A Message from the Chair

Dolores Pesce

2011-12 was another busy year for faculty, staff, and students of the WU Department of Music. Our wide range of performances included concert hall appearances by our large ensembles and more intimate presentations by our flourishing chamber string and jazz combo groups. We successfully completed three faculty hires in musicology, ethnomusicology, and music theory. And the Friends of Music had a wonderful Winter Event at the home of Noémi and Michael Neidorff. The evening featured faculty member Seth Carlin and Kendall Gladen, WU graduate and star of Opera Theatre of St. Louis’s recent Carmen production.

On a personal note, my term as Chair is coming to an end in December. I’ve enjoyed the challenges of recent years, in particular renovating the 560 Music Center and making it a welcoming environment for our applied music programs. It has been a privilege to oversee hiring a number of talented young faculty members – they are already rejuvenating our ensembles and classes. And I’m pleased to report that our efficient staff has grown even more so with the addition of several new members.

I extend my thanks to all of you, our alumni and friends, for your support of the Department of Music during my tenure as Chair. I’ll keep in touch with you in my continuing position as Executive Director of Friends of Music.

All best wishes,

Dolores Pesce

Faculty Spotlight: Nicole Aldrich, Director of Choral Activities

Dr. Nicole Aldrich directs the Concert and Chamber Choirs and teaches conducting. She holds the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in choral conducting from the University of Maryland and joined the Department of Music at Washington University in July 2011.

What a wonderful year it has been! My first year as Director of Choral Activities has been filled with great music, just as I hoped, but also with great relationships. It has been a real pleasure to get to know my students and my colleagues on the faculty and staff in the Department of Music. What has been the most rewarding is the sense that all of us are working together toward the growth of the choral program. We have enjoyed many successes already, among them the creation of a chamber choir and an increase of almost 20 percent in total number of participants, including many first-time members. The choirs have made great strides in developing habits of healthy singing, ensemble awareness, and musical interpretation. I am proud of these accomplishments – and, even more important, so are the students! This is perhaps the best sign that we are on the right track.

The fine teaching, encouragement, and administrative support provided by our faculty and staff have been instrumental in making this year a success (I owe especial thanks to the voice faculty, whose teaching has made the whole group sing better and whose welcome has made my first year so delightful). The students themselves have played a major role, as well: in addition to sharing their significant musical and intellectual talents, they recruit their friends to be singers and audience members, help keep each other (and me!) organized and informed, and maintain their sense of humor through all the hard work. It has been a real joy to work with all of these great people, and I greatly look forward to another year of fine choral music at Wash U. Hope to see you at a concert soon!
The Department of Music 2011-2012 concert season of over 65 public events featured students, faculty, and guest artists.

Over 600 guests joined us at the 560 Music Center for our Fall St. Louis Symphony Community Partnership Performance, which presented WU faculty members Seth Carlin, piano, and Debra Hillabrand, mezzo-soprano, with musicians from the St. Louis Symphony. Dedicated to the music of Johannes Brahms, the evening highlighted his Piano Quintet, Op. 34. The Spring Partnership Performance featured faculty pianist Amanda Kirkpatrick, joined by tenor Keith Boyer and symphony musicians Roger Kaza, horn, and Elizabeth Chung, cello. The newly updated acoustics of the 560 Ballroom Theater showcased the chamber music of Schubert, Schumann, and Liszt, particularly Schubert’s masterwork *Auf dem Strom* for tenor, horn, and piano.

