



Sounds

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC

SPRING 2012

Announcing the Artist Certificate in Music Program!

The Georgia State University School of Music is thrilled to announce the addition of a new program of study: the Artist Certificate in Music, a post-master's certificate in either performance or conducting. The program is 18 semester hours and takes two semesters to complete.

Concentrations include performance (orchestral instrument, piano, voice) and conducting (choral conducting, orchestral conducting, wind band conducting). The performance concentration will consist of intensive, individualized instruction in performance and a recital. The conducting concentration will also feature in-depth, individualized instruction as well as a terminal project consisting of a public performance and a research document.

To be admitted into the Artist Certificate program, students must have either a master's degree in music or equivalent professional experience.

In many cases, students find that after completing the master's degree they are ready to begin their professional careers, but would still like more training. The Artist Certificate program will give budding artists the opportunity to continue their studies while they initiate their careers.

"Offering the Artist Certificate represents a natural progression for the School of Music," said W. Dwight Coleman, director of the School of Music. "The program allows us to cultivate the best and brightest musicians in those critical post-master's years, helping to guide them towards successful performance careers."

For additional information about the program, including audition and application requirements, please visit www.music.gsu.edu/artistcertificate.aspx.

ASO Cellist Christopher Rex joins School of Music as cello faculty

The School of Music is pleased to welcome Christopher Rex, principal cellist of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra (ASO), to the faculty beginning in fall 2012.

Christopher Rex joined the ASO as principal cello in 1979, the same year in which he became the first cellist ever to win the string prize in the biennial Young Artists Competition of the National Federation of Music Clubs. Since then, he has appeared as recitalist and chamber musician across the nation. Following his studies at the Curtis Institute of Music with Orlando Cole and at the Juilliard School with Leonard Rose, he was a member of the Philadelphia Orchestra under director Eugene Ormandy for seven seasons.

Recent solo performances with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra include Strauss's *Don Quixote* and concertos by Shostakovich, Victor Herbert, Dvorák and Elgar. He is a founding member of the Georgian Chamber Players and is the general and artistic director of the Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival in Florida. He is also artistic director of the Madison Chamber Music Festival in Georgia and is on the board of directors of Chamber Music America.

"I'm delighted that Christopher Rex is joining our performance faculty," said Michael Palmer, GSU's Charles Thomas Wurm Distinguished Professor of Orchestral Studies. "As principal cello of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and director of the Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival, Chris enjoys a distinguished career in orchestral, solo and chamber music performance. He brings a high level of artistry, as well as a tremendous reputation as a teacher to his post with us and is solidly positioned to provide our students with a well rounded and in-depth preparation and guidance for their artistic futures."

To kick off his inaugural season with the GSU School of Music, Mr. Rex will perform in concert with the University Symphony Orchestra on September 30, 2012 at the Rialto Center for the Arts. This free performance will feature Mr. Rex along with faculty Christos Galileas, violin, and Brandt Fredriksen, piano, performing Beethoven's "Triple" Concerto for Violin, Cello and Piano in C Major, Op. 56.



www.music.gsu.edu



Visit our website to sign up for our e-newsletter containing monthly listings of School of Music events, and to view a complete calendar of concert listings, full faculty bios, program descriptions and more!

From the DIRECTOR



As the spring 2012 semester begins, I reflect on the School of Music's growth and accomplishments and look forward to our continued successes. Despite difficult economic times, our School of Music continues to thrive and excel. As you read of the accomplishments of our faculty, students and alumni in this publication, you will come to realize what a special place the School of Music is and how fortunate we are to be supported by our friends, alumni, college and university. I encourage you to take advantage of the many performances and events sponsored by the School of Music—approximately 275 per year—the vast majority of which are free.

It is wonderful to have so much good news to report! Our proposal to begin a post-master's Artist Certificate in Music was approved by the Board of Regents, and we will begin accepting students into that program for fall 2012. I am also pleased to announce that Christopher Rex, principal cellist for the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, will be joining us as artist teacher of cello beginning in fall 2012. He replaces Martha Gerschefski, who is retiring after 29 years of outstanding service to the School of Music. Also retiring at the end of this academic year is Dr. Lee Orr, who has taught music history in the School of Music for 32 years. We appreciate their many years of dedicated service to the School of Music and wish them much happiness in this new chapter of their lives.

The 2011 Holiday Gala was very successful, with a record number attending the performances. Congratulations are in order for our opera theater performers, who won second place in the National Opera Association Opera Scenes Competition, and to our students in the vocal studies area for their accomplishments at the Georgia Chapter of the National Association of Schools of Music competition, held February 17-18, 2012.

