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CONCERT CHORALE TOURS SPAIN

PANTHER MARCHING BAND PERFORMS IN IRELAND

STUDENTS AND FACULTY PRESENT BEETHOVEN'S NO. 9
Dear Friends,

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This past academic year was once again marked by some great events. We inaugurated a new collaborative series of concerts with the Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center. Two concerts marked the anniversary of the end of World War I. The first, a performance by a faculty septet of Stravinsky’s full L’Histoire du soldat (1918) complete with narrators and dancers, and the second featured the UNI Varsity Glee Club and UNI Wind Ensemble in an ‘Armistice’ concert. Completing the series and really putting an exclamation point on the entire year was a full performance of Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9 with combined choirs of over 200 voices, four faculty soloists and the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra performed to an audience of over 1,200.

We celebrated the retirement of our longtime and greatly beloved flute faculty member, Dr. Angeliea Floyd. Angeliea’s 33-year career at UNI has produced an incredible number of fine flutists and music educators as well as no small number of memorable parties! There was a great celebration with friends and alumni to mark the event that is described in this publication. Dr. Nancy Cobb also retired this year. She spent only two years in the School of Music after she retired from the UNI Associate Provost for Faculty position, but in those two years, she endeared herself to faculty and students alike. She is a tremendous composer and top notch music educator and will be greatly missed, though you’ll be hearing more about her and her new composition in the near future!

I am very excited for the coming year! Seven new colleagues will join us. They represent an amazing pool of talent, energy and diverse experiences. This is a remarkable influx and sure to have a tremendous impact. You can read more about this incredible group herein.

The future looks bright for the UNI School of Music, thanks to the great students, staff and faculty that make up our school, but it is also due to the continued support of friends like you. Without the support of our alumni, donors and supporters, we could not achieve the many great things that you will read about in this newsletter.

The University of Northern Iowa is an equal opportunity educator and employer with a comprehensive plan for affirmative action.

Thank you for your continued support!

All the best!

Jeffrey Funderburk
Director & Professor

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2018 marked the 130th Anniversary of the Women’s Chorus, the oldest ensemble on UNI’s campus. The Women’s Chorus was founded by Julia Curtiss in 1888, when the institution was called the Iowa Normal School, and the ensemble was originally named the Cecelian Glee Club. Ms. Curtiss went on to create several other choral ensembles on campus, including a second women’s glee club, and was instrumental in starting the program that we now call the UNI School of Music.

The celebration for this special anniversary began in March 2018 when the current UNI Women’s Chorus traveled to Germany on their second international tour, and culminated with an on-campus concert and celebration weekend in October. Alumni returned to campus to sing together again, and to celebrate the rich tradition and heritage of the Women’s Chorus. Past members included those who graduated as far back as 1954, and as recent as last year.

“It was an incredible weekend of sharing, reminiscing, singing, and so much joy!” Women’s Chorus conductor Amy Kotsonis remarked, “The current Women’s Chorus had the opportunity to sing with and learn from alumni, and hear more about what the chorus was like at different points in history, including some fantastic photos contributed by alumni.”

The two-day celebration included an alumni and friends dinner, a Floyd’s Flute Family Feud game, sidewalk chalking at Russell Hall, and the final Floyd Flute Family Celebration concert. The concert served not only as a farewell to Floyd at UNI, but also as a fundraiser establishing the Floyd Flute Family Fund to benefit future music students at UNI.

The Women’s Chorus hopes to celebrate future anniversaries with alumni, and make the reunion a tradition every five years. The group also welcomes alumni back for the annual Women Sing event and other concerts throughout the concert season each year. Kotsonis noted, “We are really looking forward to having those responsible for helping to create our rich history be a part of our future as well.”

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May 3-4 was a weekend of celebration for flute alumni and enthusiasts who cheered on faculty artist Angeleita Floyd in her final concert before retirement from UNI. The two-day celebration included an alumni and friends dinner, a Floyd’s Flute Family Feud game, sidewalk chalking at Russell Hall, and the final Floyd Flute Family Celebration concert. The concert served not only as a farewell to Floyd at UNI, but also as a fundraiser establishing the Floyd Flute Family Fund to benefit future music students at UNI.

Nearly 100 alumni and friends returned for the events, traveling from as far away as California, Louisiana, and New York, to alumni who have stayed right here in Cedar Falls. Alumni Amanda Barro reflected on Angeleita’s career, noting, “I am incredibly thankful for all of Angeleita’s mentorship, encouragement, and continuous support. She is more than a flute professor to all of us, and we are so lucky to have her in our lives. Every day, I find myself practicing and hearing her voice with words of encouragement and direction – teaching my own students and still learning from the way she would help us grow and feel confident as performers. Her impact has been everlasting!”

The final concert was followed by a celebratory reception at the local restaurant Montage where students and friends from Angeleita’s 33-year career at UNI celebrated her legacy and the culmination of a successful weekend of farewell events.

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Collaborate on Special Events

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The UNI School of Music and Gallagher Bluedorn collaborated in 2018-19 to present three unique events, celebrating cross-disciplinary arts and historically important works in performance.

On October 3, the UNI Faculty Septet collaborated with faculty from UNI Theatre, UNI Dance, and the production team from the Gallagher Bluedorn to present Igor Stravinsky’s landmark theater-piece, “L’histoire du Soldat (The Soldier’s Tale).” This performance was given in celebration of the centennial anniversary of the premiere on September 28, 1918. Stravinsky composed “The Soldier’s Tale” so that eleven of its movements could be performed as a suite without the actors, narrators, and dancers — and this suite is the version that is more frequently performed. Conductor Danny Galyen stated, “I feel grateful to have had the rare opportunity to lead colleagues in a production of the full version — the dancers, narrators, and visual scenery add something to the music performed by the septet that heightens the entire experience in a way that I can’t really describe. The investment and dedication that was made by so many different faculty and staff to stage this production was remarkable, and I will always remember this as one of the highlights of my career.”

November 11, 2018 marked the 100-year anniversary of the signing of the armistice at Le Francport near Compiegne that ended fighting on land, sea and air in World War I between the Allies and their opponent, Germany. Conductor John Wiles developed a powerful program of music to honor this centennial celebration. The program featured the UNI Wind Ensemble and the UNI Variaty Glee Club performing “Echos from the Battlefield,” “America the Beautiful,” “I Want to Live My Country” and more. Wiles reflected on his motivation for programming the event, noting, “The generations living among us can only recount the 1918 armistice through stories passed down, but through music we can channel the emotion from that day through these composers and poets who lived it.”

The UNI School of Music was thrilled to partner with the Gallagher Bluedorn to present and co-sponsor two extraordinary visiting ensembles in 2018-19.

As part of its 2018 national concert tour, “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band performed for a sold-out crowd at UNI on Thursday, October 18 in the Gallagher Bluedorn. The Marine Band is America’s oldest continuously active professional musical organization. Founded in 1798, the band has performed for every U.S. President since John Adams.

In the style of the band’s 17th Director John Philip Sousa, who initiated the concert tour tradition in 1891, Marine Band Director Col. Jason K. Fettig selected a diverse mix of programs from traditional band repertoire and Sousa marches to instrumental solos and a salute to the Armed Forces.

“We always try to highlight music on our programs that celebrates the region we are visiting, whether it be marches that provide a connection or folk music that might be associated with certain areas of the country,” said Marine Band Director Col. Jason K. Fettig. “We have tremendously appreciative patrons who come to Marine Band concerts for all types of different experiences, so our programs are designed to include a great variety of music that mirrors the wonderful diversity in our national musical heritage.”

By the end of their 2018 tour, the Marine Band traveled 5,882 miles throughout the United States, performing 29 concerts in 12 states, with stops in Nebraska, Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. Spring brought another exceptional military band to Cedar Falls. The United States Air Force Band and Singing Sergeants presented a sold-out concert on Saturday, March 16 in the Gallagher Bluedorn.

With its present home on Joint Base Andrews in Washington, D.C., The United States Air Force Band is the Air Force’s premier musical organization. Since its formation in 1941 as the Army Air Forces Band, the excellence demonstrated by the Band’s Airmen musicians has reflected the excellence carried out 24 hours a day by Airmen stationed around the globe. Today, The Air Force Band consists of six performing groups: Air Force Strings, Airmen of Note, Ceremonial Brass, Concert Band, Max Impact and Singing Sergeants. This premier musical unit continues to honor those who serve, inspire patriotism and military service in fellow citizens and impact the global community positively.

The Concert Band and Singing Sergeants perform together on a regular basis, representing the U.S. Air Force and our country as part of The United States Air Force Band. They frequently perform for national television broadcasts and online videos, including the Band’s annual holiday flash mobs, which have been viewed by millions worldwide.

