s Parish in Glendalough, Ireland, the Glee Club sailed across the Irish Sea and landed at Holyhead, Wales. Wales is renowned for its male chorus tradition and the Glee Club shared three concerts with three accomplished local choruses in Abergale, Llandudno, and Caerarfon. Each concert ended with the joint singing of the great Welsh hymn, CWM RHONDDA.

Editor’s note: thank you to John Wiles for his contribution of this article.
Over spring break, the UNI Women’s Chorus had their second international tour—the first event in the ensemble’s year-long 130th Anniversary celebration. Founded in 1888 when UNI was the Iowa State Normal School, the chorus holds the distinction of being the oldest ensemble on campus. The Women’s Chorus traveled to Germany and performed concerts in Berlin, Leipzig, Heidelberg and Munich. The chorus is comprised of students from across all disciplines and years, and this tour was the first experience of international travel for many members. All performances were held in cathedrals and churches, and being immersed in the history and acoustics of these venues was unlike anything the students had ever experienced. A huge highlight was performing in Johann Sebastian Bach’s church in Leipzig, the Thomaskirche, where he worked for decades and is now buried. In addition to performing, the Women’s Chorus was able to visit many important landmarks: the Berlin Wall, the Gewandhaus in Leipzig where the symphony performs, Heidelberg Castle at sunset, Neuschwanstein Castle, a humbling experience at the Dachau concentration camp, and the famous Hofbrauhaus in Munich. For the students, the trip was the opportunity of a lifetime and exposed them to the incredible culture, history and people of Germany.

Women’s Chorus member Katie Payne noted, “Germany was amazing for several reasons, but what I found most amazing was the similarities between people. For some reason before departure, I had pictured life in a different country to be vastly different than life in the States. To my surprise, I noticed that kids are still kids, teens love their phones, elderly couples hold hands, and people love fried food! It’s so interesting and also comforting to know that life is still similar even in a different country, I feel so lucky to have had this opportunity; it was truly once in a lifetime.”

The people were incredibly kind, and the chorus received a warm reception at every concert, especially after their German repertoire.

Join the Women’s Chorus on October 13, 2018 for their alumni reunion and celebration concert in Cedar Falls.

Editor’s note: thank you to Amy Kotsonis for her contribution of this article, and to Katie Payne for her quotation.
Flute Studio Celebrates Busy 2017-18

Dr. Angeleita Floyd’s flute studio celebrated several major opportunities and guests in the 2017-18 academic year. On August 10, the 18-member Northern Iowa Flute Choir performed a concert of Scandinavian favorites at the National Flute Association Convention held in Minneapolis. This four-day extravaganza of flute exhibits, concerts, lectures and competitions was a first for most of the students, and was made possible by UNI’s Intercollegiate Academics Travel Fund.

As the semester began, the School of Music hit the ground running with its annual Scholarship Benefit Concert, which benefited the flute studio even more. Two guest artists, Dr. Nicole Molumby (Professor of Flute, Boise State University) and Dr. Rebecca Johnson (Flute Professor, Eastern Illinois University), both alumni of the UNI Flute Studio, appeared on the concert and presented a master class for the flute studio.

October brought the fourth annual UNI Fall Flute Day with guest artist Hannah Leffler (UNI ’08). Dr. Leffler was featured in master class and concert with her duo WoodWired. The members of the flute studio and Northern Iowa Flute Choir assisted in organizing registration for all participants, helped with the All-State mock audition for fifteen high-school flutists, and led the flute choir reading session.

Spring 2018 brought a crescendo of flute activity as the flute studio hosted the 2018 Iowa Flute Festival, “For the Love of Flute.” The festival is a full day of flute events that rotates among Iowa universities and colleges, attracting hundreds of flutists including high school students, music programs, and regional professionals. This year’s festival at UNI featured two extraordinary flutists: British flutist William Bennett and Scottish flutist Lorna McGhee, currently Principal Flute of the Pittsburgh Symphony. Bennett offered a master class on solo repertoire, while McGhee offered vast insights into preparing orchestral excerpts. Dr. Floyd noted a favorite quote from the weekend: “a flutist is an artist of the breath.” The Iowa Flutists in Concert event featured the talents of Iowa in diverse repertoire that ranged from solo flute to trios, sextets, and university flute choirs. The festival closed with McGhee and Bennett performing a gala concert with UNI faculty artist Sean Botkin, piano. The final concert brought the house down with exceptional artistry and passion, including performances of solo repertoire from Bach to Bonis, and the virtuosic duets of Chopin and Doppler.

Check the School of Music events calendar in 2018-19 and join us for more fabulous flute activities!
April 28 was a day of celebration for jazz alumni and enthusiasts who cheered on jazz studies faculty artist Bob Washut in his final concert before retirement. The day-long celebration included a campus tour, jazz reading band, alumni and friends dinner, and the final “swan song” concert. The concert served not only as a farewell to Washut at UNI, but also as a CD release celebration for Washut’s album Journey to Knowhere. Alumni and friends traveled to Cedar Falls to see the concert, and to mingle and share memories at the pre- and post-concert events.

Nearly 100 alumni and friends returned for the events, traveling from as far away as California, Tennessee, and New York, to alumni who have stayed right here in Cedar Falls. A highlight of the day was a surprise appearance by a wild “jazz panther” at the cocktail hour before the banquet in the Commons Ballroom. Flanked by UNI cheer team members, the mysterious panther revealed himself to be special guest Matt Wilson, New York based drummer and...
Grammy nominee, who had flown in to surprise Bob for the celebration.

Alumni Eric Allen reflected on Bob’s career and the April celebration: “Bob had such a positive and lasting influence on hundreds, if not thousands, of students during his 38 years at UNI. I’m having a hard time imagining the jazz program without him. I’m thrilled that his retirement weekend was such a success and so many friends, colleagues, and former students were able to attend and make it a great tribute to Bob’s amazing legacy.”

The final concert was followed by a celebratory reception at the local restaurant Figaro Figaro where students and friends from Bob’s 38-year history celebrated the legacy of his career as a musician and educator.

Editor’s note: special thanks to Eric Allen for his contribution to this article.

Photos from top to bottom and left to right: Washut and special guest Matt Wilson (the official Jazz Panther) pose with members of the UNI cheer team; Washut takes a final bow at the end of the April 28 concert; All returning alumni and faculty onstage, surrounding Washut, in Bengtson Auditorium; Alum Eric Allen presents Washut with a commemorative gift book; Washut leads an alumni reading band in the Schultz Recording Studio.
The School of Music was thrilled to host composer Michael Daugherty in residency April 16-19. Daugherty, a Cedar Rapids native, is one of the most commissioned, performed, and recorded composers on the American concert music scene today. His music is rich with cultural allusions and bears the stamp of classic modernism, with colliding tonalities and blocks of sound; at the same time, his melodies can be eloquent and stirring.

Daugherty’s residency included hands-on rehearsals and sessions with UNI student ensembles, a chamber music recital, a UNI Concert Band and Symphonic Band concert, and a final massive collaborative performance featuring UNI Wind Ensemble, Opera, and the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra.

The chamber music concert began in Jebe Hall, featuring Randall Harlow on solo organ. After Harlow’s performance and a brief pause, the audience and event traveled next door to Davis Hall where the UNI Faculty Septet, a student saxophone quartet, and faculty artists Matt Andreini, Ann Bradfield, Julia Bullard, Ryan Frost, and Ross Monroe Winter brought Daugherty’s chamber works to life.