Our international focus continues with planned trips to Brazil and South Korea to pursue exchange and performance opportunities. The French Consulate in Atlanta recently sponsored a residency with Joël Suhubiette, the founder of the French professional choral ensemble, Les Eléments. The Chinese Consul General in Houston and the Confucius Institute sponsored a concert at Symphony Hall at the Woodruff Arts Center Atlanta (see item to the right) featuring performances by our big jazz band and graduate vocal performance student Lei Pan.

The new music ensemble Bent Frequency is now a resident ensemble in the School of Music, and the Atlanta Winds will become a resident ensemble beginning fall 2012.

Because of the quality of our performances and academic programs, individuals donate to various areas of the School of Music. I would like to thank Bob Weiner for his continued support of jazz studies through the Bob and Lois Weiner Jazz Scholarship Fund and Louis Lawson for establishing the Louis Lawson Vocal Scholarship fund.

The Georgia State University School of Music is becoming the destination of choice for high achieving students. If you would like to help the next generation of professional musicians and teachers achieve their goals, please contact our office at 404-413-5900. And you can always keep up to date with all of the news concerning our school by visiting our website, www.music.gsu.edu, where you may also sign up for our monthly E-newsletter. I look forward to seeing you very soon at one of our many concerts and events!

School of Music announces upcoming collaborations with the Atlanta Ballet

The Georgia State School of Music is pleased to collaborate with the Atlanta Ballet on several upcoming projects.

School of Music professor **Nick Demos** has been commissioned to write a piece, *Pavo*, for the Atlanta Ballet's "New Choreographic Voices" series, with performances May 18-20 at the Alliance Theatre at the Woodruff Arts Center. The work is choreographed by one of the company's top dancers, Tara Lee. The piece is scored for the unusual combination of soprano/alto sax, cello, percussion and a D.J. spinning vinyl tracks, integrating them with the performers. The production will feature a mix of Atlanta Ballet members and live musicians, including School of Music saxophone faculty **Jan Berry Baker** and alumna **Jennifer Mitchell** [BMu '04, trombone performance; MMu '07, composition], D.J.

As part of the Atlanta Ballet's 2012-13 season, the Georgia State University Singers will perform live with the Atlanta Ballet Orchestra in the North American premiere performances of David Bintley's *Carmina Burana*, April 12-14, 2013 at the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre.

Dazzling and inventive, Mr. Bintley's exquisite, modern interpretation of *Carmina Burana* is filled with surprises. Set to the resounding original score by Carl Orff, the ballet follows three seminarians as the pleasures of the flesh lead them to question their faith.

"We are so pleased to be working with the Atlanta Ballet on these exciting projects," said School of Music Director W. Dwight Coleman. "John McFall, artistic director of the Atlanta Ballet, and I are discussing other projects to continue our collaborative efforts into the future. Collaborations such as these also support the university's strategic plan to provide 'Signature Experiences' for our students, experiences beyond the normal expectations. The opportunity for our students to work with this respected professional company is immeasurable."



GSU jazz band and vocal soloists celebrate "China-US Friendship"

The Georgia State University Jazz Band, led by Gordon Vernick, was featured in a special concert held on January 15, 2012 at Symphony Hall. Entitled "A Celebration of China-US Friendship," the performance also featured graduate vocal student Lei Pan, accompanied by Daniel Solberg, along with Chinese performers. The event was sponsored by the Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Houston, the City of Atlanta and GSU's Confucius Institute.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT: Louis Lawson



Retired insurance executive Louis Lawson knows a thing or two about the ups and downs of a career in opera: after receiving his Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1962, he had a career as a classical lyric baritone with Central City Opera, Santa Fe Opera, the Robert Shaw Chorale and the Metropolitan Opera Studio in New York City.

His second career began in 1968, when he made the decision to enter the insurance world, rising from sales representative to president of a moderate-sized life insurance company in New York City. He eventually went on to become a senior officer and a board member with larger insurance and financial service companies. Mr. Lawson retired in 2006, and since then has been enjoying the many musical activities offered in Atlanta, where he sits on the board of the Atlanta Opera Guild. **Sounds** recently had the opportunity to chat with Mr. Lawson and discuss his musical history.