The School of Music looks forward to hosting these and other exceptional performing military musicians on campus in years to come. Editor’s note: thank you to Benjamin Bowers and Gunny Sergeant Brian Rust for their assistance with this article.

Military Bands Visit UNI, Delight Cedar Valley Audiences
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Symphony No. 9, Beethoven’s final symphony known as the “Choral,” is the most performed symphony in the world. On Sunday April 28, 2019, UNI music students and faculty combined to join in a performance of this great work for an audience of over one thousand. Members of the Northern Iowa Symphony, four School of Music faculty and several alumni players took the Great Hall stage with the UNI Singers, Concert Chorale, Women’s Chorus and Glee Club under the direction of Amy Kotsonis and John Hines, Jeff Brich, Katherine Osborne and Michelle Monroe, members of the School of Music voice faculty, served as the vocal soloists for the performance, and Melinda Boyd, UNI School of Music Associate Director for Undergraduate Studies and musicologist, gave the pre-concert lecture and penned the notes for the program. The students began their preparation in September and performed a portion of movement IV for the annual Scholarship Benefit Concert. They then began their spring preparations in February and gave a preview of the program to Waterloo East and West High School music students the Friday prior to their full performance. Rebecca Burkhardt commented, “The performance was a great triumph for the UNI School of Music, and a testament to what we are capable of. It was an honor to conduct my students and colleagues in this glorious work...a true ‘Ode to Joy’ for all on the stage and in the audience.”

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With its present home on Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling in Washington, D.C., The United States Air Force Band is the Air Force’s premier musical organization. Since its formation in 1941 as the Army Air Forces Band, the excellence demonstrated by the Band’s Airmen musicians has reflected the excellence carried out 24 hours a day by Airmen stationed around the globe. Today, The Air Force Band consists of six performing groups: Air Force Strings, Airmen of Note, Ceremonial Brass, Concert Band, Max Impact and Singing Sergeants. This premier musical unit continues to honor those who serve, inspire patriotism and military service in fellow citizens and impact the global community positively.

The Concert Band and Singing Sergeants perform together on a regular basis, representing the U.S. Air Force and our country as part of The United States Air Force Band. They frequently perform for national television broadcasts and online videos, including the Band’s annual holiday flash mobs, which have been viewed by millions worldwide. The School of Music looks forward to hosting these and other exceptional performing military musicians on campus in years to come.

Editor’s note: thank you to Benjamin Bowers and Gunnery Sergeant Brian Rust for their assistance with this article.

UNI Alumna Susan Rider

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The UNI School of Music presented an evening of opera and orchestra performances with a dinner in between on Friday, November 2. Due Gala was a unique and engaging event including an opera gala concert with scenes ranging from Mozart to Bernstein, followed by a banquet dinner and concluding with an orchestra concert—all in one evening. A silent auction benefiting both the opera and orchestra performances with a banquet dinner and concluding with an orchestra concert—all in one evening. A silent auction benefiting both the opera and orchestra performances with a banquet dinner and concluding with an orchestra concert—all in one evening. A silent auction benefiting both the opera and orchestra performances with a banquet dinner and concluding with an orchestra concert—all in one evening. A silent auction benefiting both the opera and orchestra performances with a banquet dinner and concluding with an orchestra concert—all in one evening. A silent auction benefiting both the opera and orchestra performances with a banquet dinner and concluding with an orchestra concert—all in one evening. A silent auction benefiting both the opera and orchestra performances with a banquet dinner and concluding with an orchestra concert—all in one evening. A silent auction benefiting both the opera and orchestra performances with a banquet dinner and concluding with an orchestra concert—all in one evening.

Due Gala: Dinner and Two Shows!

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To learn more about the opera and orchestra programs at UNI, visit opera.uni.edu and orchestra.uni.edu.

Hall of Fame Awards

In 2008, the university constructed a Hall of Fame Wall in Russell Hall to honor outstanding musicians, alumni or friends of the UNI School of Music. It was determined that the individuals chosen for the award would serve as important role models for future generations of UNI musicians. We have some outstanding honorees with appointments in one-room schoolhouses, and essentially active choir in the university’s history.

The Hall of Fame on its 10th anniversary as the UNI School of Music’s Curtiss-Fullerton Hall of Fame.

Charles A. Fullerton, our first honoree in 2018, began his long association with the School of Music at Iowa State Normal School, now UNI, in 1885 as an undergraduate and retired 50 years later as the head of the department.

Fullerton was born in Manchester, Hampshire, October 11, 1861. His parents moved to Iowa when he was nine years old, settling near Nora Springs. He obtained his early education in Iowa public schools and attended Iowa State Teachers college, where he received a B. S. degree in music in 1890. He taught in rural schools and also served as principal of schools at Norway, Parkeburg, and Manson, Iowa, before he returned to his alma mater to begin his work in the music department in 1897. He later was awarded an honorary master’s degree by the Chicago Musical College and also took post-graduate work at the University of Chicago and Harvard University. Charles Fullerton was prominent regionally and nationally having served as chairman of the music section of the National Education Association; president of the National Music Supervisor’s Conference; chairman of the public school section of the National Association of Music Teachers; president of the Society of Music Teachers of Iowa; and chairman of the music section of the Iowa State Teachers Association. He is most famous for developing a method for teaching music in rural one-room schoolhouses that could be implemented by any teacher regardless of musical training. This method is called the Choir Plan. Using recording technology as a mode by which students could learn music revolutionized rural school education. As you might expect, not all teachers with appointments in one-room schoolhouses were equipped with the knowledge and skill to teach music. Even so, by 1933, many children were receiving a standardized music program in their schools because of Charles Fullerton. His work made it possible for an entire generation of children in Iowa to learn music. Julia Curtiss began teaching piano at Iowa State Normal School in 1888 and retired in 1908 as the director of piano. She came to Iowa from the East Coast where she studied with several prominent pianists and received a special certificate from the New England Conservatory of Music. Her first year she founded the Curtiss-Fullerton Hall of Fame. for their groundbreaking work and the strong foundation that they built for the UNI School of Music and music education in Iowa.

Editor's note: thank you to Angela Pratesi for help in developing this article.
Dinner and Two Shows!

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2018’s Hall of Fame honorees were education innovators, and were integral in shaping the rich history of the music program at UNI. The School of Music was thrilled to introduce these remarkable educators at the September Scholarship Benefit Concert as we rededicated the Hall of Fame on its 10th anniversary as the UNI School of Music’s Curtiss-Fullerton Hall of Fame.

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The UNI School of Music and music education in Iowa.

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UNI Jazz Hosts:
Hot Tamale Louie

Fresh off the success of the 64th annual Tallcorn Jazz Festival and 68th Sinfonian Dimensions in Jazz Concerts featuring guest artist Carl Allen, UNI’s Director of Jazz Studies Christopher Merz served as host for an on-campus performance of “Hot Tamale Louie: The Story of Zarif Khan.” The event was held on Sunday, March 10 in the Gallagher Bluedorn.

At a time when immigration is much in the news, Professor John Rapson of the University of Iowa’s School of Music’s Jazz Studies Program has created a powerful multi-media performance about an early 20th-century immigrant whose story remains relevant today.

“Hot Tamale Louie: The Story of Zarif Khan” was performed by Rapson and a cast of musicians. The Waterloo Human Rights Commission, the University of Northern Iowa and Humanities Iowa joined together to sponsor the performance, and to offer it for free to the public.

The story, based on a June 2016 New Yorker article by Pulitzer Prize winning author Kathryn Schulz, caught Rapson’s eye - and ever since Zarif Khan emigrated to the U.S. from Afghanistan in 1907, settled initially in Sheridan, Wyoming, where he opened a tamale business that contributed to the mix of cultures in the area.

Zarif’s travels continue today. Rapson compiled more than 300 historic photos from the Middle East, America, and on to illustrate Khan’s story, which was told in words, music, and visual projections.

Visit jazzstudies.uni.edu to keep up with the calendar of events and special guest presentations like this one in 2019-20.

Editor’s note: thank you to John Rapson for his help with this article.

During the 2018-2019 year, the UNI Suzuki School continued with Suzuki individual and group lessons, Northern Iowa Junior and Youth Orchestras (NIJO and NIYO), the Cedar Falls Community Orchestra, and Verismo Chamber music. Outreach performances included ARTapalooza, College Hill Arts Festival, and a pre-concert lobby performance for the symphony concert. The School hosted its first Suzuki Fun Day and Multicultural Festival in March with group sessions, theory, composition, Kindermusik and a presentation of the many cultures the School’s families represented with food and table displays representing Columbia, Norway, India, China, North America and Denmark.

