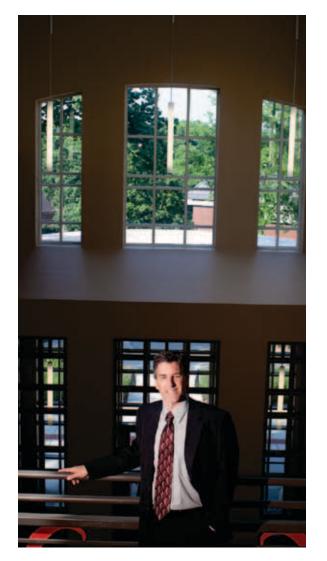
# RHAPSODY B Western Kentucky University Music Department

## Welcome



Welcome to Rhapsody—the summer magazine of the WKU Department of Music. Defined as "a musical composition irregular in form and suggestive of improvisation" or as "an ecstatic expression of feeling or enthusiasm", Rhapsody is the perfect vehicle to celebrate the creative and diverse work of our music students, faculty, and friends. The following pages are filled with stories of great musicianship, exciting experiences, engaging collaborations, and learning opportunities for all ages—a true Rhapsody of musical life on the hill.

In my three years at WKU I have witnessed firsthand how music permeates the campus from the classroom to the stage, the football field to the parade route, and orientation to commencement. Our students come to campus with a contagious excitement and energy and they graduate with a maturity and confidence that leads our society into the new century. The Spirit of Western is clearly present in all aspects of our department and I hope this magazine gives you a small peak inside the life of our department.

The WKU Department of Music offers over 100 concerts, recitals, and special events each year. Please visit our website (www.wku.edu/music) for up-todate event information and the opportunity to join us on Facebook or Twitter (@WKUMusicDept). I look forward to seeing you at many events in 2016-17 and I hope you enjoy the first edition of Rhapsody!

> Dr. Scott Harris Head, WKU Department of Music



Photos: David King, Bryan Lemon, Clinton Lewis, Jeff Smith, Marianne Swienink-Havard Layout: WKU Public Affairs

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On Feb. 20, 2016, the Western Kentucky University Wind Ensemble gave the performance of a lifetime at the College Band Directors National Association (CBDNA) Southern Division Conference in Charleston, South Carolina. The conference took place in the new state-of-the-art Gaillard Center, a 142 million dollar facility located in the heart of historic Charleston. The WKU Wind Ensemble was among eight collegiate performing ensembles selected through a recorded audition and application process. According to Dr. Gary Schallert, WKU Director of Bands and conductor of the Wind Ensemble, receiving an invitation to perform at a CBDNA conference is among the highest honors for collegiate band programs.

WKU's concert repertoire included *Slavonic Rhapsody No. 1* by Carl Friedemann, *Postlude in F* by Charles Ives, and three works by living composers. *Stubernic*  *Fantasy* by Mark Ford featured a marimba trio comprised of Ben Lee, senior music education major, Dr. Mark Berry, Associate Professor of Percussion, and Dr. Scott Harris, head of the department of music. *Recoil* by Joseph Schwantner was a particularly significant piece to perform because the Pulitzer Prize-winning composer attended



Omar Thomas Berklee College of Music Professor/Composer

the conference, as well as WKU's concert. Additionally, the Wind Ensemble premiered *Of Our New Day Begun* by Berklee College of Music professor and composer, Omar Thomas.

The composition and premiere of *Of Our New Day Begun* were set in motion by a variety of tragic and serendipitous events that took place during the eight months leading up to the conference. On June 17, 2015, Gary Schallert was producing a recording session for the Sacred Wind Ensemble in Lexington, Kentucky. Impressed by the tone and musicality of the saxophone section, Schallert introduced himself to the first chair alto saxophonist, Jenny Collins, and discovered that she was a band director at Goose Creek High School in Charleston, South Carolina.

Following the recording session, Dr. Schallert returned to Bowling Green and turned on his television to learn that a disaster had occurred earlier that day nine members of Mother Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston were killed in an act of domestic terrorism. Approximately one week later, Dr. Schallert was notified that the WKU Wind Ensemble had been selected to perform at the CBDNA Southern Division Conference and that the performance venue for the conference, the Gaillard Center, was a block away from Mother Emanuel AME Church. Ms. Collins, who had become his friend on Facebook, heard the news of WKU's selection to perform at the conference and extended an invitation for the band to rehearse in her band room at Goose Creek High School.

The two then discussed the tragedy in Charleston, and Schallert learned that Ms. Collins' friend Sharonda





Mother Emanuel AME Church, Charleston South Carolina

Singleton, the track coach at Goose Creek High, was one of the nine who had lost their lives in the shooting. Stricken with how appalling and close to home the shooting had been for so many, and with the remarkable timing of recent events related to Charleston, Dr. Schallert felt that a powerful reaction was in order. He contacted Omar Thomas about composing a new work for wind ensemble that WKU could premiere at the conference that would pay homage to the victims and their families and capture the overwhelming myriad of emotions and shock resulting from the event.

After nearly a week had passed, Omar informed Dr. Schallert that he would write the piece and that he had been grappling with intense anger at the hatred and racism displayed by the perpetrator. He described the type of piece he wanted to compose: one that depicted the rage and despair those affected were feeling, in addition to the astounding forgiveness the victims' families had demonstrated to the shooter. *Of Our New Day Begun* was born, incorporating segments of the hymn *Lift Every Voice and Sing*, which is often referred to as the Black National Anthem. Throughout the piece, Omar utilizes a number of elements derived from the musical tradition of the black church. One can hear prominent singing, stomping, and clapping throughout the work. According to Mr. Thomas, the frequent inclusion of the tambourine is "a direct nod to black worship services." Furthermore, the piece is peppered with blues harmonies and melodies that acknowledge the innumerable contributions of black Americans to music.

