



RHAPSODY

Western Kentucky University Music Department

Summer 2017

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, faculty accomplishments, engaging collaborations, and learning opportunities for all ages – a true *Rhapsody* of musical life on the hill.

I want to highlight two very special concerts from 2016-17 that celebrated and honored our country, its armed forces, and our universal hope for peace. On November 10, 2016 the WKU Bands, in collaboration with the WKU Choirs and Jazz Ensemble, presented a special Veteran’s Day Concert at the Southern Kentucky Performing Arts Center (SKyPAC) in downtown Bowling Green. A packed house enjoyed patriotic songs and hymns that reminded us of our nation’s history, as well as our continued responsibility for the safety and security of all Americans. On April 28, 2017 the WKU Symphony and Choirs presented *The Armed Man “A Mass for Peace”* by Karl Jenkins in historic Van Meter Hall. Combined with a sobering film depicting images of war and conflict from around the globe, this performance was a powerfully emotional experience for all in attendance. Music and



the arts both reflect, and shape, our culture – these performances reminded us of the role music plays in remembering our past, connecting to our present, and creating our future.

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 to date event information and the opportunity to join us on Facebook or Twitter. I look forward to seeing you at many events in 2017-18 and I hope you enjoy this edition of *Rhapsody*!

Dr. Scott Harris
Head, WKU Department of Music





RHAPSODY

Summer 2017

Lasting Legacies.....	2
Faculty Highlights.....	4
International Reach.....	6
Opera.....	8
BG Youth Orchestra.....	9
Student Awards.....	10
Alumni Accolades.....	12
Friends of Music.....	16
Upcoming Events.....	17



Faculty Retirements Leave Legacies

This year marks the end of an era as WKU celebrates the retirements and legacies of two highly recognized music faculty. Dr. Marshall Scott started teaching at WKU in 1990 as professor of trumpet and director of the WKU Jazz Bands. Dr. Scott is a stalwart supporter and advocate for jazz performance and education - respecting the history and tradition of jazz as an art form like no other, and imparting that love of jazz on all his students. Dr. Robyn Swanson joined the WKU faculty

in 1988 as professor of music education. Since that time, her work has influenced students locally, statewide, nationally, and across the globe. In recognition of her astounding and impactful career, Dr. Swanson was awarded WKU's highest faculty honor - a University Distinguished Professorship in 2011. In transitional retirement, both Dr. Scott and Dr. Swanson will continue to teach at WKU - sharing their love of music, artistry, and education with everyone they meet.



Dr. Marshall Scott



“Dr. Scott has not only expanded my knowledge of jazz and helped me to be a better musician, but more importantly he has given me the opportunity to play. Getting to play with Dr. Scott has allowed me to be a better

professional in my field as well as be able to experiment and make mistakes in a comfortable environment. Without Dr. Scott's influence and guidance, I would not be the musician I am today.”

Ryan Jones
WKU Junior

“Dr. Marshall Scott was an amazing mentor, inspiring me to become the best musician I could be during my time at Western Kentucky University. Always putting his students first, Dr. Scott put countless hours into both the Jazz Ensembles and Trumpet Studio at WKU to provide students with a skill set to continue to share musical excellence with future generations. You will not find a more compassionate Professor of Trumpet, Director of Jazz Bands, and friend than Dr. Marshall Scott!”

Andrea Gray
WKU Graduating Senior



Dr. Robyn Swanson



It has been my distinct privilege to serve as Coordinator of Music Education at Western Kentucky University since January 1988 and as Graduate Music Program Director since the 1990's. My

fondest WKU memories are about the incredibly talented music education students, both undergraduate and graduate, who have experienced success as professional musicians, school administrators, and music educators in K-12 music programs as well as those who are college/university music professors. It has been inspirational for me to see how each student has excelled in his/her chosen career path.

Over the years, I have enjoyed working with dedicated colleagues and administrators whose beliefs are grounded in providing our students the finest education possible. As a Department of Music, the undergraduate music education programs have doubled in size and the music graduate programs have tripled.

In fall 2017, as I enter into transitional retirement with responsibilities including student teaching supervision and teaching undergraduate-level online music courses, I will begin writing my unsung song. A sincere thank you to WKU administrators, colleagues and alumni, for your continued support and for the opportunities to serve the music education profession.

In reflection, I have reaped many rewards because of the individuals (administrators, colleagues, former students) who believed in me. And, to me, one of the greatest gifts one can receive is knowing others believe in your talents and abilities. So, please believe in yourselves because you will achieve more than you thought possible.

Dr. Robyn Swanson

Disabled students get music therapy

Debra Bossman
Staff Writer

SPEARFISH — It's said music is the universal language. And Robyn Swanson, an assistant professor of music at Black Hills State College, has used that philosophy to teach learning skills to developmentally disabled children.

Swanson has developed a music curriculum titled "A Whole New World Opens For Special Learners" for special education students.

"Music is an art that is capable of touching human feelings," she said. "It's wonderful to see students grow and develop through the program. Music touches them in a way that nothing else has."

Her curriculum focuses on helping students develop motor and social communication skills by combining a variety of hands-on activities with music concepts. The students learn skills through music which are often difficult to comprehend when explained to them verbally.

"We have had music therapy for 15 to 20 years, but the idea of branching into the fine arts has been a pioneering effort," said Merlyn Aman, BHSC professor of music who has worked with Swanson and local music educators on the music curriculum for special learners.

Aman, who is stricken with Guillain-Barre Syndrome, a form of polio, says he has some valuable insights into disabilities and handicaps.

"I now realize that developmentally disabled children are right-brained learners. They think in a more abstract sense rather than left-brain learners who are more symbol learning oriented."

Charlie Neilson, a music instructor at Central Elementary School in Spearfish, said teaching developmentally disabled students through music and right-brain learning helps heighten their self-esteem.