Orchestra tours in northeast Iowa included concerts by NIJO in Spillville, Calmar and Denver and by NIJD in Cedar Falls, Independence and Manchester. These annual concerts bring orchestra music to those school districts that do not offer orchestra. The year ended with the annual spring concert in May, as the School bid farewell to graduating high school seniors.

The UNI Community Music School continues to expand its musical offerings to the Cedar Valley community. In cooperation with the UNI Suzuki department, John Kalbner joined the CMS staff, and now offers voice lessons to students twelve years and older. Kelly Noltner joined the CMS staff, and now offers voice lessons to UNI Vocal department, Kelly Noltner joined the CMS staff, and now offers voice lessons to UNI Vocal department, Kelly Noltner joined the CMS staff, and now offers voice lessons to students twelve years and older. Kelly earned her M.M. in Vocal Performance from UNI in 2017 as well as an Artist Diploma Certificate in December of 2018. Kelly earned her B.M. degree at the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire (UWEC) in 2015. Recently, Kelly performed the role of Jackie O in Scenes from “Jackie O” with UNI Opera.

As part of our continued commitment to provide UNI students with mentored teaching experiences at the Community Music School, numerous students not only taught private and group lessons, but also worked with both our large ensembles. Anvia Andrews, senior music education teacher, guest directed “Shooting Star” at the UNI Children’s Choir December concert. Music education major, Jason Anfinsen, directed the UNI New Horizons Band antiphonal brass choir during the spring concert.

In partnership with the UNI Child Development Center, CMS teacher Jennifer LeGarde visited classrooms at the CDC, sharing a variety of music in the classroom.

Students learned about different sounds, how music can make you feel emotions, and got a chance to play the piano.

The UNI Spectrum Project, a music, movement, drama and art program for children with differing abilities, performed their spring concert This Spectrum Life on April 7. This year included the second annual Spectrum Art Week exhibit of performer art. The program has grown to over 60 performers, assisted by over 100 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.

Editor’s note: thank you to Cathy Craig, Heather Hamilton and Kevin Droe for their contributions to and help with this article.
UNI Jazz Hosts: Hot Tamale Louie

A true story about LEAVING HOME, of IMMIGRANTS and CITIZENSHIP, LIVES and FORTUNES won and lost.

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Celebrating Success: Music Outreach Programs at UNI

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The story, based on a June 2016 New Yorker article by Pulitzer Prize winning author Kathryn Schulz, caught Rapson’s eye - and ear. Zarif Khan emigrated to the U.S. from Afghanistan in 1907, eventually settling in Sheridan, Wyoming, where he took over a tamale business as well as the previous owner’s nickname, “Hot Tamale Louie.” As he built and lost fortunes, Khan lived frugally, often spending his money in acts of kindness and generosity. He gained citizenship in 1925, he built and lost fortunes, Khan lived frugally, often spending his money in acts of kindness and generosity. He gained citizenship in 1925, regained it again 30 years later. He married and had it revoked by U.S. xenophobic laws, and remarried.

Khan had six children, and became a legend both in Wyoming and back home in the borderland between Afghanistan and Pakistan before meeting a tragic end.

Rapson describes the show as “a genre-bending tale with lifting Western ballads, genteel Mexican waltzes, folk songs and melodies from the East, evocative tone poems and raucous ragtime melded together by jazz.” Rapson teamed up with Danyel Gaglione, a French immigrant now living in Iowa City, to collaboratively compose and arrange the material for eight musicians. The performance featured local folk musician Dave Moore and dramatic monologues.

Rapson compiled more than 300 historic photos from the Middle East, America, West and elsewhere to illustrate Khan’s story, which was told in words, music, and visual projections. Visit jazzstudies.uni.edu to keep up with the calendar of events and special guest presentations like this one in 2019-20.

Editor’s note: thank you to John Rapson for his help with this article.
Patrons   $300 to $499 (up to four complimentary tickets)
Guarantors  $500 to $999 (up to eight complimentary tickets)
Underwriters         $1,000 to $1,499 (up to 16 complimentary tickets)
Director’s Circle    $1,500 to $1,999 (up to 24 complimentary tickets)
Dean’s Circle          $2,000 to $2,499 (up to 32 complimentary tickets)
President’s Circle    $2,500 or more

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

As always, the end of the concert is only the beginning of the festivities. Plan to stay after the mainstage event for excellent hors
d’oeuvres and champagne in the lobby with music provided by Bob Dunn, guitar. Step into Davis Hall for a showcase celebrating
Walt Whitman on the 200th anniversary of his birthday. Coordinated by faculty artists Jonathan Schwabe and Christopher Merz, this
"Whitman Sampler" showcase will feature School of Music students and faculty.

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

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

Thank you to the “Special Donors” from the 2018 Scholarship Benefit Concert

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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 acknowledgement page of the benefit concert program is Friday, September 13, 2019. 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 Scholar-ship Benefit Concert are tax deductible less $10 for each person receiving champagne and hors d’oeuvres.
September 27, 2019 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 at 6:45 p.m. and will feature UNI Children’s Choir singing from the Great Hall stage as chocolates are served in the lobby. The mainstage concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Great Hall and will include performances by the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra, UNI Choirs, faculty artist Suzanne Hendrix-Case, mezzo-soprano, the UNI Women’s Chorus, faculty artist Randall Harlow, organ, “Saloon Music” by Bruce Broughton featuring Randy Grabowski, trumpet, with faculty and student musicians, and UNI Jazz Band One.

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Student Awards

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

At our 2019 Spotlight Series Performance Competition Finals, Brenda Sevcik, organ, was named the 2019 Presser Scholar and awarded the $4,000 Presser Foundation Award. Brenda Sevcik is a junior double majoring in Education and Organ Performance. Brenda has been a member in the trumpet sections of the UNI Wind Ensemble, Wind Symphony, Jazz Panthers, and the Panther Marching Band. Outside of music, you will often find Brenda running or eating copious amounts of chocolate. She enjoys working as an organ/pianist for area churches, and is an active member of St. Stephen the Witness Catholic Student Center. Performing on the organ in Jabe Hall, and live streamed by video to the Great Hall audience, Brenda was also the recipient of the evening’s People’s Choice Award.

Isaac Smith, composer, was awarded the $1000 Myron and Ruth Russell Award for Donovan Kluh’s performance of his composition “Sonusa for Tuba and Piano.” Smith is a junior at UNI pursuing a BM in composition and theory. His instructors at UNI include Jonathan Schwaber, Nancy Hill Cobb, and Rebecca Burkhardt. Outside of school, Smith also studies with Harvey Stollberger, and has taken lessons with Lisa Britt-Sandberg, Charles Joo, and Michael Daugherty. Smith also pursues jazz piano, studying with Michael Carroll and writing, arranging, and performing with jazz ensembles on campus.

The evening of the Performance Competition Finals concert also served as an evening of recognition for newly inducted members of the Pi Kappa Lambda national music honor society. Recognition is given to those students at the highest level of musical achievement and academic scholarship. This year’s inductees were Dakota Anderson, Adam Denner, Amelina Enriquez, Anya Shorey, Isaac Smith, Alisa Ortega, Nicole Lengemann, and Madeline Hartlieb. Congratulations to each of you on your excellent work!

Lydia Richards

Lydia Richards is a senior at UNI majoring in flute performance with a minor in international affairs. Lydia is from Nevada, IA. She has studied flute with Dr. Angela Rita Floyd for five years, and has been a member of Northern Iowa Flute Choir, Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra, Wind Symphony and Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Pep Band and many chamber flute ensembles. Her favorite music courses at UNI have been Music History II and 20th Century Music History.

During her time at UNI, Richards has been involved in several music organizations, including the UNI Guild of Carillonneurs, Northern Iowa Flute Choir, and the Spooky Flutes chamber group. "The Guild has been doing a lot of great things including hosting an Easter Egg Hunt (in April)," Lydia noted, "Spooky Flutes was fortunate to perform Ian Clarke’s ‘Spells’ for him at the Iowa Flute Festival, and it was one of the highlights of my college career.”

"Something else I am really excited about is the new Peer Mentor program within the School of Music,“ Lydia said. Richards was acknowledged at the UNI 2019 Student Leadership Awards Ceremony for her development and leadership of the Peer Mentor program. “Seeing the program’s implementation and evolution this year has been super exciting. I think it has been a really positive asset for the school, and I’ve heard a lot of great feedback. I am excited to see how it will keep growing in the next years!”