The Wind Ensemble prepared the piece for several weeks leading up to the CBDNA conference, and even collaborated with Professor Thomas via a Skype session during a rehearsal. Learning about the inspiration behind the piece from its composer allowed many students to develop a profound connection with its message—a connection that further deepened when the composer attended a rehearsal with the band at Goose Creek High School in Charleston the night before the premiere performance.

The weeks of rehearsal and hours of travel from Bowling Green culminated in the work's world premiere performance, which members of Emanuel AME Church attended. The performance was enthusiastically received and many in attendance were brought to tears. The WKU Wind Ensemble and composer Omar Thomas were recognized with a long-lasting standing ovation from the audience.

While the premiere performance of *Of Our New Day Begun* was a milestone, its trajectory into the band repertoire had just begun. Dr. Schallert organized a consortium of 38 collegiate and prominent high school bands from across the nation to commission Mr. Thomas to write the work. As consortium members, these bands have exclusive performance rights to the work for one full year before it is made available for purchase and performance to nonconsortium members.

On April 22 the WKU Wind Ensemble presented the Kentucky premiere of *Of Our New Day Begun* in Van Meter Hall with the composer conducting. During Omar's visit to the Hill, the band recorded the work for inclusion on a new CD that will be released internationally on the Mark Records label later this summer.

As a member of the ensemble that got to premiere this work, I feel a wide variety of emotions. The gratification I feel for having performed a beautiful and moving composition is accompanied by a heightened awareness of the disturbing reality of racism that still pervades our world. Overall, rehearsing and performing Omar's piece has led me to more fully realize that wonderful art can emerge from horrible circumstances. As artists we have the ability to call attention to global

issues and to promote empathy and beauty through what we create. In a world where far too many have lost their lives to hatred, we must not allow the darkness to cause us to relinquish our purpose. In order to rebuild from tragedy, we must continue to create.



Written by Emma King WKU Wind Ensemble flutist

# Spain Embracing the notion of our university Mission Statement, the WKU Chorale engaged in an

Statement, the WKU Chorale engaged in an eight-day study abroad performance tour to southern Spain in May 2015. They performed in four feature concerts and provided music for several masses. The trip included stops in Malaga, the hill town of Ronda, Sevilla, Cordoba, and Granada. This was an incredible opportunity for the students—the majority of whom had never been out of the country (including a few who had never been on an airplane!).

Focusing on the southern portion of Spain, and in relatively smaller cities, allowed the students a very intimate look at Spanish life, put students outside of their comfort zone, and challenged them to grow in ways they had not expected. In addition to fantastic performances, the students were able to learn a great deal about Spain's history and culture through guided tours and free observation. Quotes from their journals are perhaps the best commentary on the trip itself:

#### Sarah Fox

Perhaps the place where I felt the most affected by my Spanish experience was during the visit to the Mezquita in Cordoba. I simultaneously felt the dampness of a 2,000-year-old Roman column, faced Mecca in a mosque, and heard the reverberation of a Cathedral Organ all around me. As we sang "Ave Maria" I wondered exactly how I would incorporate these other religious traditions into my own life. How should I approach them? Respect them? I know that they all represent people, beautiful people, who I can learn from and help. Yet I must be open to change in my own life for what I have learned in Spain to truly benefit me. It was then that I was reminded of [Spanish poet Federico] Lorca and realized that I was asking the same question he immortalized in poetry. If I could find the balance and eternal truths among all the differences, I would be well on my way to fitting the "universe inside my heart." In this way, during my analysis of similarities and differences in Spain, I found a mission that will carry me forward for the rest of my life.

#### Ben Luna

There is one particular memory that stands out, much like a sparkler on a dark night: bright, lively, attentiongrabbing and lamentably fleeting. I hope I never forget the magic of the flamenco dancing we encountered in the streets of Granada. That city was so magical ... I could very easily find myself living out the remainder of my days there; yet even so, I have never been so moved by a dance performance. It was so raw, visceral, and petrifyingly percussive. In the time that we sat and watched I wanted nothing more than to be one of them.

#### Hadley Rouse

When a small group of us were at dinner one night in Seville, a man heard us speaking English and came over to talk to us. When he found out we were on a choir tour he asked if we could sing something for his friends and family who were on the way. We agreed, and we sang "Bright Morning Star" for them. His sweet wife came over and kissed each one of us on both cheeks and then held each of our faces in her hands. She looked us in the



eyes and thanked us over and over. It was one of the most genuine and sincere moments I have ever experienced. It was a great reminder of how beautiful and special choral music is and how lucky we are to be able to make music with our closest friends.

#### Rebecca Volk

The most beautiful statement I heard on the trip was from Gema, our tour guide at the Mezquita in Cordoba. The Christians and Arabs have had conflicts for many years, which is depicted physically in the Mezquita where a Catholic cathedral was built right in the middle of a mosque. The Christians of the time ripped out the entire center of the mosque for their own structure. "You can destroy buildings, but you cannot destroy music," Gema explained. As we sang "Ave Maria" in the Mezquita, this statement truly resonated with me. Gema is correct. Music is within us and that can never be taken away, no matter what. It is even a meaningful metaphor for life in the sense that even if our world is falling apart, music still remains.