Once you joined the business world, were you still able to keep up with your musical pursuits? Unfortunately, back then it was much more of an “either/or” type of world; I felt that I had to make a choice of one or the other. Because my background was in music, I had to learn a lot of new things to be successful in my business career, so I just stopped the musical part of my life. But, in an interesting twist, the chairman of the board of the company for which I worked gave me a tremendous opportunity: the company had a box at the Metropolitan Opera. We would entertain clients there, and we’d sit in the grand tier, and my mentor would say, “tell them about Verdi... tell them about whomever”... and I would! I wasn’t jealous at all of the singers on stage. I enjoyed it, and it actually felt less stressful for me than performing. Perhaps it made me feel that I had made the right career choice!

Looking back, is there anything you would have done differently, career-wise? I do wish that I had also continued to perform. It was just difficult to do, because I didn’t have any formal business education, so I’d be dealing with actuaries, mortality tables, all of that. The interesting thing is, I would think of a Bach cantata, or that type of logical, Baroque kind of music, and it made a lot of the business things simpler! Of course, these days, people don’t have to give up music if they have a corporate career. I know a couple, she’s a soprano and he’s a tenor, and they have careers in corporate America. But they still perform, and that is wonderful.

Is there any advice you would offer to our students? The most important thing is what Shakespeare said: “To thine own self be true.” Because then you will not be untrue to any others! Learn what one’s self really is, and be okay with that. Learn how to think, not what to think. Really do what gives you pleasure. And have a curious outlook on the world, don’t narrow your choices too soon! Try to learn more of the real world aspects of what you want to be or do—go and shadow someone. That can help you to determine, “Is this a realistic dream, or a delusion?”

What interested you in the GSU School of Music? It was really a combination of things—seeing the students in performance, talking with Dwight Coleman, director of the School of Music, and just my sense of the quality and dedication of the GSU School of Music. As a survivor of throat cancer, I now sing only for my own pleasure. I am currently taking voice lessons with Dwight; I chose him because I saw the joy in singing that his students had, and I noted the look in his eyes when they were doing well. And the Harrower Summer Opera Workshop is just so good! It’s a unique program, I think. It’s like real life! The GSU School of Music truly offers a real world experience, including teaching students the facts of life—what can I do with my degree? What type of careers can I pursue, and what kind of training will I need?

These are among the many reasons that I have decided to include the GSU School of Music in my estate planning. I think other people should consider donations as well—whether cash donations or future planned giving. I encourage others to come forward because, even in the best of economic times, classical music and opera programs need continued funding in order to provide the wonderful things that they do.

COMMUNITY MUSIC PROGRAMS

Summer 2012 Professional Development Workshops
for Educators & Performance Instruction

Atlanta Chamber Music Institute: May 21- June 1, 2012

A comprehensive two week program focused on helping string players and pianists explore the world of chamber music, the institute features intensive chamber music coachings, masterclasses with faculty and other distinguished guest artists and private instruction. The workshop is open to accomplished players of all ages. **Faculty:** Dr. Brandt Fredriksen, Dr. Christos Galileas, Zoran Jakovcic, Wolfram Koessel.

Student Leadership Institute: May 30-31, 2012

During this two-day event students participate in seminars and workshops and experience Atlanta. This year will feature Mr. Frank Troika and other leadership experts from across the nation presenting engaging and informative sessions for participants to help them develop and enhance their potential to lead others—in marching band and in life. **Keynote Speaker:** Frank Troyka.

World of Fiddles: June 4-8, 2012

Learn folk and blues fiddling at this day camp for students ages 7-18 with at least one year of playing experience. The camp, which will introduce various styles of fiddling, will be hosted at and co-sponsored by the Drew Charter School.

Atlanta Summer Conducting Institute: June 4-9, 2012

The Atlanta Summer Conducting Institute (ASCI) is a weeklong series of seminars and masterclasses geared toward music educators, graduate student conductors, church musicians and community choir conductors. This five-day event includes daily conducting masterclasses, podium time and group voice lessons. **Faculty:** Dr. Deanna Joseph, Richard Clement.

Harrower Summer Opera Workshop: June 4-24, 2012

The Harrower Summer Opera Workshop is a comprehensive, three-week program offering two tracks of study: the Young Artist and the Studio programs. The workshop includes daily acting and movement classes; private coaching; instruction in stage makeup, stage combat and foreign language diction; seminars and masterclasses with international artists; and fully staged and costumed productions of Mozart’s *Die Zauberflöte* and Sondheim’s *A Little Night Music*. Internationally acclaimed singer Sylvia McNair will be this summer’s artist in residence, leading masterclasses for participants, as well as performing at the annual Opera Gala. **Faculty:** Carroll Freeman, artistic director/stage director; W. Dwight Coleman, general director/stage director; Copeland Woodruff, acting teacher/stage director; Reed Woodhouse, musical director/coach; Frank Hube, musical director/coach. **Tuition:** \$950.