The UNI Symphonic Band and Concert Band offered a collaborative concert featuring three works by Daugherty on April 18 in the Great Hall. The Concert Band, conducted by graduate student Logan Vander Wiel, performed Alligator Alley, featuring the UNI bassoon studio. The Symphonic Band, conducted by Justin Mertz and featuring faculty soloist Jesse Orth, closed out the evening with performances of Daugherty’s Vulcan and Reflections on the Mississippi.

The April 19 finale concert began with opera UNI’s presentation of scenes from Daugherty’s Jackie O, directed by Mitra Sadeghpour and conducted by Rebecca Burkhardt, where opera soloists and ensemble were featured along with dancers and the music of the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra. The second half of the final concert, conducted by Daugherty’s residency coordinator Danny Galyen, featured the UNI Wind Ensemble, with faculty soloist Amanda McCandless and guest conductor Justin Mertz.

Daugherty’s visit proved to be an excellent learning opportunity for the involved ensembles and student soloists and was a wonderful treat for Cedar Valley audiences.
UNI Opera had a wonderful 2017-18 season under the direction of Dr. Mitra Sadeghpour (Director of Opera) and Dr. Korey Barrett (Music Director and Coach). Professor Jeffrey Brich and the UNI Trombone studio joined the opera ensemble in scenes from *The Music Man* on the annual Scholarship Benefit Concert. In the fall, UNI Opera presented Ralph Vaugh Williams’ devastating one act opera *Riders to the Sea* and scenes from the side-splittingly funny *Gondoliers* by Gilbert and Sullivan. The mainstage production for the year was *Hansel and Gretel*, performed in the Great Hall of the Gallagher Bluedorn in January. The Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra (NISO), conducted by Dr. Rebecca Burkhardt, collaborated with UNI Opera to bring this timeless Grimm’s fairytale to brilliant life. Dance faculty Mandy Masmar created the gorgeous angel ballet at the end of Act I, and theatre faculty Ron Koinzan designed and built magical sets that audiences are still talking about. Voice faculty member Michelle Monroe performed with UNI opera students in the role of the Witch, which was a special experience for all. Regular UNI Opera collaborators Danielle Mason (costume design) and Chris Tuzicka (lighting design) worked their magic, along with many others who contributed. Opera requires a remarkable collaborative effort, and program directors are grateful to the wonderful community of artists who devote their time and talent to create these experiences for our students.

Also in January, Opera America, the national service organization for opera and the nation’s leading champion for American opera, announced the selection of protégés and mentors for the organization’s new Mentorship Program for Women. UNI’s Dr. Mitra Sadeghpour was selected as one of just three protégés in the inaugural year of this exciting program. The program is intended to provide a unique opportunity for promising female administrators (protégés) in the field to be paired with established leaders (mentors), to help the protégés identify advancement barriers and create a plan for professional growth. Congratulations, Dr. Sadeghpour!

Throughout the year, UNI Opera students performed outreach and service in area schools and community organizations, and in March students presented a beautiful aria recital featuring freshman through graduate student singers. The year ended with opera students participating in the exciting residency of Michael Daugherty at UNI. The spring ensemble members and NISO prepared scenes from Daugherty’s opera *Jackie O* and had the opportunity to work on them with the composer before presenting them in concert with the orchestra. Opera UNI welcomed Jennifer Sheshko-Wood from the theatre department, who worked with Danielle Mason on the amazing 1960s costuming.

We look forward to an exciting 2018-19 season, and hope to see you at the opera!

Editor’s note: thank you to Mitra Sadeghpour for her contribution of this article.
Each year, the UNI School of Music celebrates its rich history and honors the legacy built by outstanding individuals who have been a part of that history by inducting exceptional music educators, professional performers, arts advocates and/or business and community leaders into the UNI School of Music Hall of Fame. Recipients are nominated and voted on by the current School of Music faculty and inducted at the annual Scholarship Benefit Concert. In fall 2017, we were thrilled to announce the induction of Bruce Bengtson and Beth Gilbert into the UNI School of Music Hall of Fame.

Appearing at the September concert to accept his induction honor was Bruce Bengtson. Bruce P. Bengtson is retired as Executive Vice President and Treasurer of Maier’s Bakery, a position he held from 1975 to 1998, after joining the company in 1971.

Born in Austin, Minnesota, and growing up in Waterloo, Iowa, Bruce began his study of the organ at the First Congregational Church in Waterloo, and served as organist for the church from 1958-1964. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree summa cum laude from the University of Northern Iowa in 1964, having carried a double major in music and history, and was recognized upon graduation for Conspicuous Achievement in Music. As part of his history major, he studied economics and social science. In 1993, he was honored with the University’s Alumni Service Award. He received a Master of Sacred Music degree, cum laude in 1966, from Union Theological Seminary in New York City. In 1968, he completed the requirements for the Associate Certificate of the American Guild of Organists.

Before becoming associated with Maier’s Bakery, he served as organist and choirmaster for churches in Waterloo, Iowa; Elizabeth, New Jersey; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and Lincoln, Nebraska. He served Christ Episcopal Church as organist for 40 years, retiring in July of 2011, completing a career of 56 years as a church organist.

He was Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Reading Hospital and Medical Center from 2004 through 2007, retiring from the Board after 28 years of service. He was Director of the National Development Committee of the American Guild of Organists from 2002 to 2008, and is an honorary trustee of the Reading Music Foundation, having served as its president from 1986 to 1989.

Married to the former Ruth Anne Maier, he and his wife have a daughter Sallie, a son Matthew, and three grandchildren.

Beth Gilbert is a native of northwest Iowa. After high school graduation, she attended the University of Northern Iowa to pursue her passion for teaching, earning degrees in piano performance and choral music education. She then continued her studies at the University of Michigan and the University of Arizona. Her principal teachers were Suzanne Conklin-Hopp and Marleta Matheson (at UNI), Benning Dexter and Eugene Bossart (at Michigan), and Richard Faith (at Arizona). She joined the UW-Superior faculty in 1983, teaching piano, piano repertoire, piano pedagogy and advanced theory. She chaired the Music Department from 2006 until 2017.

Dr. Gilbert has performed solo and chamber music recitals in more than a dozen states and Canada, and has been a featured clinician at the MTNA National Convention as well as the National Conference on Piano Pedagogy. She has been a featured soloist with the Duluth-Superior Symphony Orchestra three times, and has been Principal Keyboard of the Duluth-Superior Symphony Orchestra for the past 30 years, in addition to serving as rehearsal pianist for the Symphony Chorus. Her piano students have won numerous awards and competitions including MTNA state-level competitions in the High School and Collegiate divisions, WMTA State Badger Keyboard, Lake Superior Ragtime Society competition, DSSO Young Artist competition, and the UW-Superior Concerto competitions.

She has received the UW-Superior Chancellor’s Award for Exemplary Advising, the Chancellor’s Award for Model Teaching, an Alumni Award for Excellence in Performance and Teaching from the University of Arizona, an Honorary Alumnus Award from the UW-Superior Alumni Association, and most recently the James Rainaldo Mentor Award in appreciation of outstanding student mentoring at UW-Superior.

Dr. Gilbert was on the staff of the world-famous Interlochen Arts Camp in Interlochen, Michigan for 35 summers. After 34 years of teaching at UW-Superior, she retired in June 2017.

Congratulations and thank you for the legacy of excellence that you have built, Bruce and Beth!