## Ecuador

Thanks to a generous FUSE (Faculty-Undergraduate-Student-Engagement) Grant, Music Department students Rachel Bravenec, Taylor Dant, Hadley Rouse, Megan Seitz, Abigail White and faculty member Liza Kelly travelled to Quito, Ecuador, to research Zarzuela. This hybrid performance genre, rarely studied and performed in the United States, utilizes spoken Spanish text, operatic-style arias and ensemble pieces, and Spanish or Latin American cultural dance. As part of the group research and project completion, WKU students were integrated into the Ecuadorian national performing arts company Teatro Nacional Sucre to mount a professional Zarzuela

variety show. The ten days abroad leading up to the Zarzuela performance included daily Spanish language immersion classes, flamenco classes, Zarzuela history and development classes, and music rehearsals with *Teatro Nacional Sucre*. In addition to their Zarzuela research, the student group embarked on cultural excursions while in Ecuador—from historical city tours, a visit to the equator, and a day trip to a cloud forest jungle to visit an indigenous Ecuadorian tribe and a traditional familyowned fruit plantation. Upon their return to the WKU campus, the student research group offered an on campus Zarzuela education outreach event.



# **Faculty Highlights**

Sarah Berry hosted the Kentucky Cello Club's Cello Day at WKU in September, welcoming over 40 cellists for a day of masterclasses, ensemble playing, and Suzuki pre-college classes. In January and May, Berry hosted a Suzuki Teacher Trainer course in Cello Book 1. Dr. Melissa Kraut from the Cleveland Institute of Music was the guest Teacher-Trainer and nine cellists from all over the region, including WKU students Shelly Burgess, Josh Propst, and Morgan Thomas earned their Suzuki registration for Cello Book 1.

Dr. Mark Berry was invited to present his research lecture "From Angels to Orchestra: an iconographic history of the triangle through the 19<sup>th</sup> century" at the 2016 Percussive Arts Society International Convention in San Antonio, Texas. Berry's adaptation of J.S. Bach's Sonata in G minor for steelpan, and his original composition Interferometry II for Percussion and Cello were both published by Bachovich Publications, the latter being performed recently at NYU Steinhardt. He performed with the Owensboro Symphony and continues to perform as Principal Timpanist with Orchestra Kentucky in Bowling Green. He performed as marimba soloist on the piece Stubernic as part of the WKU Wind Ensemble's performance at the College Band Director's National Conference (CBDNA) in Charleston, South Carolina and the Kentucky Music Educator's Conference (KMEA) in Louisville, Kentucky.



WKU Music Professor John Cipolla (fifth from left) served as president of the jury judging panel at a recent international clarinet competition in the Czech Republic.

**Dr. John Cipolla** recently served as president of the jury judging panel for an international clarinet competition in Teplice, Czech Republic. More than 80 competitors from about a dozen countries in Europe and Asia participated in the event. The jury panel, which evaluated performers who competed for various prizes, included international clarinet soloists and professors from Italy, Finland, Czech Republic, Serbia, and China. In August 2016, Dr. Cipolla has also been invited to present a lecture and perform at the 6<sup>th</sup> European Clarinet Festival in Carlino, Italy. Dr. Cipolla served as president of the International Clarinet Association from 2012-14 and immediate past president from 2014-16.



Dr. Paul Hondorp and Dr. Gary Schallert enjoying the Chorale's trip to Spain.

**Dr. Paul Hondorp,** Director of Choral Activities, was elected President of the Kentucky Chapter of the American Choral Directors Association. In February 2016 he directed the Delaware SATB All-State Honor Choir. His book *Choral Error Detection: Exercises for Developing Musicianship* was released by Carl Fischer in 2015 and is in its second printing.

**Dr. R. Wayne Pope** completed his term as Mid-South NATS Governor and a member of the NATS Board of Directors. He has served the organization for decades as President, Treasurer, and Auditions Chair, first in Arkansas and later on the Executive Board and Governor of the Kentucky District. Recent performances include Duruflé *Requiem* with Brookside Chamber Arts in Kansas City, Missouri, WKU Symphony/Choral Society's Mozart *Requiem*, and "La ci darem la mano" with the Symphony and favorite soprano, Beth Pope. He and Beth presented a concert entitled *Christmas Delights* in Greenville, Ky. He was a featured vocalist with the WKU Jazz Band in their spring concert on Dean Martin's famous arrangement of "Ain't that a kick in the head?" He is a member of the Faculty Jazz Trio who frequently performs in a variety of venues throughout the region. This spring the group opened for the *Beegie Adair Trio* at Cave City's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. Adjudication engagements include NATS National Student Auditions, the Mineral Area College Carol Moore Memorial Jazz Festival, and the Classical Singer Competition at Belmont University. Since coming to WKU Dr. Pope has served as the musical director for the departments of Theatre and Dance and Music's annual Main Stage coproduction. He has recently augmented his work to include conductor and is looking forward this season to preparing and conducting two Puccini one-act operas, *Suor Angelica* and *Gianni Schicchi*.

Dr. Robyn Swanson and Philip Shepherd, retired, Kentucky Department of Education authored the chapter "Kentucky Policies and Practices for Assessment in Music Education: Past, Present and Future" to be published in the 2017 *The Oxford Handbook of Assessment Policy & Practice in Music Education* by Oxford University Press, New York, N.Y. Dr. Swanson also authored the chapter "Evidence-based Practices for Music Instruction and Assessment for P-12 Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder" to be published in the 2017 *The Oxford Handbook of Assessment Policy & Practice in Music Education* by Oxford University Press, New York, N.Y.