When asked about her favorite aspect of studying and being a student at UNI, Lydia responded, “I have been fortunate to be a part of some pretty incredible ensembles and had the opportunity to do some amazing things while here at UNI. Some highlights include touring northern Italy as a member of Wind Symphony in 2016, performing for flute legends William Bennett and Ian Clarke at Iowa Flute Festivals, and performing at the 2017 National Flute Association Convention with NFC in Minneapolis. Almost more special, though, has been the sense of community and family that exists within the School of Music. The friendships and relationships I have been fortunate to develop with my colleagues and with faculty have been so meaningful and have really made this place feel like home for the past five years." After graduation, Lydia plans on moving to Des Moines and pursuing opportunities in non-profit organizations with a focus on music and international affairs. She also plans to continue performing, teaching a private flute studio, and leading masterclasses in the area.

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

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 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:


Presidential Scholars: Sydney Atwood, Adam Denner, Madeleine Harljeig, Colton Krutko, Estefania Ravasio Corrales and Anya Shorey.

The School of Music would also like to congratulate the School of Music students who appeared on the fall 2018 and spring 2019 Dean’s List. To be included on the list, a student must have earned a grade point average of 3.3 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!
The UNI School of Music proudly recognizes last year’s competition winners and acknowledges the many honors and awards that our students have earned.

The many honors and awards that our students have earned. The UNI School of Music proudly recognizes last year’s competition winners and acknowledges People’s Choice Award. Brenda was also the recipient of the evening’s Award. The evening of the Performance Competition Finals concert also served as an evening of recognition for newly inducted members of the Panther Marching Band. Outside of music, you will often find Brenda running or eating copious amounts of chocolate. She enjoys working as an organist/pianist for area churches, and is an active member of St. Stephen the Witness Catholic Student Center. Performing on the organ in Jebe Hall, and live in the Witness Catholic Student Center. Performing on the organ in Jebe Hall, and live.

The evening of the Performance Competition Finals concert also served as an evening of recognition for newly inducted members of the Panther Marching Band. Outside of music, you will often find Brenda running or eating copious amounts of chocolate. She enjoys working as an organist/pianist for area churches, and is an active member of St. Stephen the Witness Catholic Student Center. Performing on the organ in Jebe Hall, and live.

In November 2018, Andrew Wiele was awarded the top honor at the UNI School of Music Instrumental Concerto Competition Finals. Wiele is a senior Instrumental Performance major at UNI. He is a member of all of the top instrumental ensembles at UNI as well as multiple ensembles outside of UNI. He has finished as a finalist in the 2017 UNI Presser Scholarship competition and a runner-up in the 2018 Fort Dodge Concerto Competition. As part of the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra, Andrew has toured in Brazil in 2017. He plans to continue his studies at a graduate level.

Bethany Washington, violin, was the first runner up at the November event, while Donovan Kluh, tuba, was the second runner up. The “Audience Favorite” honor was shared by Wiele and violinist Abigail Moore.

The $2000 Charles and Marleta Matheson Award was awarded to Andrew Floryanovich, saxophone. Floryanovich is currently a junior at UNI studying jazz and classical saxophone. Originally from Spokane, WA, he grew up in Tillin, IA, and began playing piano at the age of six. He now plays in a variety of ensembles at UNI, including Jazz Band One, Wind Ensemble, and the Night Mayor Jazz Quintet. In his free time, he enjoys cooking and practicing his puker face.

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The Angelico Saxophone Quartet, consisting of UNI music students Colleen Kurtz, Andrea Verburg, Gage Schmitt, and Lexi Forstrom, won the MTNA State Chamber Winds competition on October 28 at Wartburg, and was named alternate at the MTNA regionals in January.

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Lydia Richards is a senior at UNI majoring in flute performance with a minor in international affairs. Lydia is from Nevada, IA. She has studied flute with Dr. Angelicetta Floyd for five years, and has been a member of Northern Iowa Flute Choir, Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra, Wind Symphony and Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Pep Band and many chamber flute ensembles. Her favorite music courses at UNI have been Music History II and 20th Century Music History.

During her time at UNI, Richards has been involved in several music organizations, including the UNI Guild of Carillonneurs, Northern Iowa Flute Choir, and the Spooky Flutes chamber group. “The Guild has been doing a lot of great things including hosting an Easter Egg Hunt [in April],” Lydia noted, “Spooky Flutes was fortunate to perform Ian Clarke’s ‘Spells’ for him at the Iowa Flute Festival, and it was one of the highlights of my college career.”

“Something else I am really excited about is the new Peer Mentor program within the School of Music,” Lydia said. Richards was acknowledged at the UNI 2019 Student Leadership Awards Ceremony for her development and leadership of the Peer Mentor program. “Seeing the program’s implementation and evolution this year has been super exciting. I think it has been a really positive asset for the school, and I’ve heard a lot of great feedback. I am excited to see how it will keep growing in the next years!”

When asked about her favorite aspect of studying and being a student at UNI, Lydia responded, “I have been fortunate to be a part of some pretty incredible ensembles and had the opportunity to do some amazing things while here at UNI. Some highlights include touring northern Italy as a member of Wind Symphony in 2016, performing for flute legends William Bennett and Ian Clarke at Iowa Flute Festivals, and performing at the 2017 National Flute Association Convention with NFC in Minneapolis. Almost more special, though, has been the sense of community and family that exists within the School of Music. The friendships and relationships I have been fortunate to develop with my colleagues and with faculty have been so meaningful and have really made this place feel like home for the past five years.”

After graduation, Lydia plans on moving to Des Moines and pursuing opportunities in non-profit organizations with a focus on music and international affairs. She also plans to continue performing, teaching a private flute studio, and leading masterclasses in the area.

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

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Be our Guest: A look back at our Visiting Artists

2018-19 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 2018
Fernandos Deddos, euphonium
Thomas Jostlein, horn
Elizabeth Atkins, violin
Edward Newman, piano
Matthew Hoch, baritone
Jorge-Montilla, clarinet
Karel Keldermans, carillon
Ben Pierce, tuba and euphonium
Beard-Wolff Duo
U.S. Marine Band “The President’s Own”
Nicholas May, saxophone

Spring 2019
Bob Washut Emerit et
Daniel Velasco, flute
Julia Nolen, saxophone
Volante Winds
Ivan Trexino, percussion
Paul Carlson, tuba
Gompper-David Piano/Violin Duo
Hot Tamale Louise
U.S. Air Force Concert Band & Singing Sergeants
Peter Hamlin, electronic music
Karel Keldermans, carillon
Mary Bailey, oboe

Guest artist funds for 2018-19 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, the Charles & Marleta Matheson Endowed Scholarship/Artists Fund, 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.

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Faculty Spotlight: Anthony Williams
Associate Professor of Trombone

Anthony Williams is Associate Professor of Trombone at the University of Northern Iowa. He teaches courses in applied trombone, chamber music, trombone pedagogy, trombone literature, and low brass techniques. He also serves as a member of UNI’s jazz faculty by teaching courses in applied jazz trombone and directing the UNI Jazz Trombone Ensemble.

Dr. Williams maintains a high frequency of performing in classical, jazz, and new music settings. His debut solo album, “Synthesis,” is a collection of five newly-commissioned works for solo trombone scored with various ensemble settings that combines classical, Latin, and jazz music. Other recent recordings include Dr. Williams performing as lead trombonist with the Mike Waldrop Big Band on recently released albums, “Origin Suite” and “Time Within Itself.” Additional recording credits include “Grosso for Trombone and Electronics” for Mexican-born composer, Jorge Sosa’s album, “Plastic Time,” and albums by UNI alumni Ryan Middagh and Dave Lisik.

He is principal trombonist of the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony and performs regularly with other orchestras in the region. His current jazz and commercial music performance activity includes appearances with local and regional groups such as The Des Moines Big Band, Orquesta Alto Maiz, NOLA Jazz Band, Big Fun, and many others. Dr. Williams’ past experiences include engagements with the Memphis Symphony, Memphis Jazz Orchestra, Ray Charles Orchestra, Arkansas Symphony, Dirty Dozen Brass Band, Natalie Cole, and Aretha Franklin.

He is a member of the International Trombone Association and the Jazz Education Network.

Williams’ recent projects include recording as trombonist for a forthcoming jazz octet project by jazz guitarist, Ryan Brake, directing the UNI Trombone Octet and Jazz Trombone Ensemble presentation of music by African American composers for a special program for broadcast on Iowa Public Radio, and the release of his first solo album, “Synthesis.” One unique aspect about this recording is that all of the performers have UNI ties and all but one of the composers have UNI ties.
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• Reviewed the UNI Panther First Award for Excellence in Service.

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• Released an album of premiere recordings of works for solo and duo bassoon Double or Nothing, available on iTunes and Amazon.
• Recorded “Deep” by American composer Alex Shapiro selected for record label featured compilation album, Mark Moores, Vol. I.
• Invited to the 2019 regional conference of the College Music Society, performing program of new works by female composers as a member of the Kairos Trio.