Living Legend

In the School of Music, we are lucky to have so many exceptional supporters and advocates as friends and allies. One truly legendary supporter is James F. Lubker. Known to most as Jim, Lubker served at UNI as Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders (1995-2009), Dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts (1995-2005), and Interim Executive Vice President and Provost (2005-2009). He has also served as co-chair of the advisory board for the School of Music’s Midwest International Piano Competition, and is a constantly present supporter of new and beloved arts initiatives in the School of Music and throughout UNI. Thank you to Jim for his tireless cheerleading and incredible support throughout the years.
The UNI School of Music posthumously inducted alumnus Jeffrey Tower (UNI ’75) into the Jazz Hall of Fame on April 6 at a Jazz Band One concert in Russell Hall. Guest artist and critically acclaimed conductor, composer, and arranger George Stone appeared at the concert as guest conductor as the final event of his residency at UNI.

Each year the School of Music inducts one exceptional contributor from the UNI jazz community into the Hall of Fame. Tower was recognized as a trombonist, lifelong music educator, and arts advocate.

Jeffrey James Tower received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Music Education from the University of Northern Iowa and his Master of Music Degree in Trombone Performance at the University of Redlands (Redlands, CA). He was awarded an Honorary Doctorate degree from Western University for his accomplishments in Music Education in 1985. Tower retired in 2008 after being the Director of Bands at Hemet High School in Hemet, California for 30 years. Under his direction, the Hemet High School instrumental music program maintained a world renowned reputation as one of the nation’s finest, appearing at the Rose Parade, the Aloha Bowl, and the Montreux, Switzerland and Hollywood Bowl Playboy Jazz Festivals. Tower served as Chairman of Summer Jazz Studies at the Idyllwild Arts Academy for 30 years. An educational specialist and trombone artist for Conn/Selmer Musical Instruments, Tower was also a member of the University of Northern Iowa School of Music Advisory Board and The American Band College Faculty. The son of David and Janette Tower from Greene, Iowa, Tower passed away on July 4, 2017.

George Stone visited UNI in April for a multi-event residency including master classes and the concert. Stone has enjoyed a substantial career in music performance, composition, arranging, and education for 30 years. He directs the Audio Technology Program and teaches Music Theory and Composition at Cuesta College in San Luis Obispo, CA. Born and raised in Newhall, CA, Stone was a product of the strong local music programs and teachers of the Santa Clarita Valley. He graduated from Hart High School and directed their instrumental music program for eight years. He received his degrees from Cal State University Northridge where he was a member of the renowned Jazz “A” Band for whom he wrote extensively. By age 21, he was directing his own Los Angeles big band and writing for live shows and television, including the famed NBC Tonight Show Orchestra led by Doc Severinson. He has composed for NBC, HBO, Warner Brothers and Disney. He is also the composer of the most famous MIDI song of all time, “Trip Through the Grand Canyon” (Canyon.Mid) that was released on over 66 million copies of Microsoft Windows. Stone remains active in creating exciting new music in the big band format. His recordings and published charts can be found at www.georgestonemusic.com.

For more on the Jazz Studies program at UNI, and upcoming guest artist appearances, visit jazzstudies.uni.edu.

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UNI Bands News

UNI Bands hosted the 5th annual Iowa Band Conductors Forum on January 19-20. The event served as a workshop for high school and middle school band directors to discuss teaching strategies to improve the musical achievement of Iowa school band programs. Approximately 60 band directors attended the event. The annual forum is co-hosted by the bands at UNI, ISU, Drake, and the University of Iowa and is hosted on a different campus every year. UNI hosted the first Conductors Forum in 2014 at the suggestion of former faculty member Ronald Johnson. Since its inception, the event has grown in popularity and is an event unique to the state of Iowa.

In May, the UNI Wind Ensemble concluded its first year under the baton of Dr. Danny Galyen with a tremendously successful tour to the Minneapolis area and then appeared as featured performing ensemble at the Iowa Bandmasters Association conference. The collaborative performance at the IBA conference included solo performances by UNI faculty artists Anthony Williams, trombone, and Amanda McCandless, clarinet, as well as a guest conducting appearance by faculty artist Justin Mertz.

Visit bands.uni.edu to learn about current and future activities.

Editor’s note: thank you to Danny Galyen for his contributions to this article.

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The Jazz Program Needs Your Help!

We’re currently working to raise $50,000 for vital upgrades to the recording studio in Russell Hall. Rich (’79) & Kris Schultz (’80) have generously made a challenge gift to match all donations towards this project up to a maximum of half the project or $25,000. Are you able to help? If so, call (319) 273-7727 to find out more.
September 21, 2018 will be a celebration and we hope that you can join us, or show your support for music scholarships at UNI by becoming a special donor!

The evening will be filled with exceptional performances by student and faculty musicians. Pre-concert music and our chocolate course will begin in the Gallagher Bluedorn lobby at 6:45 p.m. and will feature UNI Opera students singing arias. The mainstage concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Great Hall and will include performances by the UNI Wind Ensemble, faculty pianists Sean Botkin and Vakhtang Kodanashvili, the Northern Iowa Flute Choir, UNI Jazz Band One with new faculty artist Michael Conrad, the West African Drum Ensemble, and the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra with UNI Choirs presenting a preview excerpt of Beethoven's Symphony No. 9.

As always, the end of the concert is only the beginning of the festivities. Plan to stay for excellent hors d’oeuvres and champagne in the lobby with music provided by Bob Dunn, guitar, as well as post-show performances in Davis Hall featuring UNI faculty and student musicians.

Please join us for this exciting event and help to support student scholarships at UNI’s School of Music!

**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:

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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 acknowledgment page of the benefit concert program is Friday, September 7, 2018.

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 unitix.uni.edu.

* all contributions and ticket costs for the Scholarship Benefit Concert are tax deductible less $10 for each person receiving champagne and hors d’oeuvres.
# Thank you to the Special Donors from the 2017 Scholarship Benefit Concert

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- Russell & Diane Curtis
- Marybeth Nelson
- Craig Driver
- Nathaniel Packer
- Michael & Joyce Capps
- Michael & Greta Prichard
- D. Micah Fannin Inc.
- Susan Rider
- Joel & Linda Haack
- Jennifer Rieck
- Fred & Lorraine Hallberg
- Richard & Patricia Sauer
- Dr. & Mrs. Healy
- Mary Schlicher
- Douglas & Connie Herbon
- Bob & Marlene Schmidt
- Noreen Hermansen
- Nan Serck & Kevin Bales
- A. John Holstad
- Arlo & Sue Sime
- Albert & Cathy Humke
- Gary Strandberg
- Dennis Jacobson
- Theron R. Strike
- Latthon & Linda Jernigan
- Jack Truelsen
- Rick & Bea Koonz
- University Book & Supply
- Martha Kroeze
- Steven & Eleanor Vanous
- Roger & Joanne Lane
- Mike & Rita Waggoner
- Charles & Linda Lott
- Victor & Sandra Wong
- David & Cindi Mason
- Terry & Janice Yarns
- Martha & James McCutcheon
- UNI School of Music
A look back at our visiting artists

2017-18 was another fantastic 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 a rewarding path.

Fall 2017
Christopher’s Very Happy, Band.
Andrew Smith, tuba
Adam Kolk, tenor saxophone
Ryan Gardner, trumpet
Rebecca Witt, piano
Karel Keldermans, carillon
Sharon Hettinger, carillon
Lyn Fuller, carillon
Diane Reich, soprano
Robert Brandt, baritone
Scott Holden, piano
Judith Saxton, trumpet
Steve Darling, tuba and euphonium
Hannah Leffler, flute
WoodWired Duo
BRUSH|REED Duo
Wesley Warnoff, clarinet
Connie Frigo, saxophone

Spring 2018
Peter Steiner, trombone
Preston Duncan, saxophone
Casey Rafn, piano
Lorna McGhee, flute
William Bennett, flute
Jeff Scott, horn
Jonathan Hulting-Cohen, saxophone
Nicholas Shaneyfelt, piano
Eric Stomberg, bassoon
George Vatchnadze, piano
José Antonio Zayas Cabán, saxophone
Alan Dunbar, baritone
Mark Bilyeu, piano
Quey Percussion Duo
Jonathan Holden, clarinet
Michael Daugherty, composer

Guest artist funds for 2017-2018 were supported in part or in full by the Dorothea and Robert W. Dean Visiting Artist Fund, the Esther Bley Rinker Endowed Fund for Musical Excellence, the Mark C. Falb Endowed Fund for Applied Music, the Howard and Mary Easter Quasi-Endowment, Spotlight Series patrons, the College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences and the UNI School of Music. The School of Music continues to extend its gratitude for these contributions.