#### New Faculty **New Ideas.**

Dr. Zachary Lopes, Assistant Professor of Piano, joined the WKU faculty in 2013. He is an active soloist and collaborative artist and has given performances across the United States, Italy, and the Czech Republic. He was the winner of the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (CCM) Piano Concerto Competition and has been a finalist in the Schlern International Music Competition, the MTNA Northwest Regional Young Artist Competition, and the University of Colorado College of Music Honors Competition. Zachary has held teaching positions at the University of Cincinnati and Wittenberg University, and served as Assistant Administrative Director for the CCM Prague International Piano Institute. He has presented research at the MTNA National Conference, the National Group Piano and Piano Pedagogy Forum, and the Piano Pedagogy Symposium, and has been published in Clavier Companion. Zachary received his master's and doctoral degrees in Piano Performance from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and his bachelor's degree from the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Dr. Lopes has been instrumental in re-establishing a collegiate chapter of the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) at WKU. Along with Dr. Lopes, student members participated, performed in, and presented at conferences in Utah, Texas, and at the 2015 Kentucky Music Teachers Association (KMTA) State Conference held at WKU. Participating WKU students included undergraduate music majors Moriah Bartley, Rachel Bravenec, Maddie



Rachel Bravenec at MTNA

Hughes, Ryan Jones, Matthew Meredith, Bryson Richey, Jingwen Yang, and masters student in Piano Pedagogy Lin Zhu. The students gave two poster presentations at the conference titled "Music and Memory" and "A Practice Toolbox for the Budding Musician." Ryan Jones also performed in a piano master-class for KMTA Conference Artist *Latitude 49*, a new music ensemble based in Chicago. In addition, Rachel Bravenec gave an exceptionally well-received presentation at the national MTNA Collegiate Chapter Piano Pedagogy Symposium held at the University of South Carolina in January of 2016. Her presentation, "Music and Memory: A Psychological Perspective" explored the psychology behind how human brains process and memorize music.



Dr. Lopes with Lindsey Byrd and Paige McCord in Utah

6 One of the most rewarding things a musician can do is collaborate—either with other musicians or with artists from other disciplines. This past year the Symphony at WKU engaged in two collaborations with the Department of Theatre and Dance: a miniature Nutcracker Ballet at Holiday Pops and the February 2016 performance of Romeo and Juliet by Serge Prokofiev. For Romeo and Juliet, actors read lines from famous scenes from Shakespeare's play and dancers performed selected iconic scenes from the ballet. This collaboration proved to be a rewarding experience for actors, dancers, and musicians. It was a unique experience for the audience because they were able to see multiple disciplines engage in a concert performance. For some members of the orchestra it was the first time they had performed with dancers, and for some of the dancers it was the first time they performed with a live symphony orchestra. Both artists and audience alike found the collaborations to be an enriching experience.

-Dr. St. John







Dr. Brian St. John joined the WKU Music Faculty in fall 2015 as Baker Professor of Music and the conductor/ director of the WKU Symphony. Prior to joining the faculty at WKU, Brian was at the University of Evansville as Director of Orchestras, where he led two orchestras and taught courses in conducting and composition. Additionally, Brian served as the Assistant Conductor for the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra and Music Director for the Evansville Philharmonic Youth Orchestra. The 2015-16 season was his 22<sup>nd</sup> year as a professional orchestra conductor. Dr. St. John holds a bachelor's degree in viola performance and a master's degree in orchestral conducting from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Orchestral Conducting from Arizona State University. Brian has composed and premiered eight fully-staged ballets. His 8th ballet, The Little Mermaid, was filmed by WNIN television in Evansville and broadcast over regional PBS stations in 2014.

### **2016 Retirements**



**Dr. Michael Kallstrom** Distinguished Professor of Music



**Dr. William (Bill) Scott** Baker Professor of Music



Nancy Cron (BA '68, MM '83) Instructor of Music/Voice

In Memoriam DR. HOWARD R. CARPENTER 1919-2016 WKU MUSIC FACULTY 1953-1984

# Student Awards



PKL inductees with music faculty: Landon Case (viola), Sam Rouster (conducting), Evan Kerr (voice), Emma King (flute), Dr. Jeff Bright (faculty), Shelby Wooldridge (voice), and Rebecca Volk (voice).

#### Pi Kappa Lambda Inductees

Six students, selected by Pi Kappa Lambda departmental faculty members, were inducted into the WKU Theta Eta Chapter of Pi Kappa Lambda, a national honorary music society. The criteria for selection included academic achievement, musical skill, and stellar character from the junior, senior, and graduate students.



#### WKU Opera Students Take to the Summer Stage

Several of the principle characters from the spring 2015 production of the *Marriage of Figaro* once again found their way to the stage across our region, the US, and Canada.

Hadley Rouse (Cherubino) starred as Hodel in Back Alley Musicals (BAM) production of *Fiddler on the Roof.* Rouse was awarded the Clarence W. May Theatre Scholarship for her work in *Fiddler*, an honor that goes to one who demonstrates "the highest level of talent in a live performance."

**Justin Miller** (Don Curzio) was featured in the lead role of Perchik, the Student/Hodel's eminent husband. "I was pushed and challenged to invest in the character throughout the rehearsal process," said Miller. Justin will be performing at the CPCC Summer Theatre in Charlotte, N.C. over the summer. He will be featured as Billy Flynn in *Chicago*, Jafar in *Aladdin*, Joey in *Sister Act*, and an ensemble member in *Annie*.

**Dylan Wright** (Figaro) found himself singing in Toronto for another production of *The Marriage of Figaro*, only this time he was singing the role of Count Almaviva in the original Italian language. "I was contacted by Luke Housner, Director of the Academy of Vocal Arts who, based on knowing of my participation in the WKU production, asked me to submit an audition video. He offered me my choice of two different roles." Participants in the production hailed from Canada, the U.S., Japan and the Ukraine.

**Taylor Dant** (Count Almaviva) attended the Creative Motion Workshop at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkansas. Dant worked with Frank Heller of Louisville, Ky. and workshop host and Creative Motion specialist Justin Eisenhower. "Eisenhower had me singing the entire aria just on numbers. You know, the Count! It opened new possibilities and eased my singing." Dant spent the balance of his summer assisting with the Louisville Youth Chorus. Taylor has been accepted to the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University and will be attending there, on scholarship, this coming fall.