Summer Jazz Camp: June 25-29, 2012

This week-long day camp is targeted to middle and high school students in the metro Atlanta area. Students will work with a world class faculty to explore their love of jazz music, regardless of skill level. The camp will include ensemble performances and improvisation instruction for students between 8th and 12th grades studying trumpet, woodwinds, drums or keyboards. **Faculty:** Dr. Gordon Vernick.

Rialto Youth Jazz Orchestra: Auditions in August 2012

The Rialto Youth Jazz Orchestra is a group of the city’s most talented high school aged jazz performers. The group holds three concerts a year and also features combo groups, allowing students to gain small ensemble experience.

For more information, including fees and registration deadlines, visit www.cmp.music.gsu.edu or call 404-413-5902.

GSU School of Music Faculty



Robert J. Ambrose, associate director, School of Music/director of bands, conducted Arnold Schoneberg's *Pierrot Lunaire* at the Hochschule fur Musik in Nurnberg, Germany, in May 2011. In July he travelled to Hong Kong and Singapore, serving as a faculty member for the inaugural Hong Kong International Wind Conducting Symposium and as guest conductor with the Republic Polytechnic Wind Ensemble in Singapore. In November, Dr. Ambrose's wind band arrangement of Carlo Gesualdo's *Io Tacero* was published by C-Alan Publications. The publisher will release three more of his arrangements over the next two years. The Georgia State University Symphonic Wind Ensemble's recording of Michael Colgrass's *Rag Mala* was included in a two-disc set of Colgrass' music released by GIA Publications in December; Dr. Ambrose also provided the program notes for this release. In January, he conducted the Central Oklahoma Directors Association Honor Wind Ensemble in Norman, OK. Future engagements will take Dr. Ambrose to Santa Fe; Turku, Finland; and back to Hong Kong and Singapore.



Kevin Bales, instructor of jazz improvisation/piano, appeared on two internationally released CDs in 2011, both with vocalist Rene Marie and released on the Motema Label: *Voice of My Beautiful Country* and *Black Lace Freudian Slip*. The former was selected in the top 10 of the "Best Jazz of 2011" by Patrick Jarenwattananon in his *Blog Supreme/NPR Jazz*. Mr. Bales recently finished a week-long performance at the Jazz Club at Lincoln Center, in addition to a tour of Spain and Scotland. He was also a featured performer at this year's Savannah Music Festival, appearing with jazz legends Cedar Walton and Kenny Barron.



Curtis Bryant, instructor of computer applications, has begun work on music for a new Sony PSP game entitled StreetKix Freestyle Challenge. Under development by Hoplite Research and Illusis Interactive Graphics, the new game will feature freestyle soccer duels scored to hip hop, punk, metal and electric Asian styles. Mr. Bryant is collaborating with composer and drummer E.M. Watson to produce over an hour of new interactive game music for duels, game bosses and mini-games. In December, the Atlanta Schola Cantorum, directed by John Whitt, featured Mr. Bryant's a cappella motet *The Lamb* on a concert program of polyphonic vocal music on the theme of "Angels and Shepherds," held at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in Atlanta. The composition is a setting of William Blake's poem of the same title from *Songs of Innocence*.



Jan Baker, assistant professor of saxophone, performed in the Atlanta Opera Orchestra in their premiere production of *The Golden Ticket* in March. Also in March, Dr. Baker and percussion faculty **Stuart Gerber** performed at the North American Saxophone Alliance Conference at Arizona State University. Upcoming performances include a world premiere by GSU's **Nickitas Demos** for the Atlanta Ballet in May. She and faculty violist **Tania Maxwell Clements** have been invited to perform at the World Saxophone Congress in St. Andrews, Scotland this summer, where they will premiere works by GSU faculty composer **Robert Scott Thompson** and Carolyn O'Brien.



Katie Carlisle, assistant professor of general music education, had an article published in the January 2012 issue of *Middle Grades Research Journal* and had her primary dissertation article accepted for 2013 in the *British Journal of Music Education*. She recently presented pedagogy workshops at the Florida State Music Teachers Association

annual conference (November) and Florida Music Educators Conference (January 2012). Upcoming conference presentations include the College Music Society Southern Regional conference (Tampa, FL), the College Music Society Southwest Regional conference (Tucson, AZ) and the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting (Vancouver, Canada).