Melinda Boyd, associate professor of music history, associate director of undergraduate studies
• Presented research paper, “Deeds of Music made Visible: Reading and Hearing P. Craig Russell’s Graphic Novel Adaptation of Richard Wagner’s Ring of the Nibelung.” at the annual national meeting of the American Musicological Society, San Antonio, TX.
• Submitted a book manuscript on women opera composers for publication.
• Served as Associate Director for Undergraduate Studies.

Julie Ballard, professor of viola and music theory, associate director of graduate studies
• Presented guest artist performances and master classes as Lawrence University (WI) and Ball State University (IN).
• Performance as principal violist for Des Moines Metro Opera’s performance of Tom Cipullo’s chamber opera “Glory Denied.”
• Premiered a new work by faculty composer Rebecca Burkhart (“Blues Women Triptych”) at UNI, with faculty colleagues Ross Winter and guest cellist Hannah Holman.

Rebecca Burkhart, professor of conducting and music theory, conductor of the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra
• Conducted the Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra, UNI Choirs and faculty soloists in performances on Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9. See page 7 for more information.
• Appeared as conductor and workshop leader at the Contemporary Music Week event, hosted by the Schuon Conservatory in Chengdu, China.

Jonathan Chaneveth, professor of cello
• Developed and piloted a new student/faculty partnership initiative, PANTHER Learning Partnership, which paired six students as consultants on teaching with eight faculty from seven departments across campus.
• Performed outreach related to Leonard Bernstein’s centennial year, including artistic leadership with wofwofymphh, broadcast interview on statewide KUNI, and a presentation to the Beethoven Club in Cedar Rapids.
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• Celebrated her work “And Death Shall Have No Dominion” published by Alliance Music Publications.
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• Presented research on “Arrangements by Gill Evans” on the Claudia Thornhill Orchestra at the 2019 Jazz Education Conference in Reno, NV, and presented an Original Improvisation, “Into the Sky” at the 2019 international society of Jazz Arrangers and Composers (ISJA) Biennial Conference.
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• Conducted performances with the Wind Orchestrata the State Conservatory of Uzbekistan and the Republic Specialized Academic Music Lyceum, and led conducting masterclasses at the conservatory, from May 22-June 4, 2019.

Randy Grabowski, professor of trumpet
• Performed a faculty recital and appeared as soloist on Heather Peyton’s faculty recital, Anthony Williams’ CD recording project, with the UNI Wind Ensemble, and with the Cedar Falls Municipal Band.
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• Performed a solo recital at the Church of St. Eustache in Paris, home of the largest pipe organ in France.
• Performed a solo recital on the new organ in the Vosman Music Building concert hall at the University of Iowa.
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New Hires and Retirements in the School of Music

This year the School of Music celebrated the influential career of two exceptional faculty members as they retired in 2019: Angeleita Floyd and Nancy Cobb celebrated their retirements this year.

Angeleita Floyd
Professor of Music

Angeleita Floyd, dynamic musician, highly respected conductor and educator, has served as Professor of Flute at the University of Northern Iowa since 1986. With her unique flair for insightful teaching and sensitive musical interpretation, Dr. Floyd has mentored numerous prize-winning students on the regional and national level. Floyd is a frequent guest artist presenting master classes and conducting Festival Flute Orchestras throughout the world and US. Most recently, she was a guest artist at International Flute Festivals in Sweden, Ecuador, Brazil and Costa Rica. Dr. Floyd was invited to present and perform as the Florida State Flute Summit 2019, Tallahassee, Florida, and UMass-Amherst. In 2017, the Northern Iowa Flute Choir, under Dr. Floyd’s direction, performed by invitation at the 45th National Flute Association Convention in Minneapolis, MN. She is grateful for the opportunity to work with many talented and hard-working students, and is proud of the wonderful musicians and educators they have become.

For more on Angeleita’s retirement celebration in May 2019, see page 6.

Nancy Cobb
Professor of Music

Nancy Cobb served as Professor of Music at UNI where she taught courses in composition and theory. Cobb holds the Bachelor of Music in Theory and Composition from Oklahoma Baptist University, the Master of Music in Composition from Michigan State University and the Doctor of Musical Arts in Composition from the University of Oklahoma. Prior to Cobb’s appointment at UNI in 2013, as Associate Provost for Faculty and Student Services, she was Professor of Music and Director of the School of Music at Indiana State University (2009-2013), and Founding Director of Music at Florida Gulf Coast University (2005-2009). From 1975-2005 she was a faculty member at Mercer University, Oklahoma Baptist University and Dallas Baptist University; at the latter two universities she held the rank of Professor.

Cobb’s choral music is performed nationally and internationally and is published by Hinshaw Music, Santa Barbara Music Publishing, Lorene Music, Pavanne Music Publishing and Colla Voce Music. In 2016, Cobb’s “Cantate Domino” was named one of the top five all-time best sellers by Santa Barbara Music Publishing. Recent publications include “Laudele Nomen Ejus,” (Santa Barbara Music Publishing) and Holy, Holy, Holy (Lorene Music), a set of five hymn voluntaries for organ. Her most recent completed work is “And Death Shall Have No Dominion,” commissioned by the Varsity Men’s Glee Club at UNI. As she transitions into retirement from UNI, Cobb continues to work on developing her original musical “The Suffragist.”

While we say goodbye to these remarkable faculty members, we are excited to welcome new faculty who begin their UNI journey this year.

Angeleita Floyd
Nancy Cobb

Steve Sang Kyun Koh
Assistant Professor of Violin

Dr. Steve Sang Kyun Koh will serve as Assistant Professor of Violin at UNI in 2019. From 2017 to 2019, Dr. Koh was Adjunct Instructor in violin at University of Toronto, where he received his Doctor of Musical Arts degree. He received his Bachelor of Arts at Rice University in Houston, Texas, where he was the recipient of the Herbert & Helen Allen scholarship and the Dick and Mary Ellen Wilson scholarship. After finishing his Bachelor’s degree, he continued his studies and received his Master’s in String Performance and Pedagogy at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, where he was the recipient of the coveted Emily Boettcher and Yule Bogue Endowed Fund and the Dick Eckstein Grant. At University of Toronto, he was a student of Professor Yehonatan Berick and the Palmason Graduate Fellow in Violin.

An avid chamber and orchestral musician, Dr. Koh is co-founder of the Interro String Quartet, which explores diverse programming and eccentric venues as means to remove chamber music from concert halls and connect with the wider public. With the Interro Quartet, he has been a co-author and recipient of several grants from the Ontario Arts Council and the Canada Council for the Arts and has annually commissioned quartet pieces featuring emerging composers in Ontario, Canada. In further support of new music, he is a member of the Toronto Messiaen Ensemble and has collaborated with emerging North American and internationally renowned composers, such as Gideon Gee-Bum Kim, Salvatore Sciarrino, and Ofar Ban-Amots, to name a few. From 2016 to 2018, he was a fellow at the Toronto Summer Music Festival. In addition to these performing activities, he has performed with the Sudbury Symphony, London Sinfonia, Symphony S.O.N.G., Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony, and the Windsor Symphony Orchestra.

Dr. Koh has studied with members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra National de France, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. His past and current teachers include Kenn Wagner, Helen Hayes Kim, Yehonatan Berick, Jonathan Crow, Clara Jumi Kang, Svetlin Roussev, Joel Smirnoff, Koichiro Harada, Gerardo Ribeiro, Kathleen Winkler, Irina Mureasca, and Krzysztof Wegryn. He has performed in solo and chamber music masterclasses for Cyprus Forough of Carnegie Mellon University, Paul Kantor of the Shepherd School of Music, Shmuel Ashkenasi of the Curtis Institute of Music, Hiroko Yajima of Mannes School of Music, the Philharmonia Quartett Berlin of the Berlin Philharmoniker, and for the Belcea String Quartet.

Dr. Sang Kyun Koh will serve as Assistant Professor of Violin at UNI in 2019.

Andrea Johnson
Assistant Professor of Piano Pedagogy

Andrea Johnson is Assistant Professor of Piano Pedagogy at UNI, beginning fall 2019. A candidate for the Doctor of Musical Arts in Piano Performance and Pedagogy degree at the University of Oklahoma, Andrea has an anticipated graduation date of August 2019. Andrea served on the piano faculty as Instructor of Piano Pedagogy at the University of Oklahoma from 2018-2019 where her primary teachers included Dr. Jane Magrath, and Dr. Barbara Fast. Andrea is a graduate of the University of Oregon with a Masters in Piano Pedagogy and Performance and Portland State University with a Bachelors of Musical Arts in Music Performance.