Abigail White (Susanna) traveled to Provo, Utah, to perform the role of Gianetta in UVAA/Utah Lyric Opera Studio Artists Program's production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Gondoliers*. "The program went well beyond daily rehearsals for the production. We were treated to private coachings and masterclasses by such greats as long time Metropolitan Opera star, tenor Anthony Laciura." Dr. Isaac Hutardo, UVAA Program Director and well-known voice pedagog, offered White the role after viewing selections from her Junior Recital. She will attend Loyola University in New Orleans this fall in the MM Voice Performance program.

#### University Awards

In 2015 two music department students were selected for university distinction. Alyna Bloecher ('13, '15) received the John D. Minton Outstanding Graduate Student award and Sarah Fox ('15) received the Ogden Foundation Scholar Award. These awards are two of the highest student honors at WKU. Alyna and Sarah were recognized at the May 2015 Commencement Ceremonies.

 Scott Harris (Head, Department of Music), Alyna Bloecher, Sarah Fox, David Lee (Provost)

#### WKU ASTA Wins Most Improved Student Chapter

The American String Teachers Association (ASTA) Student Chapter at WKU became an official campus organization in fall 2014. In 2016, the National American String Teachers Association awarded them the Most Improved Student Chapter Award. Members of the chapter attended the ASTA national conference in Tampa, Florida to accept the award in March 2016. ASTA welcomes students who play violin, viola, cello, bass, and guitar. They visit the public schools, sponsor guest artists on campus, and promote string education and performance on campus and in the regional community.



ASTA students receiving Most Improved Student Chapter Award in Tampa, Fla. at the ASTA National Conference

#### 2015-16 Music Scholarship Recipients

Bennie Beach Family Scholarship Benjamin Lee, Russell Springs, Ky.

Jean Blankenship Scholarship Gavyn Westmoreland, Radcliff, Ky.

Bowling Green Music Club Award Michael Pekel, Cincinnati, Ohio Sam Rouster, Ft. Mitchell, Ky. Jacob Sturgeon, Glasgow, Ky.

Athena Cage Scholarship Jason Fox, Russellville, Ky.

Dr. Kent Campbell Scholarship Haley D. Austin, Richmond, Ky.

Howard Carpenter String and Piano Scholarship Madeline Hughes, Georgetown, Ky. Suzanne Moore, Bowling Green, Ky.

**Blanche and Austin Duckett** Strings Music Scholarship Emily Vaughn, Greenville, S.C. Chaney Rose, Bowling Green, Ky. Darya (Liz) Ward, San Antonio, Tex. Brian Luna, Bowling Green, Ky. Ethan Shippey, Louisville, Ky.

David Paul Gibson Scholarship in Music Ohm Pauli String Ensemble Scholarship Abigail White, Waynesburg, Ky.

Thelma Griggs Piano Scholarship Ryan Jones, Bremen, Ky.

Larnelle and Cynthia Harris Vocal Scholarship Hardin Butts, Bowling Green, Ky.

Hugh F. Johnson Music Scholarship Xinyu Liu, Mudanjiang, China

Sylvia Kersenbaum Music Scholarship Emily Keith, Georgetown, Ky.

Naomi Allen McGinley and Jeanne Allen Logan Scholarship Rachel Bravenec, Brandon, Miss.



Music Department Faculty Scholarship Jared Long, Louisville, Ky. Ethan Smith, Lexington, Ky.

Carly Shoulders, Bowling Green, Ky. Ashley Brown, Bowling Green, Ky. Emily Vaughn, Greenville, S.C. Joshua Propst, Bowling Green, Ky. Darya (Liz) Ward, San Antonio, Tex.

Edward J. Pease Memorial Music Scholarship Kevin Anderson, Radcliff, Ky. Troy Wethington, Campbellsville, Ky. Jacob Tabor, Marion, Ky.

**Charles Smith Music Scholarship** Steven Teleky, Union, Ky.

Southern Kentucky Choral Society Vocal Scholarship Paige McCord, Louisville, Ky.

Seymour Spiegelman Scholarship Matt Nelson, Elizabethtown, Ky.

Dr. Samuel W. and Jeane Payne Tinsley Endowed Music Scholarship Noal McLinmore, Greenville, Ky. Giuseppe (Luc) Digiuseppe, Franklin, Ky.

Marita Hawley Travelstead Scholarship Rebecca Volk, Philpot, Ky. Shelby Wooldridge, Frankfort, Ky.

Nelle Gooch Travelstead Scholarship Cynthia Fernandez, Henderson, Ky.

Vitale String Endowed Scholarship William (Clay) Burgess, Mayfield, Ky.

Ida Weidemann Music Scholarship Ryan Jones, Bremen, Ky.

# Alumni Accolades

**Larry Long** 2016 Wall of Fame Inductee **Patricia Beresford** ('95, '97, '10, '12) completed her fourth year as Choral Director at Bowling Green High School, where she leads three large ensembles and three contemporary groups. She was chosen as the KMEA District Three High School Teacher of the Year for 2015-16. She is also the choir director at Holy Spirit Catholic Church.



Jana Ballard ('97, '03) is in her ninth year as choral conductor, voice teacher, and music history teacher at LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts in New York, N.Y. She has served as the Repertoire & Standards Senior High School Chair for

American Choral Directors Association Eastern Division since 2012. She also conducts the New York City Labor Chorus and the Children's Choir at Christ Church New Brighton in Staten Island, N.Y.

**Byron M. Lucas** ('00, '11) completed his 13<sup>th</sup> year in public school education, and his first year as choral director and musical director at Barren County Middle School and Barren County High School. He is also the music director at First Christian Church in Glasgow, Ky.



William Anderson ('05) has been performing nationally with the Virginia Repertory Theatre since 2011, including *South Pacific, The Color Purple,* and *The Golden Goose.* William just finished Live Art: Blue where he shared the stage with many

talented artists and kids including Grammy winner Keb' Mo', as well as Jason Mraz! Starting this fall he will be touring the country with Virginia Rep on Tour.