Marva Griffin Carter, associate professor of music history and literature/world music, was recently appointed as vice president of the American Musicological Society's South Central chapter (encompassing Georgia, Kentucky and Tennessee). In this role, she will chair the program committee for the upcoming annual chapter's meeting, which will be held at Union University in Jackson, TN.



Lara Dahl, lecturer of oboe and music survey, and **Mike Muszynski**, instructor of bassoon, hosted the second annual GSU Double Reed Day on November 12. Guest artists were Mark Ostoich, professor of oboe at Cincinnati-Conservatory of Music, and William Ludwig, professor of bassoon at Indiana University. The daylong event included a student recital by the GSU double reed studio, masterclasses by the guest artists, exhibits by Fox Products, Covey Oboes and OboeChicago, and a culminating recital featuring the hosts and guest artists. With over 60 oboists and bassoonists in attendance on the GSU campus, the event was a huge success! In October, Dr. Dahl was the guest soloist with the Dixie State College Orchestra in St. Georgia, UT performing Bach's Concerto for Oboe and Violin, BWV 1060 with violinist Paul Abegg. She also performed with the Atlanta Opera in their November production of Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor* and with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra for their tribute birthday concert to Reverend Joseph E. Lowery, playing alongside Stevie Wonder.



Nickitas J. Demos, coordinator of composition studies, will receive premiere performances of his ballet piece, *Pavo*, commissioned and performed by the Atlanta Ballet, May 18-20 in the Alliance Theater, Woodruff Arts Center. He was awarded a Fellowship at the MacDowell Artist Colony and will be residence at the colony May 7-20, composing a work commissioned by the Charleston Symphony. His piece, *Meditations on Amber & Flame* (clarinet, violin, cello and piano) commissioned by the Idee Fixe Contemporary Music Ensemble (Thessaloniki, Greece), will be premiered on April 27 at the Musica Polonica Nova Festival in Vrotslav, Poland. He will also receive a premiere of a new fanfare composed for the GSU Trumpet Choir under the direction of GSU faculty **Amanda Pepping** at the 37th Annual Conference of the International Trumpet Guild on May 24 in Columbus, GA. Finally, Dr. Demos recently completed a film score for an independent comedy, *A Free Bird*, which will be released later in 2012.



Patrick K. Freer, associate professor of choral music education/coordinator of music education, presented at several international events during the fall 2011 semester, including the Australian Association for Research in Education, the Society for Music Education in Ireland, Universidad Autónoma de Chihuahua (Mexico) and Universidade de Brasília (Brazil). He conducted honor choirs in Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee, presented for the "New Directions in Music Education" conference at Michigan State University, and had articles published in *Philosophy of Music Education Review*, *Arts Education Policy Review*, *Choral Journal* and *Music Educators Journal*.

News & Notes



Sergio Gallo, associate professor, piano performance/pedagogy, received the Global Music Awards (GMA) Award of Excellence for his album, *Mostly Villa-Lobos: 20th Century Piano Music from the Americas* (Eroica JDT3425). The recording features a range of music from folk-inspired compositions to some of the most complex works in the 20th century piano repertoire. The album was also reviewed favorably in January 2012 by Ray Picot for ILAMS, an organization dedicated to the study, performance and promotion of Iberian and Latin American classical music in the UK (www.ilams.org.uk).



Steve Jones, visiting instructor/coordinator, music management and CEO of record label Brash Music, welcomed a 2012 Grammy nomination for Gungor, an artist on his label. The band's album, *Ghosts Upon the Earth*, was nominated in the "Best Contemporary Christian Music Album" category. This is the third consecutive Grammy nomination for the group, following two nominations last year for their album *Beautiful Things*, nominated for "Best Rock or Rap Gospel Album," with the title track also nominated for "Best Gospel Song."



Cory Mixdorf, assistant professor of trombone/brass coordinator, was invited to be a guest faculty member at the Big XII Trombone Conference at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, TX in January. As part of the conference, he presented multiple clinics; performed on the faculty recital; adjudicated the conference's solo competition; and led a trombone choir reading session. In February, Dr. Mixdorf served as guest faculty at Mars Hill College's low brass weekend.