"We are teaching them through their strength rather than their weakness," he said. At Central Elementary, special learners are taught certain rhythm skills and they perform on instruments in front of regular first and second grade students who have not yet mastered the skills. "It gives the normal kids a chance to look up to the handicapped kids," Neilson said.

"The parents love the program and the children delight in the music and arts activities," Aman said. Aman recently presented a workshop on the special learners music curriculum at a convention for Midwest choral directors.

Some music curriculum ideas for special learners are being used in Rapid City schools, said Beverly Peterson, an elementary music specialist in Rapid City and chairman of music for special learners for the South Dakota Music Educators Association.

"We use many of the concepts Robyn has developed and there has been a good response to the program. We have been looking for a program like this for some time. What she is doing is important to music educators across the state," Peterson said.

Swanson will present a workshop on her music curriculum at a national music convention in April in California. She has worked on the curriculum 16 years and hopes to publish the work.



Robyn Swanson, assistant professor of music at BHSC, and her music helper "Dainty Daisy" help students

learn through music activities (Staff photo by Debra Bossman)

My first recollection of Dr. Robyn Swanson was the mention of her name by Warren County Elementary music teacher colleagues. They spoke of her passion for music education and her students. Since that time, I have watched her encourage, support, and lovingly guide her students. She is a true cheerleader for their success as music educators and in life. More than once, a student teacher has shed a tear as they talked about the influence that Dr. Swanson has had on not only their teacher training, but on their lives.

In Music Education you expect to find an instructor with intelligence, drive, passion for the content area, and determination to make a program excel. However, Dr. Robyn Swanson is an unusual combination of all those things plus compassion, caring, encouragement, guidance, and support. Professors and colleagues like Dr. Robyn Swanson, much too often, come around only once in a lifetime. I think that I can speak for myself and for my student teachers in saying that we are very blessed to have had her in our lives as a friend, colleague, and cheerleader!

Lisa Goode Hussung
Music Teacher, Warren County Public Schools
Bowling Green, KY

Faculty Highlights

Dr. Natalie Adcock presented her research on the music for horn and tape/piano by composer Michael Kallstrom (retired WKU Distinguished Professor) at the Mid-South Horn Workshop held at Southeast Missouri State University in March 2017. She also performed one of the works, "Brothers in Arms" on a regional artist recital and performed in the regional guest artist horn ensemble.

Dr. Heidi Álvarez continued her service as Treasurer for the Flute Society of Kentucky and was chosen to be the organization's Program Chair for the 2018 Festival, which will take place at WKU in March. She was also elected for a three-year term as a member of the National Flute Association Flute Clubs Committee. Dr. Álvarez was invited to serve on the 2017 faculty at the Froot Fire summer music workshop in Evansville, Ind. She published an article in Flute Talk Magazine on preparing high school flutists for college auditions, continued as a regular member of the flute section in Orchestra Kentucky, was an adjudicator for the Kentucky Music Educators Association All-State Auditions, and fulfilled her eighth year as Secretary of the WKU University Senate. Dr. Alvarez hosted two WKU alumnae on campus this year - Kallie (Rogers) Snyder in a flute workshop, masterclass, and recital; and Lauren Carr in a Miyazawa Flute, Hammig Piccolo, and LefreQue sound bridge demonstration.

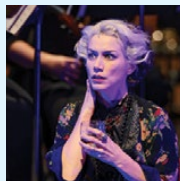


Dr. Mark Berry was awarded a sabbatical for fall 2017 to study and prepare/publish a text on the historical origins of the triangle titled *An annotated Index of Triangle Iconography*. The WKU Steelband under the direction of Dr. Berry performed a concert and information session at the West Kentucky Day of Percussion held at Muhlenberg County High School on March 25, 2017. Dr. Berry also hosted guest percussionist Dr. Dan Piccolo, who presented a masterclass on tabla and classical Indian rhythms,

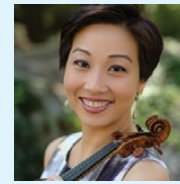
and percussionist Dr. Brandon Arvay, who presented a masterclass on percussion technology and performed an evening recital.



Dr. Paul Hondorp, Director of Choral Activities, completed his 14th year of teaching at WKU. He was selected (by peer review) as one of eight U.S. representatives for the American Choral Directors Association International Conductors Exchange Program and will travel to Costa Rica in October 2017 for guest conducting, presentations, and clinics. In July 2017 he completed his term as the President of the Kentucky Chapter of ACDA. He was awarded the 2016 Raymond Baar Award for Choral Excellence in the state of Kentucky and in September 2016 he performed with the professional chamber choir *Vox Humana* in a series of concerts in Dallas, Texas. His book *Choral Error Detection: Exercises for Developing Musicianship* is being used throughout the U.S.A. in choral conducting and choral methods classes, and is in its second printing.



Dr. Liza Kelly and voice student Hadley Rouse received WKU internal grants to conduct research and complete a two-week residency at the *Manipulate Festival* in Edinburgh, Scotland. The festival focused on the discipline of visual theater, or utilizing live stream video, puppetry, animation, movement, and object-theater to communicate to the audience versus the traditional spoken or sung script. Research included participation in workshops and performances focusing on micro-cinema and object-theater and attendance at thirteen visual theater performances by professional companies from around Europe and the U.K. The project concluded state-side with the development and performance of a new stage work featuring visual theater components.



Dr. Ching-Yi Lin joined the team of Daraja Music Initiatives (DMI) and led a group of six WKU and University of Tennessee undergraduate and graduate students to Moshi, Tanzania to teach strings. They started a beginner violin class for students at the Majengo Primary School and continued string lessons for over thirty students in the Korongoni Secondary School. Last year alone, over sixty string instruments were donated from across the United States for this endeavor. With the support of a Faculty Undergraduate Student-Engagement Grant, Anna Darling (sophomore violin performance major), will be travelling to Tanzania and continuing this project with Professors Lin and Andrew Braddock in 2017. They will teach students in the Korongoni Secondary School, teach violin to the second graders in Majengo Primary School (who were first graders last year!), and start another brand new beginner class. For more information about this project, please visit the DMI website at www.darajamusicinitiative.org.