Want to join us for our guest artist series performances in 2018-19?
Visit music.uni.edu/guestartists
It has been another busy year for the UNI Suzuki School under the direction of Suzanne Bullard. In addition to student recitals, concerts, outreach performances, annual theory testing, and instructional activities, the school sponsors several groups.

With the help of community volunteer and Irish music enthusiast Van Sederburg, the school now hosts Irish Music sessions. Irish Music Fundamentals is open to interested community musicians and includes junior and high school students and adults playing violin, viola, cello, mandolin, guitar, bodhrán and flute who gather weekly to learn Irish tunes. The group has performed in Cedar Falls and Buckingham.

The UNI Suzuki Association hosted its first multi-cultural fair at Cedar Heights Community Presbyterian Church. Suzuki families and groups representing Columbia, Sweden, India, Malaysia, Japan, Ireland and Czech Republic shared music, food and artifacts. The event was created to feature the diversity present in the school’s community.

The Suzuki School’s chamber music and orchestras welcomes musicians who may or may not be enrolled in the Suzuki School. The Northern Iowa Youth Orchestra performed in a side-by-side concert with the wcf symphony. Both the youth and junior orchestras toured northeast Iowa in April and the Verismo scholarship quartet performed at the Cedar Valley Music Festival.

The UNI Community Music School (CMS) also had an eventful year sharing music with members of the Cedar Valley. Last fall, the New Horizons Band hosted 6th grade students from Oelwein. The 6th graders got a chance to practice with New Horizons members, rehearse with graduate student Sarah Quesnell directing, and to watch a performance by the UNI Taiko Ensemble. Later in the year, the New Horizons Brass Choir performed at the Allen School of Nursing Senior Companions recognition luncheon. The UNI Children’s Choir also had a busy performance schedule, performing with the UNI Varsity Men’s Glee Club and the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony at the "Bernstein @ 100" concert. CMS students attended performance classes, where they had the opportunity to hear students from other studios perform and to learn from other CMS teachers about performance practices and concert etiquette. In association with the Piano Pedagogy program, CMS sponsored Music Friends and Tuesday Tunes classes for piano. Tuesday Tunes is a recreational class for adults just learning to play the piano, while Music Friends is a group class for children ages 5-6. Both classes were taught by UNI Piano Pedagogy students. This year also marked the first year of collaborating with the Westminster Presbyterian Promise Academy of Music, in Waterloo. Through the Promise Music Academy, CMS teachers offered lessons in piano and ukulele at Camp Musicmania during the summer.

The UNI Spectrum Project, a music, movement, drama and art program for children with differing abilities, performed their spring concert Superheroes Among Us on April 22. This year included the first annual Spectrum Art Week exhibit of performer art. The program has grown to over 60 performers, assisted by 120 student volunteers.

The UNI Spectrum Project is open to all children ages 5-19 and provides a performing arts experience that culminates in a show each April. Performers come from as far away as Iowa City to rehearse every Saturday, January through April.

This year’s show took the audience on a journey with two superheroes who thought they had lost their superpowers. In the end, they learn their superpowers were never gone. Spectrum project director Kevin Droe reflected on the spring concert saying, “Look closer. There are superheroes who we encounter every day and don’t realize it. These superheroes are the ones who bring variety, color and creativity to our world each day and every minute.”

The show ended with the song Heart Full of Stars written and performed by music education major Rachel Bearinger for the Spectrum Project. With such growth in Spectrum Project, the spring show had to be moved to the Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center. The estimated audience size was over one thousand, and the program is planning for another large event in the Gallagher Bluedorn in spring 2019.

Editor’s note: thank you to Cathy Craig, Heather Hamilton and Kevin Droe for their contributions to this article.
At our 2018 Spotlight Series Performance Competition Finals, Samuel Nau, euphonium, was named the 2018 Presser Scholar and awarded the $4,000 Presser Foundation Award. Samuel Nau is a music education major from Winterset, Iowa. Sam’s primary instrument is euphonium and he studies under Dr. Jesse Orth. During his time at UNI, Sam has participated in the Panther Marching Band, Jazz Panthers, Symphonic Band, UNITUBA and Wind Ensemble. He spends his extra time participating in smaller ensembles and marching with the Cavaliers Drum and Bugle Corps over the summer.

The $2000 Charles and Marleta Matheson Award was awarded to Emma Schmidt, clarinet. Schmidt is a junior Music Education major from Algona, Iowa. After graduation from UNI, she hopes to teach middle school or high school instrumental music. She has been studying clarinet since she was 10, and hopes to further her education after a few years of teaching by going back to school for a master’s degree in Music Education and possibly an artist’s diploma.

Steven Hoopingarner, marimba, was awarded the $1000 Myron and Ruth Russell Award for his performance. Hoopingarner, a native of Sioux City, Iowa, is a junior music major and studies percussion with Ryan Frost, Matt Andreini, and Thomas Giampietro. He has performed with various bands, orchestras, and percussion ensembles. Steven was a featured soloist with the Siouxland Youth Symphony as a winner of the 2015 Leo Kucinski Academy of Music Concerto Competition and was also a finalist in the 2017 University of Northern Iowa Concerto Competition. Hoopingarner also claimed the People’s Choice Award, voted on by the audience at the Competition Finals Concert in March.

In November 2017, Sayyod Mirzomurodov was awarded the top honor at the UNI School of Music Instrumental Concerto Competition Finals. Mirzomurodov is a native of Uzbekistan and started playing clarinet at age eight. He received his bachelor degree from Uzbekistan State Conservatory in Tashkent. Sayyod performed with National Symphony Orchestra and Wind ensemble in Uzbekistan and other republics of Central Asia as a soloist and a chamber musician. Sayyod Mirzomurodov is pursuing his Master of Music degree in Clarinet Performance at the University of Northern Iowa where he is a student of Dr. McCandless.

Monica Chen, violin, was the second place winner at the November event, while Rishi Kolusu, trumpet, claimed third place. The “Audience Favorite” honor was also awarded to Mirzomurodov.

In addition to our own performance competitions, UNI School of Music students earned numerous other honors throughout the year. Graduate student Leia Lensing won first prize and the online viewers award at the 30th Annual Eleanor McCullum Competition held at the Houston Grand Opera.

Graduate student Megan Grey competed in The MET National Council Auditions and was selected to move on to the semi-finals competition with a Grand Finals Concert with full orchestra at the MET in New York City on April 29. On July 31, it was announced that Megan was selected as one of only nine new participants in the Metropolitan Opera’s Lindemann Young Artist Development Program. She will make the move to New York and begin the program in August 2018.

Congratulations to all of our award-winning and honor-earning students!