Amanda Biggs ('05) released her self-titled debut album with Howling Dog Records in 2014 to high international acclaim. Amanda has been involved in many musical performances ranging from Opera to Musical Theater to Blues and Jazz. She is currently involved in the Cabaret-style duo *Parvenu*. Amanda also has a large, successful voice studio, judges multiple choir and solo competitions in Indiana and Kentucky, and is raising two incredible sons with her partner in Bloomington, Ind. Amanda credits a large portion of her success to the wonderful foundation she built while studying at WKU.



**Justin Hornsby** ('05) is in his 14<sup>th</sup> year in worship and music ministry and his 2<sup>nd</sup> year as Associate Pastor of Worship and Music at Park Cities Baptist Church in Dallas, Tex. He has also served at churches in Kentucky, Pennsylvania and Virginia. He earned a

M.A.R. in Worship Studies in 2012 from Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary and is married to **Hollye (Cheatham) Hornsby** ('05). Hollye accompanies nine different public school choral programs in the greater Dallas area, and teaches 18 elementary students private piano lessons. They have 3 children (14, 8 & 5) and reside in Richardson, Tex.

Hannah Somers ('05) is currently working on a master's degree in Vocal Pedagogy at WKU. Last spring she played the Countess in WKU's performance of *Marriage of Figaro*. This semester she has been working on certification to become a *Kindermusik* Business Owner.

Adam Vincent ('07, '11) is in his ninth year teaching music for Warren County Public Schools in Bowling Green, Ky. Vincent is the choir director and teaches general music at Henry F. Moss Middle School. Vincent is the 7-8 Choral Chair and the 7-12 General Music Chair for KMEA Third District. Adam and his wife, Andrea, live in Bowling Green with their son, James Major Vincent (age 3).

**Lindsay Buege** ('08) is an active educator and accompanist in Louisville, Ky. She operates her own private piano and voice studio and accompanies various school choral ensembles throughout the school year. Lindsay also serves regularly on the worship team at Southeast Christian Church as a vocalist and keyboardist. She will be the accompanist for the KMEA High School All-State Women's Choir in 2017.

**Caitlin (Pope) Miles** ('08) is a dedicated member of the Nashville fine arts community, and performs regularly in productions with the Nashville Opera and Pull-Tight Theatre. She has been a guest soloist at First Night Honors, Tennessee's premiere theatre awards and tribute gala, nominated as "Best Featured Actress in a Musical" by BroadwayWorld.com, and was the winner of "Best Performance in a Musical" (Knot Awards). Caitlin also develops imaginative clinical and social leadership marketing initiatives for DaVita Inc., and is in her tenth year of performance-focused photography (production credits include: Billboard Magazine, Blake Shelton, Imogen Heap, Reba Rambo-McGuire, Lee Greenwood, and Reba McIntire). **Heather Heim Lawson** ('08) will be joining the Kentucky Opera of Louisville for her fifth season of performance this fall in Puccini's *Madame Butterfly*. She completed an M.M.P. in Performance at Campbellsville University in 2013. Heather also performed two seasons with the Stephen Foster Drama Association and this is her fifth year of teaching a private voice studio (ages 6-60) in Elizabethtown, Ky.



**Bronson Norris Murphy** ('08) is in his third year as a cast member of Broadway's longest running musical *The Phantom of the Opera*. Having played over 70 roles in productions on Broadway, Off-Broadway, international tours, regional theatres, opera and concert

venues, Mr. Murphy has performed in nearly every state in the United States. Mr. Murphy also maintains a private voice studio in New York City and serves on the Voice and Music Theatre faculty of the New York Film Academy, the Joffrey School of Ballet, and the Institute of American Musical Theatre.

Jacob Sensenig ('09) is currently in his second year of the Ph.D. in Church Music program at Baylor University. Since leaving WKU Jacob completed a M.M. in Church Music at Baylor and a Master of Divinity at George W. Truett Theological Seminary. For the past seven years he has served as the Associate Pastor of Music and Worship at First Baptist Church in Hamilton, Tex, where he leads a comprehensive music ministry including four graded children's choirs, a youth choir, the Sanctuary Choir and a hand-bell ensemble.

**Courtney Richardson Sturgill** ('09) is currently in her sixth year of teaching in Kentucky and fifth year at Shelby County High School in Shelbyville, Ky. Mrs. Sturgill conducts five award-winning ensembles in her program of 160 singers. Some awards include Distinguished ratings at KMEA Large Ensemble Assessments and Best Use of Movement two years in a row at Lexington's Voices in Harmony a cappella competition. Mrs. Sturgill also serves as Music Director of the school's annual musicals including *Annie, The Wizard of Oz,* and *Once Upon a Mattress*.

**Christopher Powell** ('09) is in his 5<sup>th</sup> year as choral director at Martha Layne Collins High School in Shelbyville, Ky. He and his wife (Dr. Emily Powell) are enjoying time with their newborn child.

# Alumni Accolades



**Leigh Anderson** ('10) is in her 3<sup>rd</sup> year as the director of choirs at Mt. Vernon High School in Fortville, Ind. All of Ms. Andersons' choirs have consistently earned Gold (distinguished) ratings at the ISSMA festival and her advanced mixed ensemble was

accepted to perform at Carnegie Hall in June 2016, singing under the direction of Dr. Daniel Bara and Dr. Deanna Joseph. Ms. Anderson also directs a premier contemporary a cappella group, *Locked Out*, which was founded two years ago. Before directing choirs at MVHS, Ms. Anderson worked under Noel Weaver for two years as the assistant choir director at Ballard High School in Louisville, Ky.

**Lauren Carr** ('10) recently had an article published about her successful career as an instrument repair technician in *The Flute Examiner*.