Dr. Zachary Lopes was invited to give concerts, masterclasses, and lectures featuring the piano sonatas of Robert Muczynski at the University of Louisiana Lafayette, Louisiana State University, Steinway Recital Hall in Louisville, Ky., University of Idaho, and for an in-home concert in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho in partnership with Coeur d'Alene Cellars Winery and the Friends of Spokane Symphony. He also received a WKU internal grant to record the three piano sonatas of Muczynski on Albany Records. Two of his students were awarded grants for collaborative research: Hilarie Spangler received an undergraduate grant to do research on community arts education programs and cultural outreach programs in Europe while studying abroad in summer 2017; and Julie Pride received a WKU Graduate Research Grant to study the original manuscripts of vocal and piano composer Roger Quilter at the British Library in London, England. In collaboration with Accademia Europea di Firenze, Dr. Lopes also took ten WKU music majors on a Faculty Led Study Abroad program to Florence, Italy in summer 2017. Students took courses, participated in ensembles, gave performances, and traveled throughout Italy and Europe over the four-week program.



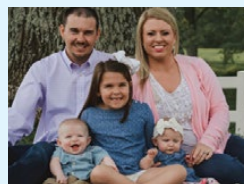
John Martin and the Gough-Martin Blues Band took first place honors at the 25th annual River City Blues Competition held in February 2017 at the Lafayette Hotel in historic Marietta, Ohio. This win secures a spot for the band in the 2018 International Blues Competition held in Memphis, Tenn. where the band will compete against other regional competition winners from around the globe. The Gough-Martin Blues Band was also given a slot in the 25th annual River City Blues festival in March of 2017 along with Chicago Blues legend John Primer and Contemporary Blues artist Samantha Fish. The band includes Michael Gough of South Union, Ky., Patrick Preston of Evansville, Ind., WKU music professor John Martin, and Gerry Smoot of Evansville, Ind.



Dr. R. Wayne Pope continued his work with NATS (National Association of Teachers of Singing) by chairing the Regional Governor's Election. Adjudication included the NATS Mid-South Region, NATS National Student Auditions and the Trevecca University Aria Competition. Performances included a recital collaboration with pianist Diane Earle and *Messiah* bass soloist with the Paducah Chamber Music Society. The spring semester found Pope in the dual role of Director and Music Director of *A Pair of Puccinnis* for the annual opera coproduction by the Departments of Music and Theatre/Dance. This summer Pope will travel to Danville, Ky. to present a Governor's School of the Arts Voice Master Class and to Boulder, Colo. to attend the NATS Summer Workshop sponsoring semi-finalist, Dylan Wright in the NATS National Student Auditions. Concerts this fall include collaborations with soprano Beth Pope and pianist Diane Earle at Seattle Memorial United Methodist Church in Owensboro, Ky. (September 10) and "From Back to Basie: A Singin' Affair" for the Mineral Area Arts Council (November 17 in Farmington, Mo.) with special guests Ryan Jones (piano), soprano Beth Pope, and the Mineral Area Kicks Band. Pope continues to serve as Choir Director at the Presbyterian Church of Bowling Green where he enjoys engaging WKU faculty, students and graduates who greatly enrich musical worship.

Dr. Marshall Scott has decided to enter the WKU Transitional Retirement Program after twenty-seven years of teaching. Rest assured Marshall will remain an active trumpet performer and maintain the WKU trumpet studio for the next five years. Marshall and all of the WKU Jazz Band members wish to express the deepest appreciation to Frances Wilson for the Frances and Lively Wilson Fund for Jazz Education and performance. This amazing annual gift has allowed the Jazz Program to flourish by funding such necessary items as guest artists, new music, and updated equipment. Beginning his fall, Marshall will be available to perform a commissioned work by the great jazz arranger Mark Taylor. This arrangement is for Jazz Trumpet, Rhythm Section and Concert Band.

Dr. Mary Wolinski published the article "The Case of the Disappearing Rests: A New Look at the Spanish *In seculum* Hocket in Madrid, Biblioteca Nacional de Espana, MS 20486" in *New Perspectives on Early Music in Spain*, Tess Knighton and Emilio Ros-Fabregas, eds., Iberian Early Music Studies, No. 1 (Kassel: Reichenberger, 2015) pp. 291-307.



Amanda Lee welcomed twins to the WKU Music Department family! November 5, 2016 Caleb Scott Lee was born at 3:28 p.m. and Josie Jo Lee was born at 3:37 p.m.

In Memoriam

DR. BENNIE BEACH
1925-2016
WKU MUSIC FACULTY 1953-1981

DR. DAVID (DOC) LIVINGSTON
1925-2017
WKU MUSIC FACULTY 1963-1990

University Awards



David Lee (Provost, Vice President for Academic Affairs), Jeff "Smitty" Smith, Gary Ransdell (President, retired)

Jeff "Smitty" Smith, technical director for Van Meter Hall, received the Western Kentucky University *SPIRIT OF WESTERN AWARD* in 2016. This award recognizes a member of the faculty, staff, or student body who best represents the vivacity, enthusiasm, loyalty, and inspirational principles of the WKU experience. Jeff works the stage for all Department of Music Van Meter events including bands, choirs, orchestra, jazz, operas, and musicals. He is the man behind the curtain and he makes sure that every performance comes off without a hitch – congratulations Smitty!