Editor’s note: thank you to Brenda Hackenmiller and Tommy Truelsen for their help with and contributions to this article.
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:
TOMMY TRUELSEN

Tommy Truelsen is a senior at UNI majoring in music technology. Tommy is from right here in Cedar Falls. He is studying both piano and voice at UNI and has been involved in the Panther Marching Band, UNI Singers, Concert Chorale, Cantorei, UNI Opera, West African Drum Ensemble and Chamber Music throughout his time at UNI. Participating in ensembles has been a highlight of his time at UNI. Tommy noted, “I have absolutely loved being involved in various ensembles on campus. It is such a great way to meet people and learn from my peers. Through this experience, I’ve developed as a musician, performed a wide variety of repertoire, and traveled around the world. I’ve performed on various run outs with the choirs, and I traveled to Rome and London with the marching band. I’m so grateful for all that I was able to experience and everyone that I was able to meet while being involved in ensembles on campus.”

Truelsen is one of the founding members of the University of Northern Iowa Guild of Carillonneurs and has been involved with this organization since the spring of his freshman year. Students in the group are trained on carillon performance and the history of the campanile. He has served as the president of the organization for two years which, he says, “allowed me to develop my leadership skills.” In fall 2017, the guild hosted the second Midwest International Carillon Festival. “We do not have an instructor of carillon at UNI,” Tommy noted, “so it is important for us to seek out guidance on this instrument. Karel Keldermans is a professional carillonneur who frequently works with our students and plans the Midwest International Carillon Festival. This year, we welcomed guests from Missouri, Kansas, and Australia. At the festival, we had the opportunity to take lessons with our guests, watch them perform, and listen to their lectures. This experience has been extremely helpful for our students.”

In the fall, Tommy worked as the sound designer for the University of Northern Iowa Student Theatre Association’s (UNISTA) production of [title of show] by Jeff Bowen and Hunter Bell. “This project was applied towards my degree requirements as my senior project,” Tommy said. “The production team for the show was composed entirely of students. Words cannot express how exciting it was to work on a show with a team of dedicated, talented students who worked tirelessly to develop their craft through this project. I learned a lot about my own field of study through this experience, but this show also opened my eyes to all of the career opportunities within the theatre.”

Tommy caught the theatre bug, and in the spring, he auditioned for Theatre UNI’s production of Hair. “Being a part of this production was one of the best decisions that I made at UNI. It was an incredible learning opportunity to experience a professional theatre environment from the perspective of an actor rather than a production team member. I’ve always wanted to get involved with the theatre department at UNI but didn’t have the time until this year. I was excited to be cast in the show and received a role in the ensemble and a featured ensemble role as the tourist lady, Margaret Mead.”

After graduation, Tommy plans to begin a career as an audio engineer at a recording studio or theatre.

Congratulations on your outstanding achievements at UNI this year and best of luck in your future, Tommy!

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 Honors program at UNI aims 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 Presidential or Provost Scholar this year. Scholars are as follows:

Honor’s Program Students:

Presidential Scholars:
Sydney Atwood, Adam Denner, Kyle Geesey, Madeleine Hartleip, Coren Hucke, Collin Krukow, Samuel Ogilvie, Estefania Rvasio Corrales, Anya Shorey and Christina Wichert.

The School of Music would also like to congratulate the School of Music students who appeared on the fall 2017 and spring 2018 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 you on your excellent work!
FACULTY SPOTLIGHT:
ALISON ALTSTATT
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MUSICOLOGY/MUSIC HISTORY

Alison Altstatt is a historian of medieval chant. Her research has focused on the music and ritual of Benedictine convents, the genres of sequence and proper office, and medieval manuscripts and their twentieth-century reception. She has presented her work to the American Musicological Society, the Cantus Planus study group of the International Musicological Society, the College Music Society, the International Congress on Medieval Studies, the Medieval Academy of America, the North American Academy of Liturgy, and the Working Group on Religious Women in Medieval Europe (Arbeitskreis geistliche Frauen im europäischen Mittelalter.) Her most recent publications have identified and analyzed a thirteenth-century manuscript processional from the English convent of Wilton Abbey that had been missing since 1860. This manuscript is the subject of a book-in-progress titled Wilton Abbey in Procession.

Altstatt holds an M.A. in History from the University of California, Berkeley and a Ph.D. in Musicology with a second field in Historical Performance Practice from the University of Oregon. Before coming to UNI, she served as instructor of Musicology and Early Music performance at the University of Oregon and Western Oregon University, and as Visiting Assistant Professor of Musicology at Indiana University’s Jacobs School of Music. She has also given numerous invited workshops on the performance of medieval chant. In May 2018, she was the H.P. Krause Visiting Research Fellow at Yale University’s Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, where she conducted research on English medieval liturgical music manuscripts in the Otto F. Ege collection.

Berdena Beach passed away in June 2017, but through Dr. Beach’s wonderful generosity and her desire to provide permanent support for the UNI School of Music, this year she will bring nationally and internationally renowned artists in the field of music to the UNI campus, and provide scholarship support for students who play high-demand instruments needed to support well-rounded programs in the School of Music.

Want your legacy to live on? Call to speak with the UNI Foundation about including a gift to the School of Music in your estate plans.

(319) 273-7727 | www.uni-foundation.org
**Faculty Activities**

**Alison Altstatt,** associate professor of musicology/music history

- Invited to appear as presenter for the workshop “Liturical Manuscripts in Person” at the Lilly Library at Indiana University, Bloomington.
- Was in residence as the H. P. Krause Visiting Research Fellow, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Project: “English Liturgical Manuscripts in the Otto F. Ege Collection.”

**Cayla Bellamy,** assistant professor of bassoon

- Invited recitalist at the International Conference of the College Music Society in Sydney, Australia.
- Featured soloist with the UNI Septet performing Grammy-award winning Michael Daugherty’s “Dead Elvis.”

**Melinda Boyd,** associate professor of music history, associate director of undergraduate studies

- Signed publication contract for a new monograph.
- Served as Administrative Fellow in Academic Affairs, Office of the Provost and Executive Vice President.

**Julia Bullard,** professor of viola and music theory, associate director of graduate studies

- Served as Artistic Director for the UNI Holocaust Remembrance Concert at the Hearst Center, and performed on the event with guest artists and UNI faculty members.
- Performed with Trio 826 and with the UNI Faculty Piano Quartet for concerts at UNI, the Hearst Center for the Arts, and the Waverly Chamber Music Series.
- Served as Associate Director for the School of Music.

**Rebecca Burkhardt,** professor of conducting and music theory, conductor of the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra

- Original musical JUST ANN was performed by Cedar Falls Community Theatre in August 2017.
- Led the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra (NISO) on a tour to Brazil, featuring two performances of music by American composers with the combined orchestras of NISO and University of Caxias do Sul in March.
- Celebrated a performance of her composition Where Sky, Where Pilgrim by the UNI Concert Chorale in April 2018.

**Nancy Cobb,** professor of music, composition and theory

- Received the AAUW-Iowa Chapter Distinguished Faculty Award representing the Regent University division. The purpose of the award is to recognize women faculty’s exemplary contributions toward creating a climate of gender equity in the state of Iowa.
- Published two works through Lorenz Music Publishing: “Holy, Holy, Holy, Five Voluntaries for Organ,” and “Christ the Lord is Risen Today” for SATB plus organ and brass quintet.
- Celebrated the premiere of her composition “And Death Shall Have no Dominion” by the UNI Varsity Men’s Glee Club.

**Angeleita Floyd,** professor of flute

- Appeared as guest artist at the 10th International Flute Festival, Costa Rica, July 2017, where she presented master classes and directed the Festival Flute Choir of over 100 flutists in Catedral Metropolitana, San Jose.
- Appeared as guest artist at the University of Akron’s Fall Flute Day and the University of Texas at Austin’s Electro-Acoustic Recital Series where she presented a master class, a lecture presentation on “The Gilbert Legacy” and conducted Follo’s “Winds for Change” featuring ZAWA! with the Festival and University Flute Ensembles.