**Melissa (Gensler) Keeling** ('10) recently completed her coursework and recitals toward a doctorate in contemporary flute performance at the City University of New York. While she is writing her dissertation on Robert Dick, she is also teaching elementary music in New Jersey.

**Raeanne McKendree** (°10) completed her fourth year as Choral and Musical Director at Graves County High School in Mayfield, Ky. She will begin a Graduate Assistantship in Music Education at the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati in the fall of 2016.

**Kallie Rogers Snyder** (`10) graduated with her Doctorate in Music (flute) from Florida State University.



**Chelsea Armour** ('11) is in her 3<sup>rd</sup> year as Assistant Choir Director of the 220 member choral program at Edward Manzano Jr. Middle School in Brownsville, Tex. Mrs. Armour's 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade choirs consistently receive Superior ratings at UIL Concert and

Sight-Reading contests.

Talor Barnett ('11) is finishing her fourth year of teaching at Northeast Middle School in Clarksville, Tenn. where she has taught General Music and Choir. She has built a choral program of over 225 students and serves as the Music Director for the school's annual musical. She also has a growing private voice studio for students of all ages. She recently got engaged to **Faith Byrd** ('16) and is looking forward to what the future will bring!

Ellen Murrey Lawrence ('11) has worked as a director and educator for many organizations in the region including the Kentucky Shakespeare Festival, Kentucky Repertory Theatre, Kentucky Stage(s), Actors Point Theatre Co., Xclaim! Performance Academy, and BG OnStage. She had the opportunity to perform professionally as a company member for both Kentucky Repertory Theatre's final season and Kentucky Stage(s)' inaugural season as well as with Street Theatre & Actors Bridge /ACT 1 in Nashville. She currently operates HeartSong Vocal Studio out of her home in Bowling Green, Ky. and freelances as an actor/director in the region. This summer she will be performing and directing with The Stephen Foster Story in Bardstown, Ky.



**Elizabeth Beach** ('12) is currently substitute teaching for music and helping at Monroe County Schools' administration office in Bloomington, Ind. Her fiancé **Daniel McKillip** ('13), is pursuing his Master of Music degree in performance at the I.U.

Bloomington Jacobs School of Music.

**Ethan Kinkle** ('12) is currently in his 4<sup>th</sup> year as the Choir Director at Sebastian River Middle School in Sebastian, Fla., where he directs the SRMS 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir, Madrigal Singers, and the 90-voice Concert Choir. In addition to his duties at SRMS, Mr. Kinkle serves as District Co-Chair for the Florida Vocal Association's 13<sup>th</sup> District, which includes Indian River, St. Lucie, Okeechobee, Glades, and Martin counties. Mr. Kinkle was the 2014 recipient of the American Choral Director Association's annual Colleen Kirk Award. **Chandel Shanklin** ('13) completed his second full year as Choral Director at Warren Central High School in Bowling Green, Ky. The choral department has grown from 12 members to 70 under his direction and has received Distinguished ratings at both the District and State levels of KMEA Choral Festivals. Mr. Shanklin is Director of the Advanced Chorus, Mixed Chorus, Show Choir, as well as the Schools Musical Theatre Productions. He is also an active participant in Community Theatre as well as the "Ebony Eminence Ensemble".

**Ellie Osborne** ('14) is in her second year as Choral and Musical Director at Greenwood High School in Bowling Green, Ky. She also oversees children's music at the Bowling Green Presbyterian Church and serves as the State Treasurer for the American Choral Director's Association.

**Rachel (Weaver) Potter** ('14) has been music teacher at Cook Elementary School, in Winston-Salem, N.C. since 2014. Married in July of 2015, she and her husband are relocating to Columbus, Ga. where she will take over as Music Specialist and Choir Teacher at the Wynnton Arts Academy.

**Melissa Rushton** ('14) is pursuing a master's degree in music therapy at the University of Louisville.

**Rachel Dake** ('15) completed her first year as Vocal Music Director at Pacific High School in Pacific, Mo.

**Sarah Fox** ('15) is pursuing a master's in choral conducting at the University of Birmingham, United Kingdom, as a Fulbright Scholar. She serves as Choir Director at St. Augustine's Church in Birmingham and as Chorus Master for the City of Birmingham Symphony Chorus. At the university, she is researching ways in which music can be used to mitigate the negative effects of stress on children's developing brains. In the future, she hopes to combine her passions in music and history to open an arts school for students from underprivileged backgrounds.

# **Congratulations** to our 2015-16 Department of Music Graduates

Master of Music John Barr Courtney Calvert Jordan Fillingham Michael Pekel Samuel Rouster Jacob Sturgeon

**Bachelor of Arts in Music** 

Christopher Allpress James Buchanan\*\* Hannah Buckley\* Faith Byrd Morgan Duff^\*\*\* Emily Keith^\*\*\* Phillip Kendrick Katherine Knight^\*\*\* Courtney Lyttle Phillip Milburn Makala Payton\*\*\* Jared Rosdeutscher Taylor Shuck\*\* Patricia Valone^\* Darya (Liz) Ward John Woods II

#### **Bachelor of Music**

Kevin Anderson Ashley Bishop William Compton\* Taylor Dant^\* Daniel Finch\* Ashleigh Hardin Austin Harmon Brady Hinton\*\* Benjamin Lee^\*\*\* Benjamin Luna^\* Noal McLimore^\*\*\* Katherine Morrison Nathaniel Nash Troy Palmer^\*\*\* Joseph Powers^\*\* Charles Price Laura Snow\*\* Jacob Tabor\* Paul Vickous^\*\*\* Abigail White\*\*\* Shelby Wooldridge^\*\*\*