KMEA Recognizes WKU Faculty and Alumni



Dr. Robyn Swanson receives the Citation for Service award from KMEA Officers

Four WKU faculty and alumni were recognized at the 2017 Kentucky Music Educators Association (KMEA) Professional Development Conference. Dr. Gary Schallert and Dr. Robyn Swanson (WKU music faculty) were respectively awarded the College/University Teacher of the Year and the Citation for Service, and WKU alumni Greg Lyons (owner of Royal Music Company) and Bo Matthews (Superintendent of Barren County Schools) received the Friend of Music and Administrator of the Year awards.

International



REACH



Scotland

In fall 2016, Dr. Liza Kelly and I applied for and received a Faculty Undergraduate Student-Engagement (FUSE) grant to attend the visual theatre festival *Manipulate* in Edinburgh, Scotland. This genre of visual theatre was new to the both of us, so we were eager to learn all that we could! We stayed two weeks in Edinburgh attending not only the shows presented at *Manipulate*, but also participating in the two master classes hosted by the festival. The master classes were a wonderful experience. Not only did we get to work with renowned artists, but we also became friends with people from all over the world. We spent three days immersed in each master class in which we worked alone and in groups to create different projects. Our first master class allowed us to experience object theatre, a type of theatre which uses everyday items to assist in

the story telling process. We spent time engaging in different activities to experiment with the use of objects as a vehicle for symbolism and metaphors as well as examining the relationship between the actor and object. The second master class focused on microcinema, which used video cameras and live projection to explore objects, materials, and other simple items to discover details which are normally lost in a traditional theatre performance. Each day we created a mini-production based on a prompt or script the instructor gave us.

In addition to our residency with the festival, we went on several cultural excursions to the Isle of Skye, The Castle of Edinburgh, and a trip to Loch Ness. Our time in Scotland was truly incredible, and the opportunities we were able to experience will continue to impact us throughout our lives.

Hadley Rouse
Senior, Liberal Arts/Voice



Tanzania

In summer 2016 Dr. Ching-Yi Lin joined the team of Daraja Music Initiatives (DMI) and led a group of six WKU and University of Tennessee undergraduate and graduate students to Moshi, Tanzania to teach strings. Through the organization Daraja Strings, they started a beginner violin class for students at the Majengo Primary School and continued string lessons for over 30 students in the Korongoni Secondary School. Last year alone, over 60 string instruments were donated from across the United States for this endeavor.

“My journey to Moshi, Tanzania (summer 2016) was an unforgettable one. I had the privilege of working alongside so many passionate teachers from across the country who dedicated their time to starting a string music education program at the Majengo Primary School, through the Daraja Music Initiative program. Primary schools are equivalent to elementary schools in America, and classes are taught in the native

language of Swahili. The language barrier encouraged creative teaching activities and succinct verbal communication, as students do not begin learning English until they are in secondary school.

At Majengo I taught students ages 6-10 by utilizing the Suzuki Method. The Majengo students were focused and needed very little correction when concepts were demonstrated clearly. The Swahili-English language barrier has developed my own teaching skills in a way that I never anticipated as I was required to use extremely limited verbal instructions in violin lessons. It was an amazing experience to watch each child grow and develop a love and passion for music.

Tanzania has been classified by the United Nations as a “Least Developed Country;” 30% of young adults are illiterate and less than 27% of students will enter college. Research has shown that the study of music improves literacy and scores on standardized tests, regardless of the socioeconomic background of the students involved. Tanzania holds a National Exam for entrance to the University; but only 27% of students nationally will pass. Participants in the DMI summer music program have a 30% college acceptance rate - evidence that these summer music programs have a profound impact on the Tanzanian students.

It was a great privilege to work with the children in Tanzania. By providing students at the Majengo School with music lessons children born into dire economic and social circumstances can be empowered to break the cycle of poverty, achieve higher levels of education, and become citizens of the global community - all while providing myself with the skills and knowledge needed to become a musical leader in the Western world.”

Emily Vaughn
MM, Pedagogy/Viola

With the support of the Faculty Undergraduate Student-Engagement Grant, Anna Darling (sophomore violin performance major), will be going to Tanzania and continuing this project with Professors Lin and Andrew Braddock in summer 2017. They will teach students in the Korongoni Secondary School, teach violin to the second graders in Majengo Primary School (who were first graders last year), and start another brand new beginner class.

“After hearing about the first trip to Tanzania, and seeing the wonderful pictures, I dreamed of going there and of what it would be like to give more of the beautiful gift of music to these kids. I applied for a FUSE grant and was delighted to be chosen. It is such an honor to know that this trip, the research that I will be conducting while there, and my learning how to teach these children, all have the support of WKU and the Music Department.”

Anna Darling
Sophomore, Performance/Violin



Opera

at WKU

WKU Main Stage Opera performs *A Pair of Puccinis*

In its annual coproduction with the Department of Theatre and Dance, WKU MainStage Opera presented *Suor Angelica* and *Gianni Schicchi* from Giacomo Puccini's *Il Trittico*. Dr. Wayne Pope served as Director and Music Director in his 18th coproduction. Dr. Brian St. John, Director of Orchestras, conducted in his MainStage debut. Students from the Departments of Music and Theatre/Dance combined for three successful public performances and a special School Day Performance to over 200 high school students, parents and choir directors. Says Pope, "When 200 high school students show up for an opera performance and leap to their feet at the end of it, we all win." Special thanks to our former Music Department students Eric Doades (Glasgow), Cheri Marshall (Warren East), Ellie Osborne (Greenwood) and Emily Petty (Franklin/Simpson) for bringing students. Next year's coproduction scheduled for April 5-8, 2018 will be the Broadway hit *9 to 5!*

Opera Outreach

The Opera Theater Ensemble launched its second Opera Outreach Education Program in spring 2017 with *Opera East and West: Italian Opera, Zarzuela, and Chinese Opera*. The ensemble researched and constructed their own curriculum based on the history and performance practices of three different operatic genres. The ensemble brought the interactive performance program to the campuses of three schools in the Bowling Green area and held one open event for the community in Van Meter Hall.