Tae Hong Park, associate professor in digital music technology, received a performance of his work, *Viper*, by Sonic Generator in their February concert. The piece was scored for amplified acoustic instruments plus electronic tape and included the use of extended techniques for the instruments. Dr. Park presented his *t/* for trumpet and electronics and gave a lecture on his current research at the 2011 EarZoom conference in Ljubljana, Slovenia. His compositional works have also been presented at Sonic Screens in Milan, Italy; Clarke Recital Hall at the University of Miami; SEAMUS 2011; and Northeastern State University Faculty Trumpet recital in 2011. Dr. Park presented his paper at the 2011 ICMC in Huddersfield, UK and gave a workshop on sonification and visualization using Matlab while serving as the workshop's chair for the 2012 International Conference on Auditory Display (ICAD).



Amanda Pepping, assistant professor of trumpet, recently received a GSU Research Initiation Grant to record an album of solo baroque trumpet and orchestra repertoire in collaboration with Atlanta's New Trinity Baroque in the 2012-13 season. The recording will include both works that have never been recorded, as well as those that haven't been recorded on period instruments. In late January, Dr. Pepping and the Southeast Chamber Brass performed at the Clifford Lillya Brass Symposium in Winston-Salem, NC. The group performed in recital and gave a chamber music masterclass, and Dr. Pepping taught in the orchestral section masterclass. In January, she was featured at the Georgia Music Educators All-State Convention as the guest soloist with the Georgia Brass Band on a highlighted concert. The group played her arrangement of Ernesto Lecuona's *Malaguena* and John Gollard's *Ballad*.



Robert Scott Thompson, professor, composition/coordinator of music technology, had his composition *Passage* (for clarinet and electroacoustics) presented at the 2012 SEAMUS National Conference at Lawrence University in Appleton, WI. The work was also presented in Ljubljana, Slovenia in 2011 by the Society for Slovenian Composers. Dr. Thompson presented the fixed media work *Out of the Vivid Air* (for 8-channel fixed media) during the 2011 ICMC in Huddersfield, UK.



Gordon Vernick, coordinator of jazz studies, celebrated the selection of his audio series, "Jazz Insights," on WMLB 1690 AM, as a top pick for the *New York Times* Lifelong Learning List in January 2012. The weekly radio show is available in podcast form on I-Tunes and was highlighted on the Apple home page. The programs have been featured on a number of websites and have been downloaded over 4 million times since May 2009.

GSU Opera Theater Wins Award In National Opera Scenes Competition!



(L-R) Rolando Salazar, Lauren Wright, Christopher Massie, Carroll Freeman, Chelsea Smith, W. Dwight Coleman

Congratulations to GSU Opera Theater for taking second place in the graduate division of the National Opera Association (NOA) National Collegiate Opera Scenes Competition, held January 5, 2012, during the NOA national convention in Memphis, TN. Students Lauren Wright, Chelsea Smith and Christopher Massie performed a scene from Menotti's *The Medium* with stage/artistic direction by Valerie Adams Distinguished Professor in Opera Carroll Freeman and music direction by Rolando Salazar. The National Opera Association is a service organization promoting artistic excellence and education in opera.

"It is such an honor to represent Georgia State University School of Music in such a prestigious national contest and to be among the winners," said Mr. Freeman, "especially with our flagship organization and judged by such an illustrious panel: Kallen Esperian, Metropolitan Opera soprano; Ned Cauty, General Director of OperaMemphis; and Robyn Guarino, Director of Opera at Cincinnati Conservatory of Music."

A Special Thank You to Our School of Music Donors

The GSU School of Music is pleased to recognize the following individuals, corporations and foundations who made gifts to the School from January 1 through December 31, 2011. Thank you for your continued generosity and support!

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Alumni Report

Matthew Anderson [BMu '03, guitar performance], a founding member of the Athens Guitar Trio, performed in concert at Berry College in February. He received masters and doctoral degrees in performance from the University of Georgia, and is currently on faculty at Reinhardt University and North Georgia College & State University.

Maria Clark [MMu '09, vocal performance], soprano, will perform in concert with tenor Nathan Munson in "An Evening of Romantic and Contemporary Music" at Peachtree Presbyterian Church on April 29 at 3:00 p.m.

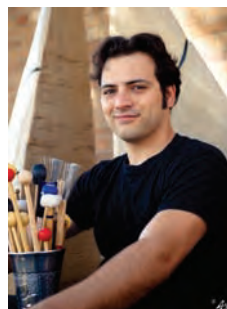


Peggy Still Johnson [BMu '97, composition] is working with Stephen King, John Mellencamp and T Bone Burnett on their musical premiere, *Ghost Brothers of Darkland County*, running at the Alliance Theatre April 4-May 13. Ms. Johnson serves as copyist, preparing the musical scores; as vocal coach for the entire cast; and as assistant to music supervisor Andy York. A member of the School of Music's advisory board and GSU's Alumni Entrepreneur Network, she recently appeared on a Fox 5 "Wednesday's Child" segment, helping to bring awareness to foster children in the hopes of increasing family/home placements. Ms. Johnson also serves on the Board of Governors (Composer Seat) for the Atlanta Chapter of the Recording Academy.