^ Honors College
 \* Cum Laude
 \*\* Magna Cum Laude
 \*\*\* Summa Cum Laude



Beegie Adair Stephanie W. Adams Nona Christine Akridge Gayle Allison Mr. and Mrs. John Allpress Judy and Robert Armstrong Mr. and Mrs. Dannie F. Arterburn Jane S. Austin Jerry E. Baker Jean Alston Batts Mr. and Mrs. Bryan James Baysinger Pearl (d.) and Bennie P. Beach, Sr. Betty Jo Beard Laura and Joseph Dan Beavers Beverly J. Bell Dana and Frank E. Bell, III Nina H. Bennett (d.) Dr. Wilma Louise Benson Patricia S. Beresford Kathryn and Mark Bigler Angela Beth Blakeman Jonathon David Blum Sam G. Bodine Dr. and Mrs. Edward W. Bohlander, Jr. Rebecca A. Boling Margaret Carol Boone Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Allen Boyles Jean P. Branum Dr. Carroll Brooks Mr. and Mrs. Billy Carl Brown Jean and Lt. Col. (Ret.) Robert R. Brown (d.) Mr. and Mrs. James Douglas Bryant Ray B. Buckberry, Jr. Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Burchett Patsy K. Burris Janet B. Bush Arvel Dwayne Cardwell Dr. Howard R. Carpenter (d.) Deanna and Dr. David N. Catlett Central Region ICC, Inc. Michael Ray Clark Marilyn Anderson and Michael B. Cobb Vickie and John David Cole Confidential Confidential Kay and Dr. Thad F. Connally COL Doral Glen Conner Madelyn Ray Cook Cassie L. Cooper Derek Ross Crafton John W. Dant, III Regina Faye Daugherty Delta Omicron Prof Music Fraternity Mr. and Mrs. James Michael Devine Deborah A. DiCarlo

Veronica and Jimmy T. Diemer Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth R. Distler Gail and William M. Dixon Dorothy Grise Dodson Bonnie Rachel Douglas Dennis Zachary Draeger Donna Jo Deason Dubrock Judy L. Durall Ruby Gail Edwards James R. Eisenmenger English, Lucas, Priest & Owsley, LLP Barbara and Charles E. English, Sr. John O. Fitts Lana and Dr. James S. Flynn (d.) Sharon L. Froedge Lisa B. Gentry Jessalyn Rae Gerbholz Mary W. Gordon John Wesley Grace, III Graves Gilbert Clinic Linda M. Grice Lisa Taylor Gupton Karl S. Gussow Carolyn (d.) and Lowell Guthrie Amy and Warren Guyer Dr. and Mrs. John A. Hagaman Bart (d.) and Georgeanna Hagerman Kelly Madole and Dr. Lance Hahn Dr. Rob Hale Frances F. Hall Mr. and Mrs. Peter S. Hallgren Jeffrey Martin Hamilton Patricia Ann Lewis Handly Julie and Alan Hansen Jean and James D. Harris, Jr. Harrison & Goin Law Firm Robert E. and Martha Blair Harrison Melissa F. Hasbrouck Martha and Dr. Robert Havnes Marion Heath Nancy and Jim (d.) Heldman Brenda Laine Helsley James Donald Henry Swanson Annette Hill Casey Hixson Mr. and Mrs. Jack Preston Hodges Jennifer and Paul Hondorp Melissa L. Horton Marycharles H. Howe and Robert M. Howe Dorothy J. Hughes Dett P. and Robin R. Hunter Dr. Martha S. Iley Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Glenn Jarboe Jim Johnson Nissan Jim and Darlene Johnson

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## Upcoming Events

## Join Us in 2016-17

#### The Symphony

Friday, September 23, 7:30 p.m. Van Meter Hall

Friday, October 28, 7:30 p.m. Van Meter Hall

Friday, December 2, 7:30 p.m. Van Meter Hall

Friday, February 24, 7:30 p.m. Van Meter Hall

Friday, April 28, 7:30 p.m. Van Meter Hall

#### **University Bands**

Symphonic Band Friday, September 30, 7:30 p.m. Van Meter Hall

WKU Bands Veteran's Day Concert Thursday, November 10, 7:30 p.m. SkyPAC

Symphonic Band Tuesday, February 28, 7:30 p.m. Van Meter Hall

Wind Ensemble Thursday, March 2, 7:30 p.m. Van Meter Hall

Symphonic Band/Campus Community Band Thursday, April 20, 7:30 p.m. Van Meter Hall

Wind Ensemble Friday, April 21, 7:30 p.m. Van Meter Hall

#### University Choirs

Sunday, September 18, 3 p.m. First Christian Church

Sunday, October 16, 3 p.m. Van Meter Hall

Friday, November 4, 7:30 p.m. Van Meter Hall

Sunday, March 5, 3 p.m. Van Meter Hall

Sunday, April 23, 4 p.m. Van Meter Hall

#### Winterfest

Saturday, December 3, 8 p.m. Holy Spirit Catholic Church

#### Jazz Bands

Saturday, November 19, 7:30 p.m. Instrumental Rehearsal Hall

Saturday, April 8, 7:30 p.m. Van Meter Hall

#### **Special Events**

**The Symphony at Jackson's Orchard** Saturday, September 17, 9:30 a.m.

**Autumn Collage Faculty Recital** Sunday, October 2, 3 p.m. Fine Arts Center Recital Hall

**Opera Theater** Tu/Thurs November 15/17, 7:30 p.m. Fine Arts Center Recital Hall

**PRISM** Friday, January 27, 8 p.m. Van Meter Hall

**WKU Opera** March 31, April 1, 8 p.m.; April 2, 3 p.m. Van Meter Hall



# WKU Home Football Games

featuring the Big Red Marching Band

September 1 and 24
October 1 and 22 (Homecoming)
November 5 and 12

For more information, contact the WKU Department of Music Phone: 270-745-3751 • Web: www.wku.edu/music • www.wkusports.com



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