The Bowling Green Youth Orchestra



In the fall of 2016 Dr. Brian St. John, Western Kentucky University's Baker Professor of Music and Director of Orchestras, became the new Music Director and Conductor for the Bowling Green Youth Orchestra (BGYO). He followed Patrick O'Rourke, Bowling Green Independent School District string educator, who conducted the orchestra for the previous five years.

Over 50 students from six counties and two states auditioned for membership in BGYO. The orchestra consists of woodwinds, brass, percussion, and strings from local and regional school and private music programs. The first concert of the 2016-2017 season was held in November, 2016, at Hillvue Heights Church in Bowling Green. A memorable part of the concert was that the power went out and the students elected to continue the concert in the dark! Thankfully, a few friends and family members from the audience came up to the stage and illuminated the orchestra with cell phone lights. It was a truly unforgettable performance!

BGYO has performed some incredible music by great composers. Highlights are: *Danse Bacchanale* from *Samson and Delila* by Saint Saens, *Jupiter* from *The Planets* by Holst, and *Berceuse and Finale* from *The Firebird* by Stravinsky. In addition to two full orchestra concerts, the BGYO students were invited to perform side-by-side in December 2016 with Orchestra Kentucky at their annual Holiday Concert for local school children.

During the 2017-2018 season BGYO will perform two full orchestra concerts and will also join the WKU Symphony at Van Meter Hall for a side-by-side performance of music from Bizet's *Carmen*.

BGYO is a full symphonic orchestra and is open to middle and high school aged students who have played their instrument a minimum of two years. The orchestra is sponsored/supported by Orchestra Kentucky and the WKU Department of Music.

Student Awards



PKL inductees with music faculty: Adam Carbone (tuba), Joshua Propst (cello), Ryan Jones (piano), Hadley Rouse (voice), Katie Vogel (voice), and Amber Lamastus (trumpet).

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.

Singers Attend Mid-South Regional NATS Student Auditions/Qualify for Nationals

In a record setting attendance year for the Mid-South Region, thirteen WKU voice students participated in the 2017 Student Auditions with six students proceeding to the semi-final round of competition. Semi-Finalists were: Hadley Rouse (Sr/Owensboro), Olivia Mitchell (Jr/Bowling Green), both students of Beth Pope. Students of Wayne Pope included Hannah Morrow (Fr/La Center), Matthew Nelson (Jr/Elizabethtown), Justin Miller (Sr/Owensboro), Dylan Wright (Sr/Frankfort), and Jacqueline Yunker (Sr/Bowling Green). Justin Miller and Dylan Wright qualified for participation in the Preliminary Round for the NATS National Student Auditions. Dylan Wright's Preliminary Round

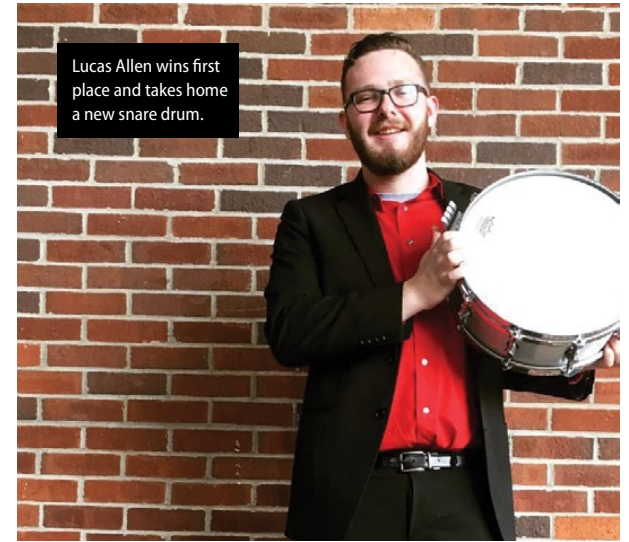
performance won him a spot in the National Student Audiiton Semi-Finals to be held in Boulder, Colo. in late July. WKU voice faculty members Jennifer Brennen-Hondorp, Beth Pope and Wayne Pope, attended as adjudicators. Congratulations to all!



Founding inductees of the Mu Iota chapter of Sigma Alpha Iota

SAI Mu Iota Chapter Founded

On Saturday, April 22, twenty women became the founding members of the Mu Iota chapter of the Sigma Alpha Iota women's fraternity on the WKU campus. Sigma Alpha Iota (SAI) was founded in 1903 at the University of Michigan School of Music. The organization believes in advocating for music education and serving the greater artistic community through a variety of projects, including the SAI Philanthropies organization which sponsors scholarships and serves as a catalyst for the creation and performance of American music. There are over 200 collegiate and 100 alumnae chapters of SAI throughout the country. Representatives from other collegiate chapters, the Louisville Alumni Chapter, and officers from the Province, the Region and the National Office lead the ceremony. Dr. Jennifer Adam serves as the faculty advisor for the Mu Iota chapter.



Lucas Allen wins first place and takes home a new snare drum.

Student Percussionist Wins First Place

Lucas Allen, sophomore Music Education student, participated in the university division of the inaugural Kentucky Percussive Arts Society Snare Drum Competition in February of 2017. The competition took place at the annual Kentucky Day of Percussion on the campus of the University of Kentucky. Participants of the competition ranged from freshman undergraduates to second year graduate students. Lucas was named the first-place winner of the competition, performing Jacques Delecluse's *Etude No. 1* and Alexej Gerassimez's *Asventuras*. In May, Lucas also participated in the Modern Snare Drum Competition in Cleveland, Ohio, a national competition with participants from elite music programs around the world. He plans to continue participating in performance competitions as long as he can, and is grateful for the multitude of performance opportunities the Western Kentucky University Music Department has given him to prepare his musical artistry for these competitions.