Heather Lannan [BMu '08, voice performance] has joined the Nashville Symphony Chorus, where she recently performed Durufle's *Requiem* and Herbert Howells' *Te Deum and Jubilate*.

Sergeant **Amanda Kranendonk Myers** [MMu '09, oboe performance] was recently appointed as oboe instructor of the Navy School of Music in Norfolk, VA, where she will prepare Sailors and Marines for the challenges of performance within a wide variety of military ensembles. Graduates will then go on to Navy and Marine Corps bands serving as musical ambassadors throughout the United States. Sergeant Myers enlisted in the Marine Corps as a musician while completing her degree at GSU. After completing boot camp and training at the Navy School of Music, she was stationed at Marine Corps Logistics Base in Albany, GA. While there, she traveled and performed all over the U.S. with the Albany Marine Band.



Ellery Trafford [BMu '07, percussion performance] graduated with a Master of Music in percussion performance from Bowling Green State University (BGSU) in 2011. He is featured on the April 2011 release of Iannis Xenakis' *Dmaathen* (1976), available on Apple iTunes and as an MP3 download, with oboist Jacqueline Leclair of BGSU and the Manhattan School of Music. 2011 performances included: John Luther Adams' *Inuksuit* as part of the Make Music New York Festival; Bang on a Can Summer Music Festival; Mid-American Center for Contemporary Music New Music Festival at BGSU, where he worked with composer David Lang and performed in Lang's *So-Called Laws of Nature*; with the Color Field Ensemble at the 2010 SPARK Festival of Electronic Music and Arts at the University of Minnesota; Threshold Electroacoustic Festival at BGSU; 10th Annual Third Practice Electroacoustic Music Festival in Richmond, VA; 41st Annual Festival of New Music at Ball State University; Northern Warehouse Artists Co-op in St. Paul, MN; and at the University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire. Mr. Ellery currently resides in Brooklyn, NY and is an intern with Bang On A Can.

Do you have news you'd like to share? Please send your information and/or photos via email to herenberg@gsu.edu.

Gifts received as of 12/31/11. Every effort has been made to verify names for accuracy and completeness. Please report errors to the School of Music at 404-413-5953.

School of Music Student & Ensemble News

BANDS

The School of Music band area hosted noted composer Frank Ticheli on campus November 6-8, 2011. As part of the residency, Dr. Ticheli worked with various ensembles and conductors, and gave masterclasses and lectures. The visit culminated in a concert at the Rialto Center for the Arts featuring the **Symphonic Wind Ensemble, Wind Orchestra** and **University Singers** performing the composer's works, with Dr. Ticheli conducting.



(L-R) Composer Frank Ticheli and Director of Bands Robert J. Ambrose.

The **GSU Marching Band** performed and cheered on the Panther Football team at six home games and one away game during the 2011 season. Other activities included performing in exhibition at McEachern High School and Newnan High School, leading the GSU Homecoming parade on October 20 and leading the Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Parade on December 3. In November members of the marching band participated in the filming of the major motion picture *Neighborhood Watch*. The movie, featuring Vince Vaughn, Ben Stiller and Jonah Hill, is set for national release on July 27, 2012.



in the masterclasses included **Alyssa Chiang, Harrison Cook, Eva Dines, Daryl Giuliano, Nicholas Heaton** and **Zekariyah Yisrael**.

VOICE

Georgia State University School of Music voice students won first place overall in nine categories at the annual voice competition presented by the National Association of Teachers of Singing, Georgia Chapter, at Clayton State University on February 17-18.

Competition was intense, with roughly 450 singers attending from most of the universities and colleges in Georgia. The GSU School of Music had 17 voice students win or place at the competition. Of those, nine students won first place overall in their category, including first prizes in eight of the 13 collegiate classical categories and one of the Collegiate Musical Theater categories. The first place winners also sang on the winners concert, which took place on Saturday following the competition.

The nine GSU students who won first place overall in their collegiate categories were: **Carolyn Balkovetz**, Freshman Women; **Stephen McCluskey**, Freshman Men; **Mika Estrin**, Sophomore Women; **John Tibbets**, Junior Men; **Maria Valdes**, Senior Women; **Chelsea Smith**, Advanced College Women; **Lei Pan**, Advanced College Graduate Men; **Julie Trammel**, Adult Women; and **Ben Thomas**, Musical Theater.