At the University of Oklahoma, Andrea enjoyed collaborative performances with keyboard and string faculty members and her recent invited performances include Portland, Eugene and Monmouth, Oregon, Pullman, Washington and Norman, Oklahoma. Research interests include the application of character development in professional acting to solo piano performance and body mapping for pianists. She is the recipient of several awards and scholarships including the University of Oklahoma’s Provost’s 2017 Graduate Teaching Award for Teaching Excellence in the Fine Arts and Humanities. During her doctoral work, Andrea has presented pedagogy workshops in Oklahoma, most recently at the Oklahoma Music Teachers Association 2018 State Conference on the subject of applications of professional acting techniques to piano performance. Active as an adjudicator, Andrea was most recently asked to judge the 2019 Steinway Junior Piano Competition in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Andrea Johnson
Dr. Steve Sang Kyun Koh
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New Hires and Retirements in the School of Music

This year the School of Music celebrated the influential career of two exceptional faculty members as they retired in 2019: Angeleita Floyd and Nancy Cobb celebrated their retirements this year.

Angeleita Floyd
Professor of Flute

Angeleita Floyd, dynamic musician, highly respected conductor and educator, has served as Professor of Flute at the University of Northern Iowa since 1986. With her unique flair for insightful teaching and sensitive musical interpretation, Dr. Floyd has mentored numerous prize-winning students on the regional and national level. Floyd is a frequent guest artist presenting master classes and conducting Festival Flute Orchestras throughout the world and US. Most recently, she was a guest artist at International Flute Festivals in Sweden, Ecuador, Brazil and Costa Rica. Dr. Floyd was invited to present and perform as the Florida State Flute Summit 2019, Tallahassee, Florida, and UMass-Amherst. In 2017, the Northern Iowa Flute Choir, under Dr. Floyd's direction, performed by invitation at the 45th National Flute Association Convention in Minneapolis, MN. She is grateful for the opportunity to work with many talented and hard-working students, and is proud of the wonderful musicians and educators they have become.

For more on Angeleita’s retirement celebration in May 2019, see page 6.

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Mezzo-soprano Suzanne Hendrix-Case, DMA, is assistant professor of voice and vocology at UNI. In addition to her teaching, she is also an active performer. Recognized for her “piquant mezzo” (Opera News) and “tone-of-a-kind richness” (bcometropolis.org), she has worked at many of the world’s most prominent opera houses, including the Metropolitan Opera, Vienna State Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, San Francisco Opera, Opera Fort Worth, Grand Théâtre de Genève, and Seattle Opera. She is known for the Wagnerian scope of her voice, and has participated in Der Ring des Nibelungen at five major opera companies.

Dr. Hendrix-Case is scheduled to make her Metropolitan Opera debut as Sotopere in Philip Glass’s Akhnaten. She is a former member of the ensemble of the Wiener Staatsoper, where she made her company debut as a Flowervincent in Parsifal, and also sang the role of Larina in Eugene Onegin. Other career highlights include Zulma in Cetitlesa in Algiers and the Fortune Teller in Stravinsky’s Arabella with Santa Fe Opera, and Despina in Puccini’s Il Trittico with Opera Fort Worth. Regional credits include roles with Hawaii Opera Theater, Lyric Opera of Kansas City, Opera Memphis, and Wichita Grand Opera. She has also covered a variety of leading roles at major opera houses including roles in Il Trovatore, Das Rheingold, Le Nozze di Figaro, and Wozzeck at Lyric Opera of Chicago; Madame Butterfly, Nabucco, and Elektra at Wiener Staatsoper; and Das Rheingold, Siegfried, and Götterdämmerung at Seattle Opera.

An alumna of UNI, Dr. Hendrix-Case earned both her Bachelor of Music Education and Master of Music while studying under Dr. Jean McDonald. She completed her Doctorate of Musical Arts at the University of Missouri Kansas City Conservatory where she studied with Dr. Anne DeLaunay. She also participated in the Merola Young Artist Program at San Francisco Opera, Santa Fe Opera Young Artist Program, and Des Moines Metro Opera Apprentice Artist Program. Dr. Hendrix-Case has won numerous awards, including the 2012 George London Foundation - Kristen Flagstead Award, and top prize in the 2017 New York Wagner Society competition, as well as awards from the Garda Lisner Foundation and Sullivan Foundation. She was also a finalist in the Seattle Opera International Wagner Competition.

Kramer Milan is an active educator and percussionist throughout the United States. As Instructor of Percussion at UNI, Kramer cares deeply about the responsibility to share his passion for music with the next generation of aspiring percussionists. Equally versed in orchestral and chamber music, Kramer held a section percussion position in the Midland Symphony Orchestra from 2017-19 and is a member of the percussion chamber group, The Percussion Collective. His wide experience ranges from performances with Aretha Franklin to the American Brass Quintet. As an advocate for new music, Kramer has premiered over 20 works from composers including Hannah Lash, James Wood, David Biedenbender, and Drew American Brass Quintet. As an advocate for new music, Kramer has taken place during performances at special needs schools and concerts in association with Autism Speaks.

As a chamber musician and collaborator, Dr. Occeña has worked to bring works by living composers to life. She is a commissioning member of the Flute New Music Consortium and has co-premiered works by Zhou Long (Confluence, 2015) and Carter Pann (Glantess, 2018). She has also privately commissioned and premiered several new works, most recently Chanshodah Variations for flute and orchestra by Joseph Kern in March 2019.

A dedicated scholar, Dr. Occeña has recently presented at the National Flute Association conventions in Orlando and Salt Lake City as well as the Rochester Flute Fair. She has collaborated on new editions of the Sonata in B minor by Amanda Maier and the Sonata, op. 94 by Sergei Prokofiev and serves on the National Flute Association Special Publications Committee.

Dr. Occeña is a 2018 DMA graduate of Stony Brook University, where she studied with Carol Wiccison; she holds a Master of Music Dip.RAM from the Royal Academy of Music and a Bachelor of Music from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance. When not performing, Dr. Occeña enjoys spending time outdoors with her family. She can be heard on New Beginnings: American and Australasian Duos for Flute and Piano with the Occeña-Chen Duo, and Voices from the Middle and Spohr, Forevermore! with the Midwest Chamber Ensemble. She is a Myzaewa Artist and plays on a Miyzaewa Elite. For more information, please visit hanahlypertor. instantencore.com.

Daniel Swilley is a German-American composer of acoustic and electroacoustic music, and Assistant Professor of Music at UNI, specializing in Composition, Theory and Music Technology. His music and research have been presented at festivals and conferences such as June in Buffalo, SEAMUS, Toronto Electroacoustic Symposium, Understanding Visual Music Symposium, Noisefloors, New York City Electroacoustic Music Festival, Electronic Music Midwinter, Studio 300, Audiofugia, Electroacoustic Juke Joint, College Music Society, as well as Society of Composer’s Inc. Swilley holds degrees in composition from University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (DMA), Georgia State University (MM), and Valdosta State University (BM). His primary composition teachers have included Heinrich Taeb, Sever Tipei, Robert Scott Thompson, and Scott Wyatt.

The School of Music wishes to congratulate Angeleita and Nancy on their retirements, and to welcome Suzanne, Andrea, Steve, Kramer, Hannah, Daniel and Stephanie!
Suzanne Hendrix-Case
Assistant Professor of Voice and Vociology

Kramer Milan
Instructor of Percussion

Stephanie Ycaza
Instructor of Tuba and Euphonium

Hailed by the New York Times as possessing "rich tone and deft technique," Hannah Porter Oceña is Assistant Professor of Flute at UNI and Principal Flutist of the Topeka Symphony Orchestra (Topeka, KS). Previous positions include Principal Flute of the Midwest Chamber Ensemble (Prairie Village, KS) and Associate Principal Flute of the Miamisburg Symphony Orchestra (Birmack, ND). The 2012 Irene Burchard prizewinner at the Royal Academy of Music, Dr. Oceña has performed as an orchestral soloist, recitalist, and clinician throughout the US and abroad.

Committed to the rich heritage and new horizons of the repertoire, Dr. Oceña strives to make classical works accessible and engaging to diverse audiences. Between her performance schedule and collegiate teaching responsibilities, Dr. Oceña participates in outreach concerts and programs at schools and community centers. Some of her most meaningful musical experiences have taken place during performances at special needs schools and concerts in association with Autism Speaks.

As a chamber musician and collaborator, Dr. Oceña has worked to bring works to living composers to life. She is a commissioning member of the flute New Music Consortium and has co-premiered works by Zhou Long (Confluence, 2015) and Carter Pann (Giants, 2018). She has also privately commissioned and premiered several new works, most recently Shenandoah Variations for flute and orchestra by Joseph Kern in March 2019.