John Shepherd and Dr. Robyn Swanson

Robyn, Dean, & Lucile Swanson Scholarship

Through the very generous support of Dr. Robyn Swanson and her family the Robyn, Dean, & Lucile Swanson Scholarship was awarded for the first time in spring 2017. This award recognizes and supports full-time teachers who are also pursuing a graduate degree in music education. The endowed scholarship is a great testament to the life-long commitment of Dr. Swanson and her family to music education. The inaugural recipient was John M. Shepherd. John received his undergraduate degree in Music Education from WKU in 2014 and is now teaching elementary music in Glasgow, Ky.



Potter College recognizes Outstanding Music Students
Angela Cook, Luc DiGuiseppe, Andrea Gray

2016-17 Music Scholarship Recipients

Bennie Beach Family Scholarship

Benjamin Carroll, Alvaton, Ky.
Jose Rodriguez, Hopkinsville, Ky.

Jean Blankenship Scholarship

Gavyn Westmoreland, Radcliff, Ky.

Bowling Green Music Club Award

Brittany Whitlow, Bowling Green, Ky.
Angela Cook, Bowling Green, Ky.
Emily Vaughn, Bowling Green, Ky.

Athena Cage Scholarship

Stephanie Berek, Bowling Green, Ky.
Spencer Woods, Bowling Green, Ky.

Dr. Kent Campbell Scholarship

Dahyun (Cristina) Sohn,
Bowling Green, Ky.
Jordan Smith, Leitchfield, Ky.

Howard Carpenter String and Piano Scholarship

Madeline Hughes, Georgetown, Ky.
Suzanne Moore, Bowling Green, Ky.

Blanche and Austin Duckett Strings Music Scholarship

Haley Clayton, Louisville, Ky.
Brian Luna, Bowling Green, Ky.
Josue Mora, Louisville, Ky.
Alicyn Newman, Bowling Green, Ky.
Ethan Shippey, Louisville, Ky.

David Paul Gibson Scholarship in Music

Matthew Nelson, Elizabethtown, Ky.

Thelma Griggs Piano Scholarship

Moriah Bartley, Cave City, 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

Hadley Rouse, Owensboro, Ky.

Naomi Allen McGinley and Jeanne

Allen Logan Scholarship
Ryan Jones, Bremen, Ky.

Music Department Faculty Scholarship

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Vanessa Brown, Bowling Green, Ky.
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Jackson Heinze, Bowling Green, Ky.

Nelle Gooch Travelstead Scholarship

Cynthia Fernandez, Henderson, Ky.

Vitale String Endowed Scholarship

Landon Case, Bowling Green, Ky.

Ida Weidemann Music Scholarship

Cody Lindsey, Smiths Grove, Ky.

Alumni Accolades

Bronson Murphy receives 2016-17 Wall of Fame Honors

With his “prodigious acting abilities” and a voice that has been acclaimed as “masterful, passionate, soaringly beautiful and pitch-perfect – the kind of performance that can have the audience wiping away tears they didn’t even know were there,” Bowling Green native, Bronson Norris Murphy, a 2004 graduate of Greenwood High School and a 2008 Summa Cum Laude graduate of Western Kentucky University’s program in Music Education, is an active performer on the Broadway, Off-Broadway, Regional, Operatic and Concert stages. After finishing his Master’s Degree in Vocal Performance at NYU’s Steinhardt School, Mr. Murphy toured the United States and Canada to critical acclaim in Andrew Lloyd Webber’s hit musical *CATS*. In 2014, he made his Broadway debut in *The Phantom of the Opera* and has performed 13 different roles in that production to date. In just over a decade of stage performances, his credits include: New York City developmental productions: *Faustus, the Musical* (MTM’s Best Actor Award), *I Hate Holmes, Joan of Arc, Catch the Wind*, Alan Menken & Tim Rice’s *King David, Maybe One Day: A Fable*. His work in regional theatres across the country include: The Metropolitan Opera, Lincoln Center’s Avery Fisher Hall, Goodspeed Opera House, North Shore Music Theatre, Theatre By The Sea, Skirball Center, York Theatre, Players’ Theatre, John W. Engeman Theatre, The Arts Center of Coastal Carolina, West Virginia

Public Theatre, The Public Theatre of Kentucky, Jenny Wiley Theatre and two seasons as Stephen Foster in *The Stephen Foster Story* in Bardstown, Ky. and Japan. While at WKU, Mr. Murphy was featured in mainstage productions of *The Gondoliers, Sweet Charity, Ragtime, Street Scene, Inherit the Wind* and *Children of Eden* as well as *The Old Maid and the Thief, Die Zauberflöte, Godspell* and *The Enchanted Attic* and as a soloist for Bach’s *Cantata No. 140*, Ramirez’s *Misa Criolla*, Saint-Saens’ *Christmas Oratorio*, Vivaldi’s *Magnificat* and Dubois’ *Seven Last Words of Christ*. He is the four-time recipient of WKU’s “Male-Vocalist of the Semester” prize and in his senior year was awarded “Performer of the Semester.” Other WKU honors include being

named The Scholar of Potter College, The Jim Fern Music Education Scholarship, The Seymour Spiegelman Award for Vocal Music, Pi Kappa Lambda Inductee and a two-time first place winner of The NATS Vocal Competition. In addition to his work onstage, Mr. Murphy served as the Choir & Artistic Ministries Director at St. James United Methodist Church in Bowling Green. He is an advocate for music literacy, an active voice and acting teacher who maintains regular classroom hours in NYC while hosting workshops on vocal production, song interpretation, music theory and musical theatre audition techniques at New York University, The New York Film Academy, The Joffrey School of Ballet, Broadway Classroom and The Institute for American Musical Theatre.

Dr. Wayne Pope, Wall of Fame Committee Chair presents 2008 graduate Bronson Murphy with his Wall of Fame plaque.