**Ryan Frost,** instructor of percussion

- Recent initiatives include the 2nd Annual Percussion Silent Auction Fundraiser, the 2nd Annual UNI Percussion Camp, and the commissioning and world premieres of two works for the UNI Percussion Ensemble.
- Performed numerous community outreach events and on-campus collaborative performances with School of Music Faculty in addition to hosting and performing with Quey Percussion Duo during their two-day campus residency.

**Robin Guy,** professor of piano

- Performed with UNI faculty and students at the Central Regional Conference of the National Association of Teachers of Singing at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, with two students advancing to semi-finals and one winning First Place in the Graduate Division.
- Judged the Distinction in Accompanying Competition at Luther College in Decorah.
- Appeared as pianist featured with voice professor Michelle Monroe on the Friday Lunchtime Concert Series at the Heart Center in Cedar Falls.

**Randall Harlow,** assistant professor of organ and music theory

- Completed recording his latest CD at the University of Chicago, a three-disc anthology of contemporary American organ music. The album will be released by Innova Recordings in fall 2018.

**John Hines,** professor of voice

- Featured artist in excerpts from Richard Wagner’s Das Rheingold and Die Walküre at the University of British Columbia’s Chan Centre for the Performing Arts, with conductor Jonathan Girard and the University of British Columbia Symphony Orchestra (Vancouver, Canada).
- Bass soloist in Handel’s Messiah at First Federated Church of Peoria with conductor John Jost (Peoria, Illinois).
- Bass soloist in Mozart’s Requiem at Immaculate Conception Church with conductor Gerald Kreitzer and the Cedar Rapids Concert Chorale (Cedar Rapids, Iowa).

**Vakhtang Kodanashvili,** instructor of piano

- Performed Beethoven’s piano concerto #5 (“Emperor”) with the South Bend
Faculty Activities

Symphony Orchestra. South Bend previously had been Kodanashvili’s hometown for 22 years. The 2017-18 season of the symphony celebrated new music director, Alastair Willis.

Amy Kotsonis, assistant professor of choral ensembles and music education
• Conducted the UNI Women’s Chorus in their second international tour to Germany where they performed in Berlin, Leipzig, Heidelberg and Munich.
• Presented at the Iowa Music Educators Association on new choral music with UNI Singers performing.
• Presented at the National Association for Music Education Music Research and Teacher Education National Conference in Atlanta, Georgia.

Christopher Merz, professor of jazz, director of Jazz Band One
• Completed commissions for the Bucknell University Jazz Ensemble, UNI Professor of Trombone Anthony Williams, and Dowling Catholic High School jazz band.
• Performed with Christopher’s Very Happy Band, on the main stage of the Iowa City jazz festival, and the Mears Park stage of the Twin Cities (St. Paul) jazz festival.
• Appeared as a composer in residence with the Bucknell University jazz ensemble.

Michelle Monroe, instructor of voice
• Selected as Soprano soloist with Grinnell Oratorio Society for Haydn’s Missa in Angustias (mass for troubled times).
• Appeared as a faculty artist as The Witch in UNI Opera’s production of Hansel and Gretel.
• Performed Mother in Amahl and the Night Visitors with the Nebraska Opera Project

Jesse Orth, instructor of tuba and euphonium
• Invited to perform a guest artist recital and give a master class to low brass students at Drake University as part of their low brass day festivities.
• Invited to participate in the Midwest Regional Tuba and Euphonium Conference in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Orth judged the artist tuba solo competition, presented a lecture on tuba playing in Mexican-American Regional music and performed a solo recital.

Katherine Osborne, instructor of voice
• Completed editing Great Teachers on Great Singing by Robin Rice, published in November 2017 by Inside View Press.
• Performed concerts and taught voice lessons at the Härnösands Opera Academy and Festival (Sweden) in June 2017.
• Presented a workshop at the 9th International Congress of Voice Teachers in Stockholm, Sweden on August 5, 2017 titled A Firm Foundation: Defining Acoustic Expectations in the Female Primo Passaggio for Classical Singing to Aid Low and Middle Register Development.

Milta Sadeghpour, associate professor of opera
• Selected as one of three recipients of Opera America’s WON Mentoring Program. For more on this honor, see page 8.
• Served as artistic and stage director for Hansel and Gretel, performed in January 2018 in the Gallagher Bluedorn, Great Hall.
• Served as Chair of the Education and Student Activities committee as a member of the board of directors for National Opera Association.

Jonathan Schwabe, professor of theory and composition
• Appeared as guest composer at Eastern Illinois University in March. Faculty and students premiered three works: Rose Hill at Dusk (violin & piano), Shadowflying (clarinet, flute, marimba & piano), and an arrangement of the hymn How Can I Keep from Singing? (SATB chorus and piano).
• Celebrated the premiere of The Echoing Green (Blake), for soprano, oboe and piano in April at UNI, featuring faculty colleagues Michelle Monroe, Heather Peyton and Vahktang Kodanashvili.

Yu-Ting (Tina) Su, associate professor of horn
• Hosted the 35th Anniversary of UNI Horn Choir Reunion. The weekend began with the UNI Wind Ensemble concert featuring Dr. Su and three students (Casey Chlapek, Casey Dirksen and Joel Andrews) as soloists in Hübler’s “Konzertstück für 4 horns and band.” UNI alumni and community players played in the UNI Horn Choir gathering and performed on the reunion concert on November 5.
• Performed as the principal horn with the Taipei Philharmonic Orchestra in Xiamen, China in January 2018.

Michelle Swanson, assistant professor of music education
• Conducted the Iowa Choral Directors’ South Central Honor Choir, featuring 150 fifth grade singers from south central Iowa, April 2018.
• Conducted UNI Children’s Choir in two complete concerts, and appearances on the UNI Varsity Men’s Glee Club Christmas Variety Shows and wcfsymphony’s Bernstein’s 100th concert.
• Received the Midwest One Bank Outstanding Academic Advising award, and served as co-chair of the UNI Advising Network and ex-officio member of Advising Council to the Provost at UNI.

Robert Washut, professor of jazz studies
• Released a CD of original compositions/ arrangements entitled Journey to Knowhere, featuring the Bob Washut Dodectet (artistalliancerecords.com), and composed two commissioned compositions for jazz ensemble, River Road (Cedar Falls High School jazz band) and Malecón (University of Iowa Latin jazz ensemble).
• Conducted two all-state jazz bands in New Hampshire and Iowa.
• Performed as jazz pianist at 22 performances locally and regionally.

John Wiles, associate professor of choral conducting
• Continues to serve as Artistic Director of Vox Peregrini, a pilgrimage choir that returned to the Wicklow Way of Ireland and presented concerts in Glendalough and Dublin.
• Completed the recording, “In Paradisum: The Choral Music of Maurice Duruflé,” which features faculty organists Randall Harlow and Mariko Morita as well as the UNI Concert Chorale and Men’s Glee Club. The recording is expected to be released by CENTAUR Records later this year.
• Led the UNI Varsity Men’s Glee Club on an International Concert Tour of Wales and Ireland. For more on the tour, see page 4.

Ross Monroe Winter, assistant professor of violin
• Performed Corigliano’s “Red Violin” Chaconne with the Orquestra Sinfónica da Universidade de Caxias do Sul and NISO in Novo Hamburgo and Caxias do Sol, Brazil.
• Completed a successful tenure as Academy Director at Virginia’s Wintergreen Summer Music Festival and Academy. Winter continued to serve as teaching faculty and Festival Artist in summer of 2018.
• Taught at Virginia Commonwealth University and Richmond Symphony’s “The Orchestra Project” in June 2018.
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.