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Daniel Swilley
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Hannah Porter Oceña
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The School of Music always loves to hear 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!

1940s

‘48 Rosie Irene (Maiden) Bolstad, BA, Bremerton, WA, has begun work on new compositions for an upcoming album, yet to be titled. Her most recent CD “Remembering Bernie” was released in 2018.

1960s

‘61 Karen Lee, BA, Arlington, VA, retired from teaching in 2001 and enjoys spending time with her four children, ten grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

1980s

‘80 Jo Dee 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 Hignite, Victoria Bond and Paul Rudy.

‘85 James Chance, BM, Zearing, was elected president of United Auto Workers Local 893 in Marshalltown.

‘86 Dwight Pittman, MM, Ballwin, MO, is a retired professional musician and semi-retired college instructor.

1990s

‘94 J.C. Sanford, BA, Northfield, MN, received a 2018 McKnight Fellowship for Composers, which acknowledges excellence in music composition and includes a $25,000 award from the McKnight Foundation. Sanford serves as artistic director of JazzMN.

2000s

‘02 Alan Greiner, MM, Jefferson, received the National Federation of State High School Associations’ Citation Award, which is one of the most highly regarded achievements in athletics and performing arts. Alan is currently the executive director of the Iowa High School Music Association.

‘02 Amber (Seemann) Youngblut, BA, MBA ‘05, Jessup, was promoted to vice president of human resources at Greater Machining and Manufacturing, Co.

‘03 Nathan Dishman, BM, Ames, has been named assistant professor of trombone at Iowa State University. He was previously at Morehead State University in Kentucky.

‘04 Dale Bazen, BM, Anchorage, AK, started a tenure track position as assistant professor of music at the University of Alaska Anchorage. He will be overseeing the music teaching program, directing the UAA Wind Ensemble and teaching saxophone.

‘04 Boe Hodnefield, BM, Waukee, was promoted to instructor of music at the University of Missouri Kansas City in 2018. In 2018, she served as cover conductor for the Symphony Orchestra for two pop concerts, one featuring Melissa Etheridge and the other as an assistant to Maestra JoAnn Falletta. In May 2017, she was selected as conductor/official with the U.S. Army music program and entered basic training in Oct. 2018.

‘13 Melissa (Morgan) Vining, BM, Jamaica Plain, MA, is an independent musician and music teacher at her own company Mind Body Music Academy.

‘16 Alyssa Adamec, BA, BM ‘16, Coralville, performed with the Nueva Ensemble in Cluj Napoca, Romania, in May 2018.

‘17 Brent Mead, BM, Overland Park, KS, is a member of the UMKC Graduate Fellowship Brass Quintet, which won third place at the 2017 MTNA national chamber competition in the wind division, and was named as an alternate at the 2018 Fischoff National Chamber Music Competition. Brent won the principal trombone position in the Wichita Symphony in June 2018.

‘18 Rachel Beeringer, BM, Minneapolis, MN, currently serves as associate digital producer, social media for Performance Today at Minnesota Public Radio. She is set to release an album of original music in September 2019.

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‘10 Bonnie Alger, MM, New Milford, CT, earned a DMA in orchestral conducting from the University of Maryland College Park. In 2018, she served as cover conductor for the National Symphony Orchestra for two pop concerts, one featuring Melissa Etheridge and the other as an assistant to Maestra JoAnn Falletta. In May 2017, she was selected as conductor/official with the U.S. Army music program and entered basic training in Oct. 2018.

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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!

Marriages

‘04 Tim Jones, BM, married Tracy (Cavanaugh) Jones on 8/11/2018.


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Berdine 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 plan.

(319) 273-7727 | www.uni-foundation.org
Alumni Updates

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‘05 Chris Lockwood, BM, Armstrong, is the 6th-12th grade band director for North Union School District.

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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.

David Buch – David wrote to us about his busy year of musical activity. “I hosted and lectured for the nine-session series ‘Opera Insider’ at Lyric Opera of Chicago (2018-2019 season). I wrote and recorded the commentary for Verdi’s ‘La Traviata’ for Lyric Opera’s website. Then I delivered the pre-opera talks at Lyric Opera for their production of ‘La Traviata.’” He was the program for the Satchmo Festivution Festival production of Mozart’s ‘The Magic Flute.’ In June, Lucy and I were guests of the Tinier Landesetheater in Innsbruck, Austria for the production of my edition of the opera ‘The Philosopher’s Stone.’ I also participated in a panel discussion on Mozart’s contribution to the music. Lucy and I again spent six glorious weeks with family in beautiful Buenos Aires.”

Marlou Kratzstein – Marlou sent an update on her recent activities. “Although arthritis prevents me from continuing to make music, my husband, Frank, and I enjoy the many outstanding concerts that are presented in San Diego and Los Angeles. In addition, a highlight of the year was participating in a Road Scholar trip entitled ‘Classical Germany: The Music of Berlin, Leipzig and Dresden.’ Three symphony orchestra concerts, two operas and numerous additional events including lectures by orchestra members and other experts, made this a trip to remember. Another musical highlight was attending the Carmel Bach Festival in Monterey, CA. A trip to New Orleans also allowed us to indulge in a week of jazz and luxurious Creole/Cajun cuisine. In between times our lives are filled with church and civil volunteer activities and happy times spent with family, most of whom live in Southern California. We’re grateful to enjoy sufficiently good health to make our active lifestyle possible. My only regret is that we don’t live closer to Cedar Falls so that we could see UNI friends more often.”

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Bob Washut – Bob dropped us a note to update us on his first year post-UNI. “My first year of retirement has been a cool amalgam of travel, creative activity, intellectual stimulation, exercise, and golf (when possible). When asked about my thoughts about retirement, my standard response is ‘I highly recommend it.’”

Alumna Toni LeFebvre

Leads Iowa Women’s Jazz Orchestra

Since the birth of jazz, there have always been outstanding jazz musicians of all genders. However, there still remain fewer visible women in the genre. Toni LeFebvre, an alumna of both UNI and University of Iowa’s music programs, is changing that.

LeFebvre is now going on two full years of playing in the Iowa Women’s Jazz Orchestra, which she founded in November 2017. The purpose of IWJO is to perform in front of audiences of middle school, high school, and college-aged students to show aspiring jazz musicians that there are active professionals in jazz who are women—and they’re right here in Iowa.

“We want to show them that—these are women playing jazz, this is what we sound like, this is what we look like, and you all can do this as well,” said LeFebvre.

Since 2017, IWJO has had the chance to perform in front of hundreds, even thousands of students at a time, including the annual Iowa Jazzy Championships in Des Moines.

LeFebvre says it’s also a great way to showcase the jazz talent that comes out of her home state. Most of the band members are music educators.

“Iowa has such a special tradition of jazz and jazz education,” she said. “I knew something like this could thrive and really inspire students and teachers throughout the state.

LeFebvre, who also gigs with internationally renowned Diva Jazz Orchestra, will begin a new job as a music educator in the fall. But even though she’s now entering a new life as a busy band director, the IWJO performances won’t stop.

“We made this dream of inspiring young men and women musicians in our state come true,” said LeFebvre. “I’m just really excited this is all happening.”

To learn more about IWJO, visit www.iowajazzwomen.com.

Editor’s note: thank you to CBS2/Fox28 for their assistance with this article.

Alumni Spotlight: Makayla McDonald

McDonald (BM ’15, MM ’17) is embracing her life as a classical and opera singer in New York City. Last fall, she sang the lead role of Harriet Tubman in the New york premiere of Thea Musgrave’s “The Story of Harriet Tubman” with Utah Opera. This spring, she’ll sing with the Bronx Opera in a Gilbert & Sullivan comic opera.

Her performance as Harriett Tubman was an “absolutely amazing experience,” McDonald says, especially with critics describing her soprano as ‘stellar.’ But performing the role was important to her for other reasons, as well.

“I saw myself reflected on stage — a person of color, a woman of color, and that gave me such an overwhelming sense of belonging. I was so excited to get involved in the show and to sing such a large role as Harriet. But walking into that audition room and seeing all these black musicians and to sing such stellar music, I realized I’ve chosen the right career.”

The West High School graduate wasn’t always so certain.

“I resisted classical music for many years. It seemed unattainable to me. I thought it was music reserved for the upper echelons, that it was too exclusive, so I resisted it. It was hard to see anyone who had my skin color reflected up there on stage. I thought it wasn’t for me,” McDonald recalls.