Carrie Barnette ('95) is the Executive Director of the American Orff-Schulwerk Association. Previous to AOSA, Carrie worked as the Special Projects Director of the Housing Authority of Bowling Green, providing grant writing, fundraising, and special projects raising more than \$3.35 million in grants over two years. Carrie also served as a development officer at Western Kentucky University raising funds to support valuable university projects specifically relating to libraries outreach and university special projects. While at WKU, she raised more than \$1,500,000 for programs, scholarships and endowments. Carrie devotes time to others in the non-profit field through teaching a capstone course at WKU in Performing Arts Management as well as providing consulting in non-profit leadership, management, and board development. Additionally, Carrie teaches middle school students implementing the Orff Schulwerk approach in a rhythm and percussion elective at Myrtle Grove Christian School (Wilmington, N.C.).

Chris Barnette ('93) of Wilmington, N.C., was recently named Senior Relationship Manager for Proclaim Interactive, an award-winning digital marketing agency. Barnette has years of experience in the pharmaceutical industry, where he consistently earned honors for his business management skills, data analysis initiatives, sales record and communication development. Outside the office, Chris enjoys SCUBA diving, fishing, acting and spending time with his wife, Carrie Barnette ('95), and their sons, Chase and Callan.

Patricia Beresford ('95, '97, '10, '12) completed her fifth year as Choral Director at Bowling Green High School, where she leads three award-winning large ensembles and three contemporary a cappella groups. Her advanced group has traveled to New York City, Chicago, and New Orleans. She has served as music director and on the boards of the Capitol Arts Youth Theatre, Art Education Task Force, and BG Onstage. Mrs. Beresford is privileged to have directed the Parish

Choir and Festival Choir at Holy Spirit Catholic Church for eighteen years. She is one of the founding members of the women's a cappella group "Sisters in Faith", who perform locally and at events for the Owensboro Diocese. She lives in Bowling Green with her husband, Marvin Beresford, and their three children.



Alyna Bloecher ('13, '15) and **Josh Bloecher** ('12, '14) completed their first year in East Texas (Crockett) where they have established a strings program called the Bloecher Strings Academy. The Academy opened last August and

immediately took on thirteen students ages four through adult. They now have fifteen students and many more interested in upcoming summer activities, including a camp with WKU faculty Dr. Ching-Yi Lin and Andrew Braddock. The Academy has been a part of numerous festivals, performed for local retirement homes, given multiple recitals, and hosted master class clinicians.



Andrew Causey ('06) is currently serving in his sixteenth year of ministry and third year as Pastor of Worship Arts at Criewood Baptist Church in Nashville, Tenn. He completed his M.A. in Worship Studies at the Southern

Baptist Theological Seminary in 2009. Most importantly, he is husband to Lisa and father to Jayni (10), Eden (8), Crew (8), Tyce (7), Jude (6), Simon (6), and Jacob (2). He lives with his tribe on a dairy goat and chicken farm in Franklin, Ky.



Kristin (Jones) Faulkner ('04) is a stay-at-home mom of three sweet kiddos and military spouse. This past year she taught several sessions of Mommy & Me music classes at a local community center in West Lafayette, Ind. through a program called "Mini Maestros." Kristin previously taught high school choir in California, Florida, and in

Kentucky. She has also worked with companies that offer tutoring services for children with autism. She enjoyed singing for one season with the Oahu Choral Society, in Honolulu, Hawaii, and one season with the Corpus Christi Chorale in Corpus Christi, Texas. GO TOPS!



Rebecca Fields ('10) has been teaching general music and choir at Drakes Creek Middle School in Bowling Green, Ky. for the last seven years. Her choirs have received distinguished and proficient ratings at the KMEA Choral Assessment

each year. This past year, the 8th grade advanced choir was invited to sing at the Mammoth Cave Community Caroling event inside of the cave. Additionally, six of her students have participated in the National Middle School Honors Series at Carnegie Hall in New York City in the last two years, as well as numerous students participating in honor choirs and All-State choirs. She also sings and leads worship with her family in the southern gospel trio "The Garmons" throughout South Central Ky. Most importantly, Rebecca is celebrating nine years of marriage with her husband, Brent, and has been blessed with two sweet children: Andrew Fields (4) and Elizabeth Fields (1.5).



Christina (McCarl) Harwell ('08) has completed her ninth year of teaching in North Carolina. Most recently middle school general music and middle/high school band at Cornerstone Charter Academy, Greensboro, N.C. She is an

active member of NCMEA as well as the vibrant music community in Greensboro. Married in 2015, she and her husband Joe have a one-year old daughter, Jocelyn, and are expecting twins later this summer!

Melissa (Gensler) Keeling ('10) earned her Doctoral Degree in Flute Performance with honors at the City University of New York (CUNY) under the tutelage of Robert Dick.

Alumni Accolades



Ethan Kinkle ('12) completed his fifth year as the Choir Director at Sebastian River Middle School in Sebastian, Fla. SRMS has the largest graded choral curriculum of any middle or high school on the Treasure Coast, with over one

hundred sixty singers. The SRMS Madrigal Singers (auditioned ensemble) have participated in competition tours of Tampa/Clearwater and Atlanta, Ga. in the past two years. This year they will be participating in the Music In The Parks Festival while traveling to Charleston, S.C., Charlotte, N.C., and Savannah, Ga. Last school year, SRMS Choir students also visited the campuses of the University of Central Florida, Stetson University, and the University of Tampa.

Susie Lucas ('02, '11) completed her fourteenth year teaching music, and her second year in the Barren County School system. She currently teaches music, choir, and ukuleles to students in grades K-6 at North Jackson Elementary. She is the accompanist for the Barren County Middle and High School Choirs and is the pianist at First Christian Church of Glasgow, Ky.