W. Dwight Coleman stage directed Valdosta State University Opera's production of Mozart's *Don Giovanni* February 3-5 on the university's campus. The production featured two current GSU students and one alumnus in leading roles: graduate students **Jorge Trabanco** as Don Giovanni and **Ben Thomas** as Don Ottavio; and alum **Stephen McCool** [BMu '08, MMu '10, vocal performance] as Masetto.



(L-R) Jorge Trabanco, Stephen McCool

CHORUSES

Along with Director of Choral Activities **Deanna Joseph**, 10 GSU students attended the Southern Division American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) Conference, held February 29-March 3, as official representatives of the School of Music. At the conference, the students attended educational sessions and networked with choral directors, professional singers and other students from throughout the Southeast. In addition, eight School of Music students were accepted into the Collegiate Singers Honor Choir, the highest number of any other university present. Collegiate Honor Choir Participants included **Megan Schuitema** and **Paige Williams**, sopranos; **Kayla Harriott** and **Susie Feldman**, altos; **Christopher Massie** and **Ariel Merivil**, tenors; and **David Porter** and **Jay Sessoms**, basses. Other GSU ACDA participants included **Judy Jones** and **Jason Maynard**, graduate students in choral conducting.



Front (L-R): Christopher Massie, Megan Schuitema; Back (L-R): Ariel Merivil, Kayla Harriott, Deanna Joseph, Susie Feldman, Jay Sessoms, Paige Williams, David Porter

WOODWINDS

McKenzie Allen, undergraduate student in oboe performance, was a recipient of the International Double Reed Society Conference Scholarship 2011, enabling him to attend the IDRS Conference in Tempe, AZ, all expenses paid. At the conference he was selected to perform in a masterclass for world renowned oboist Nicholas Daniel.

The Georgia State University Saxophone Quartets participated in a concert and masterclass with saxophone legend Eugene Rousseau and the Zagreb Quartet of Croatia on March 21. The Broad Street Quartet is comprised of **Shaun Evans**, soprano, **Andrew Naber**, alto, **Elizabeth Hoadley**, tenor and **Will West**, baritone; the Terminus Quartet includes **Robert Holley**, soprano, **Caleb Deas**, alto, **Chris VanBuskirk**, tenor, and **Edwin Martinez**, baritone.



STRINGS

January was a busy month for the cello area, with multiple activities arranged by faculty cellist **Martha Gerschefski**. **Wesley Baldwin** from the University of Tennessee/ Knoxville, **Mihai Tetel** from the Hartt School of Music and **Astrid Schween** from the University of Massachusetts and the Hartt School of Music came to GSU to perform and conduct masterclasses for School of Music students. Student cellists featured



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Sounds

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC

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GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC

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Sounds

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the **HARROWER SUMMER OPERA WORKSHOP**
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W. Dwight Coleman General Director • Carroll Freeman Artistic/Stage Director

Gala Opera Dinner at 103 West

Sunday, June 17 - 8:00 PM *A Fundraiser for Opera Studies*
 A gourmet, three-course dinner, featuring singers from the Harrower Summer Opera Workshop and special guest artist in residence SYLVIA McNAIR!
 For reservations and information, call 404-413-5914.

Mozart's Die Zauberflöte (The Magic Flute)

Friday, June 22 - 8:00 PM & Saturday, June 23 - 3:00 PM

Sondheim's A Little Night Music

Saturday, June 23 - 8:00 PM & Sunday, June 24 - 3:00 PM

Florence Kopleff Recital Hall - Tickets \$20, \$10 students with ID



Guest Artist in Residence
SYLVIA McNAIR



Parking for concerts at the **Rialto Center for the Arts** is available at the Equitable parking deck on the corner of Williams and Fairlie Streets.

Parking for concerts at **Florence Kopleff Recital Hall** is available in the I Lot located under the Arts & Sciences Annex building on Peachtree Center Avenue.

Upcoming Audition Dates:

November 2, 2012 • February 18, 2013
 March 8, 2013 (Instrumental) • March 9, 2013 (Vocal)
 For information, contact David Smart at 404-413-5955 or smart@gsu.edu.

PHOTO CREDITS: Meg Buscema, Helene Erenberg, Magdalena Moulson, Carolyn Richardson, Doug Stevens, Steve Throckson