At the University of Northern Iowa School of Music, McDonald finally began an in-depth exploration of the classical and operatic canon. She studied with vocal instructor Jeffrey Brich, vocal coaches Korey Barrett and Mark Bless, and acting coaches Mitra Sadeghpour and Cynthia Goatley, among others. The soprano earned both her bachelor and master’s degrees in voice performance from UNI.

While at UNI, McDonald performed roles in such operas as “Little Harlequinade,” “Signor Deluso,” “Susannah,” “Dialogues des Carmélites,” “Cielo d’amore,” and “Dead Man Walking."

At 25, Waterloo native and UNI School of Music alumna Makayla McDonald performed a commissioned piece by Andrew Boyson Jr., “To Break Earth’s Sleep.”

After graduation, McDonald believed New York City was the place to begin building her professional career. “I hit the ground running. Every single day I have to make a good impression. It can be hard. I was used to the comfort of singing at UNI and with community groups. Being in Manhattan means I have to put all my skills to the test.”

The soprano has already had a great measure of success. In addition to the Tubman role, she has performed with the Dell’Arte Opera Ensemble and the Light Opera of New York.

Off-stage, McDonald is a music tutor and supplemental instructor for the music department at the Borough of Manhattan Community College. She has her own small private voice studio and cantors regularly with All Saints Episcopal Church-Woodhaven.

In her spare time, McDonald explores the city like any other tourist and enjoys relaxing and drinking rosé on a blanket in Central Park when the weather is fine. She’s also made it her mission to sample all of the best tacos she can find in NYC.

Recently she worked with the Bronx Opera on Gilbert & Sullivan’s classical-comic opera “MIlando.” The opera opened in April, with McDonald singing the role of Peep-Bo. She also is working with New York City Lyric Opera. McDonald participated in Dell’Arte Opera Ensemble’s 2019 Summer Festival, “Voices from the Tower.”

“These are amazing opportunities, and it’s reaffirming to see other people who look like me performing on the operatic stage. That whole experience of performing the Harriet Tubman role, that solidly affirms that this is what I’m meant to be doing,” McDonald adds.

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“At UNI, McDonald performed roles in such UNI operas and opera scenes as ‘Little Harlequinade,’ ‘Signor Delaco,’ ‘Susannah,’ ‘Dialogue des Carmélites,’ ‘Ciel d’Amore’ and ‘Dead Man Walking.’”

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To learn more about IWJO, visit www.iowawomenjazz.com.

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Leaving a Legacy

Waller Gift to Benefit UNI Guitar Players

The School of Music recently received six beautiful guitars owned by the late Robert J. Waller. Dr. Waller was Emeritus Dean of the College of Business Administration and Professor of Management, and spent 35 years at the University of Northern Iowa. Robert had great admiration and respect for the UNI jazz program and was a bit of a jazz musician himself. Robert wished to gift the guitars so that they would continue to be played well into the future.

Robert has provided additional monetary gifts to the jazz program but these guitars are a visible symbol of his passion for music and his wish that they "continue to make music" for all who play them.

Director of the School of Music, Dr. Jeffrey Funderburk stated, "We are delighted to receive such a generous gift of instruments. These guitars are beautiful and have already been enjoyed in a number of concerts. Faculty and students for many years will have the pleasure of performing on these excellent instruments and will benefit from the Wallers' generosity." The gift includes guitars from four makers: Sadowsky, Solomon, Taylor and Wright.

Editor’s note: thank you to Noreen Hermansen and Jeff Funderburk for their contribution of this article.

Living Legend: Al Naylor

Jazz trumpeter and UNI alumnus Al Naylor is getting by with a little help from his friends. Naylor, a lifelong performer and music educator who currently is battling cognitive health issues, and twenty-nine of his friends, former students and colleagues got together in January to record what likely will be his final CD, titled "Friends." The album features several favorite standards, alongside a few originals that hadn’t previously been recorded, as well as a new piece titled "Nubbs (for Al)," penned by James Dreier.

Naylor grew up in Jefferson, Iowa, and began a performance career early, touring with rock bands for four years before returning to Iowa to complete both a bachelor’s and master’s degree at UNI. He continued his studies in New York after earning his master’s, but ultimately returned to Iowa in the 1980s to begin teaching at Linn-Mar middle school, where he later became director of jazz studies. Naylor has served as educator in Iowa middle schools, his private studio, and at Coe College for 28 years. He appeared twice at the highly celebrated Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland, and was named to the Jazz Educators of Iowa Hall of Fame in 2013. Additionally, The Pages, an Oelwein band Naylor joined in 1972, was inducted into the Iowa Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1999.

While Al has noted that his appearance at this summer’s Cedar Rapids Freedom Festival may be his final live performance, he will continue to teach and still loves interacting with his students.

The new album, "Friends" is available through Amazon.com and CDbaby.com.
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Spotlight Series 2019-2020

Performances

Wind Ensemble & Symphonic Band
Danny Galyen & Justin Mertz, conductors
Saturday, October 4, 2019 7:30 PM Great Hall, GBPAC

Jazz Band One & Jazz Band Two
Christopher Merz & Michael Conrad, conductors
Friday, October 11, 2019 7:30 PM Bengston Auditorium, Russell Hall

Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra
Rebecca Burkhardt, conductor
Friday, October 18, 2019 7:30 PM Great Hall, GBPAC

Varsity Glee Club & Women’s Chorus
John Len Wiles & Amy Kotsonis, conductors
Tuesday, October 22, 2019 7:30 PM Great Hall, GBPAC

UNI Choirs Concert
Amy Kotsonis & John Len Wiles, conductors
Tuesday, March 10, 2020 7:30 PM Bengston Auditorium, Russell Hall

UNI Singers & Symphonic Band
Amy Kotsonis & Justin Mertz, conductors
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Jazz Band One
Christopher Merz, conductor
Friday, April 24, 2020 7:30 PM Bengston Auditorium, Russell Hall

UNI Holiday Concert
Tuesday, December 10, 2019 7:30 PM Great Hall, GBPAC

Wind Ensemble
Danny Galyen, conductor
Tuesday, April 28, 2020 7:30 PM Great Hall, GBPAC

Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra
Rebecca Burkhardt, conductor
Thursday, March 5, 2020 7:30 PM Great Hall, GBPAC

UNI Singers & Concert Chorale
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Jazz Band Two
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Wind Ensemble
Danny Galyen, conductor
Tuesday, April 28, 2020 7:30 PM Great Hall, GBPAC

Opportunities to Give

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(see page 14 for Scholarship Benefit Concert donors)

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UNI School of Music |

Tickets are available by calling (319) 273-4TIX or visiting unitix.uni.edu. Tickets may also be purchased at the door. For more information, call (319) 273-2028.

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University of Northern Iowa
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Tickets for individual concerts will be $15 for adults, $5 for non-UNI students (with school ID). UNI School of Music is proud to offer free admission for UNI students with a current ID, thanks to the Panther Pass program.

Opportunities to Give

There are over one hundred individual funds that are open and eligible to give to, if you are interested and able to support the School of Music. With funds dedicated to specific instruments, majors, ensembles and more, you are sure to find a way to direct your gift exactly where you’d like it to go. Here is a sampling of opportunities in need of your support.

Myron E. Russell Quasi-Endowed Scholarship – (210237-20)
Supports scholarships for all music students.

School of Music Benefit Concert Endowed Scholarship – (210276-30)
Supports scholarships for all music students.

Robert Dean Memorial Endowed Scholarship – (211036-30)
Supports scholarships for instrumental education majors.

Musical Excellence Endowed Scholarship – (212373-30)
Supports scholarships for all music majors.

Voice Performance Scholarship – (212512-21)
Supports scholarships for vocal performance majors.

A. John Holstad Endowed Piano Scholarship – (212964-30)
Supports scholarships for piano students.

Jim Coffin Endowed Jazz Scholarship – (213154-30)
Supports scholarships for jazz students.

School of Music Development Fund – (220041-21)
Supports hosting alumni and friends, retirement and award activities of faculty/staff, and developing new contacts for the School, etc.

Charles and Marleta Matheson Endowed Scholarship and Artists Fund – (220049-30)
Supports scholarships for all music students.

Thomas Cupps Memorial Jazz Scholarship – (220811-30)
Supports scholarships for jazz performance majors.

Dorotha and Robert Dean Endowed Visiting Artists/Scholarship Fund – (221751-30)
Supports hosting guests and visiting artists and scholars in the School of Music, as well as scholarships for all music students.

Choral Enrichment and Opportunity Fund – (222925-21)
Supports scholarships, and expands support to touring choirs and choral programmatic needs.

Schultz Studio Fund – (232195-21)
Supports necessary upgrades and refurbishment of the Schultz Recording Studio.

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