Raeanne McKendree ('10) is currently serving as head Music Education Graduate Assistant at the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati. She is working on a Masters Project

examining and developing a K-12 curriculum pertaining to Music Performance Anxiety in adolescent singers. She looks forward to returning as Director of Choral Activities at Grave County High School following the completion of her Masters Degree at CCM.

Valerie (Martin) McQueary ('12) works at Garden Elementary (Florida) and gave birth to her second child in June 2017.

Jill Meredith ('12) recently received her Master's of Arts degree with honors in Education in Arts and Cultural Settings from King's College, London. She currently works for Newham Music, a Music Education Hub in East London as the Development and Communications Officer.



Meghan Montemayor-Johnston (08') is in her fourth year as the Communications Coordinator at Broadway United Methodist Church in Bowling Green, Ky. Meghan and her husband, Jake, live in Bowling Green

with their daughter, Penny Johnston (1).



Keith Pennington ('14) is very excited to announce his acceptance of a full time position as Director of Orchestra/Guitar at Combs High School at the J.O. Combs Unified School District in San Tan Valley, Arizona.

Rachel (Weaver) Potter ('13) will begin her fourth year of teaching music this fall. This will be her second year as the music teacher at Wynnton Arts Academy, and as head of the Fine Arts team. She and her husband just bought their first house in Columbus, Ga. and are the proud parents of Tuck (short for Kentucky), the Cocker Spaniel.

Casey (Allmon) Powell ('06, '14) was recognized for her outstanding teaching at Barren County Middle School where she started a strings program in 2010.

Timothy Sexton ('97, '03) completed his eighth year as Director of Choirs at East Central College in Union, Mo. This past year Dr. Sexton was named the Division Chair of the Humanities and Fine Arts Division at ECC and has the honor of guest conducting the chorus for several

opera/orchestral events in and around St. Louis, Mo. Dr. Sexton has also been invited to conduct at Carnegie Hall in New York for the 2017/18 Mid-America Concert Series.

Catherine Watwood ('14) earned her Master of Music Education degree at Jacksonville State University and was immediately hired to teach elementary music at Saffell Street Elementary School in Lawrenceburg, Ky.

Chris Westover ('08) completed a D.M.A in Orchestral Conducting at the University of Oklahoma and is currently Assistant Professor of Music at Denison University where he is coordinator of wind and brass studies and conducts the wind ensemble. Dr. Westover presented "Deconstructing Authenticity in 3 Urtext Editions of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony" at the 2016 International Conference on Performance and Creativity held Oct. 31-Nov. 2 at Hong Kong Baptist University, China and presented "Embracing the Variant: The Case of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony" in the Norton Lecture Series at the University of Oklahoma. He was guest conductor of the Fengtai Nr. 2 (Beijing, China) high school and middle school bands and the Longview Symphony Orchestra (Texas) in a program of Viennese classics, including Mahler's 4th Symphony.

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Congratulations to our 2016-17 Department of Music Graduates

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Magan L. Collar
Angela G. Cook
Bonnie S. Hughes
Nicholas G. Jones
Jessica M. Manrow
Michelle G. Rogers
Brittany J. Rust
Kelsey D. Smith
Emily K. Vaughn
Madison M. Wells
Erin H. Whitaker
Lin Zhu

Bachelor of Arts in Music

Timothy A. Aguilos
Ashley R. Brown
Caitlin P. Brown
Jacob Q. Carr
Nicholas J. Conroy
Giuseppe L. DiGiuseppe***
Kaleigh B. Hail
Carrie V. Hawkins
Gavin G. Knies
Kevin T. McDuffee
Justin L. Miller
Wesley B. Miller
Hadley E. Rouse**

Bachelor of Music

China R. Brown***
Shelly K. Burgess
William C. Burgess
Landon T. Case^***
Andrew J. Cook
Joseph A. Cummings**
Cynthia M. Fernandez*
Andrea L. Gray***
Kelly P. Jhamb**
Kevin M. Leonard
Xinyu Liu
Hannah D. Melton***
Joshua C. Propst^***
Jacob B. Richey
Dahyun Sohn^*
Kyle D. Vincent
Rebecca M. Volk^***
Joseph A. Wathen*
Alicia C. Yoho**

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



Professor Gary Schallert directs the Commencement Brass



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Upcoming Events

Join Us in 2017-18

The Symphony

Friday, September 22, 7:30 p.m.

Van Meter Hall

Friday, October 27, 7:30 p.m.

Van Meter Hall

Friday, December 1, 7:30 p.m.

Van Meter Hall

Friday, February 23, 7:30 p.m.

Van Meter Hall

Friday, April 27, 7:30 p.m.

Van Meter Hall

University Bands

Friday, September 29, 7:30 p.m.

Van Meter Hall

Friday, November 10, 7:30 p.m.

Location TBA

Tuesday, February 27, 7:30 p.m.

Van Meter Hall

Thursday March 1, 7:30 p.m.

Van Meter Hall

Friday, April 20, 7:30 p.m.

Van Meter Hall

University Choirs

Sunday, September 17, 3 p.m.

First Christian Church

Sunday, October 15, 3 p.m.

Van Meter Hall

Friday, November 3, 7:30 p.m.

Van Meter Hall

Thursday, March 8, 7:30 p.m.

Van Meter Hall

Sunday, April 22, 4 p.m.

Van Meter Hall

Jazz Bands

Saturday, November 11, 7:30 p.m.

Instrumental Rehearsal Hall

Saturday, April 28, 7:30 p.m.

Van Meter Hall

Special Events

WINTERFEST

Saturday, December 2, 8 p.m.

Holy Spirit Catholic Church

PRISM

Friday, January 19, 8 p.m.

Van Meter Hall

9 to 5: The Musical

April 5-7, 7:30 p.m.; April 8, 3 p.m.

Van Meter Hall



WKU Home Football Games

featuring the Big Red Marching Band

 September 2, 16 and 23

 October 14 (*Homecoming*) and 28

 November 17

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