David Buch — David wrote to us about his busy year of musical activity. “In October 2017, I presented eight pre-opera talks for Gluck’s Orphée et Eurydice, a co-production of the Lyric Opera of Chicago and the Joffrey Ballet. I also hosted and lectured in the eight-session series ‘Opera Insider’ at the Lyric Opera of Chicago. I published ‘Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart’ in Oxford Bibliographies in Music. Ed. Bruce Gustafson. New York: Oxford University Press. I wrote articles for the program books in this summer’s Salzburg Festival (The Magic Flute) and for the Tiroler Landestheater in Innsbruck (The Philosopher’s Stone). Lucy and I will be guests of the theater in Innsbruck in June 2018, where I will be lecturing. We also spent a glorious six weeks in Buenos Aires visiting family and friends.”

Randy Hogancamp — Randy wrote to say, “A brief summary of this past year includes working on the library in Jane’s sixth-grade classroom, spending one day a week with our granddaughters - Sadie Mae (four years) and Gemma Rose (10 months), exploring Chicago on weekends and school breaks, planning home projects, and working on fund raising for a percussion scholarship! I really enjoy the freedom of schedule that allows me (for the most part) to decide when to do what! I have also enjoyed listening to percussion juries at the end of each semester, and hope to hear Matt Andreini and Gabor Palotas perform in Hungary this summer as well as assist with Ryan Frost’s Percussion Camp at UNI!”

Marilou Kratzenstein — Marilou finds many delightful ways to occupy her time. In addition to concerts and theatre, which San Diego has in abundance, she has taken on various volunteer activities including tutoring children, working at a community center for the homeless, and promoting a project called ‘Classics 4 Kids.’ This project takes interactive music workshops to the elementary schools, especially those in underprivileged neighborhoods, and buses the children to three specially designed orchestra concerts in the elegant, historic Balboa Theatre downtown. Marilou and her husband Frank De Haan also love to travel. Their most exciting trip this year is a Road Scholar tour focusing on significant classical music concerts in Berlin, Leipzig and Dresden. Marilou spent time in these cities only before the unification of Germany, so she is eager to see how the three major cultural centers have changed.

Bill Shepherd — Bill continues to enjoy being active at UNI and throughout the Cedar Valley. He continues to conduct his big band in concerts throughout the summer season, and has developed a deep interest in tracing his heritage, which he recently explored through a presented lecture at the Arcturus Club on campus.

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**WHY RHYTHMS?**

Although Rhythms has been in production for several years now, I have for a long time wanted to say something about the title of the publication! As musicians we are all aware of the many elements of music which are necessary, to various degrees, in helping us “make music.” As a percussionist, I perhaps have a particular fondness and insight into the element of rhythm.

Many years ago I became particularly excited after reading and listening to several lectures by mythologist Joseph Campbell regarding The Power of Myth and The Hero with a Thousand Faces. That led me to other readings such as The Hero with an African Face by Clyde Ford and When the Drummers Were Women by Layne Redmond. I was also inspired by Efrain Toro’s work in connecting life, music, science and rhythm as well as by observing the central place of rhythm in many cultures.

Although not earth shattering, the realization and understanding of the role of rhythm in our lives and throughout the world helped me see it in a different and perhaps deeper perspective. When you think of the tiny atoms that are spinning in rhythm within every solid, liquid or gas to the seasons to the planets revolving around the sun, you begin to understand that rhythm has always been a powerful force in our lives as well as the lives of prehistoric man. Viewing rhythm as a living experience gives it a more tangible meaning. I would submit that no other single force is as omni-present in our lives as rhythm!

- Contributed by Emeritus Professor Randy Hogancamp
This year the School of Music celebrated the influential career of a long-time faculty member as he retired in 2018. Bob Washut celebrated his retirement this year.

Bob Washut served as faculty artist and educator at UNI for 38 years. Professor of Music at the University of Northern Iowa, Washut served as Director of Jazz Studies from 1980-2002. An accomplished jazz composer and arranger, Washut has received numerous commissions from collegiate and high school jazz ensembles, professional jazz artists, and symphony orchestras. Many of his works are published by Kendor Music, UNC Jazz Press, ejazzlines, C.L. Barnhouse, Heritage JazzWorks, Sierra Music, and Really Good Music. Washut also has served as a jazz composer-in-residence at several universities around the country. During his 22 years as director of the award-winning UNI Jazz Band One, Washut recorded 11 CDs (two of which earned 5-star ratings from DownBeat magazine), toured Europe three times, consistently received “Outstanding Band” recognition at collegiate jazz festivals throughout the Midwest, and was awarded three “Outstanding Performance” citations in DownBeat’s Annual Student Music Awards.

Dr. Washut is in demand as a clinician and adjudicator nationally, and has conducted all-state jazz bands in 16 states. He is also a jazz pianist who founded the locally popular Latin jazz band, Orquesta Alto Maiz, in 1986, with which he remained for 27 years. His newest recording, Journey to Knowhere, was released in 2018 and features his original compositions for jazz dodecetet. In 2013, Washut was inducted into the Des Moines Hall of Fame and the Iowa IAJE Hall of Fame in 2003. At UNI, he was the recipient of the Distinguished Scholar Award in 2013, and the College of Humanities, Arts, and Sciences Dean’s Award for Excellence in Scholarship, Research, and Creative Activity in 2014. He received the Outstanding Teaching Award in 1996.

For more on Bob’s retirement celebration in April 2018, see page 7.

While we say goodbye to this remarkable pillar of the music program, we are excited to welcome new faculty who begin their UNI journey this year.

Dr. Michael Conrad joins the School of Music faculty as Assistant Professor of Jazz Studies/Music Education and Director of Jazz Band Two in fall 2018. Conrad has been recognized for his arranging and composing with four ASCAP Herb Alpert Young Jazz Composer Awards and seven DownBeat Awards, as well as awards and commissions from organizations like the Bundesjazzorchester of Germany, the West Point Jazz Knights, and the American Society of Music Arrangers and Composers. Conrad’s arrangements have been performed all around the world, including a 2014 premiere at Carnegie Hall, and a performance at the US Presidential Inauguration in 2013. Recently, Conrad was selected to participate in the 2017 Metropole Orchestra Arrangers Workshop with Vince Mendoza and was chosen as a finalist for the “Spheres of a Genius” composition competition through the Vienna Radio Symphony.

As a performer, Dr. Conrad has toured China, played at the Umbria Jazz Festival in Perugia, Italy, and appeared at various jazz festivals and venues all over the United States. He has enjoyed playing piano in ensembles like the Alexa Tarantino Quintet, Dave Chisholm’s Calligraphy, and Christopher’s Very Happy Band. (a quartet led by UNI Director of Jazz Studies Chris Merz). Equally accomplished on both trombone and piano, Conrad truly loves collaborating with other musicians, and always brings his creativity and expressiveness to every performance he gives and every composition that he writes.

From 2013 to 2015, Conrad was the Head Band Director at West High School in Waterloo, Iowa where he directed the Wind Symphony and Jazz Ensembles and taught Music Theory and Jazz Improvisation. He has also led his own large jazz ensemble called COLOSSUS and released an album of original music featuring Alex Sipiagin with his 15-piece group, the All Angles Orchestra. Dr. Conrad is in high demand as a clinician and guest director for jazz bands, and he continues to come up with fresh and exciting works for a wide variety of ensembles. Many of his compositions and arrangements are published by UNC Jazz Press, ejazzlines, and his own website, www.mconradmusic.com.

Dr. Conrad earned degrees from the University Northern Iowa (BM and BME), the Eastman School of Music (MM), and the University of Northern Colorado (DA).

The School of Music wishes to congratulate Bob on his retirement, and to welcome Michael!
1940s

'48 Rosie Irene (Maiden) Bolstad, BA, Bremerton, WA, completed and released her original recording project “Remembering Bernie” in honor of her late husband. She also provided all music for her grandson’s wedding in summer 2017.

1950s

'55 Laurens Blankers, BA, Owatonna, MN, moved to Minnesota from Nashville, TN in July 2017 and has been enjoying expanding his participation in churches.

1970s

'75 David Poggenklaas, BA, Guttenberg, IA, retired in 2008 after 33 years teaching elementary and junior high vocal music. He entertains at more than 30 care centers each month and enjoys fishing, golf and his grandchildren. He also still substitute teaches.

1980s

'80 JoDee Davis, BM, MM '85, Kansas City, MO, was promoted to full professor at the University of Missouri-Kansas City in 2018. In 2017, she was awarded a University of Missouri Research Board grant to make a recording of new music for trombone and piano. The recording will include works by Jennifer Higdon, Victoria Bond and Paul Rudy. Anticipated completion is 2019.

'81 Jeffrey Hellmer, BM, Austin, TX, is director of jazz studies and serves as the associate director of the Butler School of Music at the University of Texas at Austin. He led the UT Jazz Orchestra on a 2017 European tour that included performances at the Montreux and North Sea Jazz Festivals. He was awarded the Flawn Regents Professorship in Piano.

'81 Gary Schwartzhoff, MM, Eau Claire, WI, marked his 44th year as a music educator. He has been active throughout his professional career in the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) and Intercollegiate Male Choruses (IMC). In ACDA, he served as president of the North Central Division from 1992-94 and served as a member of the IMC Executive Board from 1993-2016. The Wisconsin Choral Directors Association (WCDA) presented him the Outstanding Church Musician Award in 2007 and the Morris Hayes Award for lifetime achievement in the choral art in 2010. In 2018, Schwartzhoff was presented the Marshall Bartholomew Award by IMC in Washington D.C. The award is in honor of conductors who have made significant contributions to the field of male chorus music. In 2019, Schwartzhoff will conduct the 75th Anniversary of D Day and the Liberation of France Choral Festival in Paris, France.

1990s

'90 Lori (Binkley) Wilson, BM, West Burlington, IA, is artist in residence and adjunct faculty of voice at Southeastern Community College.

'92 Brian Hughes, MM, MM '93, Dubuque, IA, received the 2017 American Prize in Wind Conducting in recognition of his work with the Quad City Wind Ensemble.

'94 JC Sanford, BA, Northfield, MN, received the 2018 McKnight Fellowship for Composers. JC was one of only four selected for this prestigious honor.

2000s

'01 Suzanne (Hendrix) Hendrix-Case, BM, MM '06, Sioux City, IA, won second prize in the 2017 Gerda Lissner Competition and first place in the Wagner Society of New York Competition. She also sang in Eugene Onegin at the Hawaii Opera Theatre and L’Italiana in Algeri at the Santa Fe Opera.

'03 Nathan Dishman, BM, Ames, IA, has been named Assistant Professor of Trombone at Iowa State University, where he will begin in fall 2018. He comes to ISU from Morehead State University in Kentucky.
Thank you to all who e-mailed or wrote to Alumni News. If you wish to contribute to the next issue, please complete and return the form in the center of this magazine. We look forward to hearing from you!
Alum Matthew Boucher ’04 has long balanced interests in music and science. As an undergrad student at UNI, he double-majored in both music and physics. “This was encouraged by all of my professors in both departments. Having the support to follow my passions in different areas validated my curiosity and made it okay to try new things that might be outside my comfort zone,” Boucher said.

After UNI, he went to Indiana University Bloomington and received his Master of Music in Tuba Performance, which he’s been playing since he started on the baritone tuba in fourth grade. That degree led him to work as a craftsman of musical instruments at S.E. Shires, Co., where his tasks included building custom parts for trombones. “Solving some of those unique technical problems helped me learn how to come up with creative solutions, a skill that I applied to my research,” remarked Boucher.

With a desire to go back to school and study acoustical engineering, Boucher found a program that fit his needs overseas. He traveled to France to the University of Le Mans to complete a Master of Science degree in Acoustics Research. He then received a Marie Curie fellowship to do acoustics research at the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium. His work involved the study of acoustics in smaller interior rooms, and he earned his doctorate in Noise and Vibration there.

Boucher says he noticed the NASA job in vehicle flight acoustics on some job boards, but wasn’t sure his prior research experience would qualify him as it wasn’t applied to vehicle acoustics. But his background and skills matched the job requirements, so he applied and was hired as a Research Aerospace Technologist (AST) in Flight Vehicle Acoustics.

His main task at NASA is to better understand how we process and perceive sounds by doing laboratory listening tests. One of his team’s goals is to determine annoyance levels to aircraft that can help regulators set reasonable certification standards for flight vehicles. “It is really exciting to be working at NASA Langley Research Center, which is the birthplace of NASA over 100 years ago. It is amazing to be surrounded by pieces of history, but the coolest part is working with caring people who just happen to be really intelligent,” Boucher said.

While his most recent endeavors have been leaning more in the scientific realm, music is always part of his life, too. He played in musical groups in both France and Belgium, but is taking a short break as his tubas are still making it through customs. He hopes to find a group to play with in Virginia when he’s reunited with his instruments.

Editor’s note: thank you to Sarah Pauls and Jennifer Miller for their contribution of this article.
Wind Ensemble & Symphonic Band
Danny Galyen and Justin Mertz, conductors
Thursday, September 27, 2018
7:30 p.m. Great Hall, GBPAC

Jazz Band One & Jazz Band Two
Christopher Merz and Michael Conrad, conductors
Friday, October 5, 2018
7:30 p.m. Bengtson Auditorium, Russell Hall

Due Gala: Dinner and Two Shows, Part 1*
Opera Scenes
Mitra Sadeghpour, director
Friday, November 2, 2018
5:30 p.m. Great Hall, GBPAC

Due Gala: Dinner and Two Shows, Part 3*
Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra
Rebecca Burkhardt, conductor
Friday, November 2, 2018
8 p.m. Great Hall, GBPAC

UNI Opera presents: Opera Scenes
Mitra Sadeghpour, director
Saturday, November 3, 2018
7:30 p.m. Bengtson Auditorium, Russell Hall

Concert Chorale
John Len Wiles, conductor
Tuesday, November 13, 2018
7:30 p.m. Great Hall, GBPAC

UNI Holiday Concert
Tuesday, December 4, 2018
7:30 p.m. Great Hall, GBPAC

Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra
Rebecca Burkhardt, conductor
Wednesday, February 13, 2019
7:30 p.m. Great Hall, GBPAC

UNI Choirs Concert
Amy Kotsonis and John Len Wiles, conductors
Tuesday, March 5, 2019
7:30 p.m. Great Hall, GBPAC

Jazz Band One
Christopher Merz, conductor
Friday, April 5, 2019
7:30 p.m. Bengtson Auditorium, Russell Hall

Symphonic Band & Concert Band
Justin Mertz, conductor
Tuesday, April 16, 2019
7:30 p.m. Great Hall, GBPAC

Wind Ensemble
Danny Galyen, conductor
Thursday, April 18, 2019
7:30 p.m. Great Hall, GBPAC

* A dinner will be presented between our two Spotlight Series events on Nov. 2nd. Seating for the dinner is limited and meal price is $25. Please call the box office to reserve your seats, or to inquire about package discounts for purchasing multiple event tickets for Due Gala events.

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