The large ensembles of the Department of Music offered particularly strong performances throughout the 2011-2012 season and often had record audience attendance. Dr. Nicole Aldrich led the WU choirs in a fall concert entitled “Blow, Blow, Thou Winter Wind” and a spring concert entitled “Many Waters.” The latter included a myriad of works centered on the theme of love and marriage by choral composers Pinkham, Hawley, and Whitacre. Under the directorship of Vu Nguyen, the WU Wind Ensemble made a triumphant return this season with four concerts of contemporary and classic wind literature. The 35-member ensemble performed with energy and commitment. The WU Symphony Orchestra, led by Ward Stare, presented four concerts, which explored the orchestral repertoire of Franz Liszt during his 200th anniversary celebration. The extraordinary efforts of our orchestra musicians were displayed in every concert throughout the season. One audience member from the community remarked, “The WUSTL orchestra concert yesterday was terrific, I never miss a performance.” The final concert of the year, the Chancellor’s Concert, featured the combined efforts of the choirs and orchestra in repertoire by Haydn, Liszt, Vaughan Williams, and Corigliano.

The Danforth University Center Chamber Series entered its fourth season with performers from across the Midwest region. We welcomed Fifth House Ensemble from Chicago, pianist Jura Margulis, clarinetist Scott Andrews from the St. Louis Symphony, and the Trinity Piano Trio, to name a few. WU voice faculty Tim Ocel and Christine Armistead led successful performances of Opera Scenes showcasing talented graduate and undergraduate vocalists. Performers are surrounded by the audience on three sides and the result is an intimate and unique operatic experience. Performances included excerpts from Verdi, Massenet, Rossini, and Argento. Our Fall Liederabend, presented in collaboration with the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, held a special meaning this year. Directly following a campus memorial service for Dean James McLeod, guest artists Sidney Outlaw, baritone, and Carol Wong, piano, presented a moving program honoring the legacy of the much loved WU figure. Holmes Lounge was filled to capacity for this memorable performance.

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Student and Faculty News

Graduate Students


Elizabeth Dister (Ph.D. Candidate, Musicology) received a grant from the Paul Sacher Foundation to study at the Sacher Archives in Basel, Switzerland, and the American Musicological Society Elizabeth Bartlet Travel Grant for Research in France.

Kelsey Klotz (Ph.D. Candidate, Musicology) presented a paper at the Jazz, Criticism, and American Politics conference: “Musical Phrasing in Billie Holiday’s Recordings of ‘Strange Fruit’.”

Alumni

Erin Headley (Doctoral Studies, Performance Practice) received the College of Arts and Architecture 2012 Alumni Award in Music from Penn State University.

Mary Jean Speare (Ph.D. Musicology, ’97) was promoted to Associate Director of the School of Music at James Madison University.

Rosalind Moussa (A&S classical guitar, ’07) completed her course of study at the Royal Conservatory of Bruxelles and was accepted into the master class of Oscar Ghiglia at the Academia Chiggiana in Siena, Italy.

Faculty & Staff

Seth Carlin (Professor, Piano and Fortepiano) and Maryse Carlin (Teacher of Applied Music, Piano and Harpsichord) performed piano recitals and offered masterclasses at the Shanghai Normal Conservatory of Music and the Wenzhou Xinji Piano Academy in China. They also performed at the Festival de Musique Ancienne de Saint-Savin in the central Pyrénées.

Todd Decker (Assistant Professor, Musicology) received the Best First Book Award from the Society for Cinema and Media Studies for Music Makes Me: Fred Astaire and Jazz.

Adrianne Honnold (Teacher of Applied Music, Saxophone) is a member of the Missouri Saxophone Quartet, which was chosen as Missouri Touring Artists by the Missouri Arts Council, and presented a clinic at the Missouri Music Educators Association annual conference: “Your Clarinet and Saxophone Section: Better Sound and Intonation through Better Articulation.”

Martin Kennedy (Assistant Professor, Theory and Composition) had his works released on two solo CDs, received commissions from G. Schirmer and the Sheldon Concert Hall, served as a guest artist at the SoBe Arts Festival and the University of Arizona, received the 2 Agosto International Composition Prize, and was named a MacDowell Fellow.

Bill Lenihan (Senior Lecturer and Director, Jazz Performance) recorded and released a CD with the group UKITUSA on Schema Rearward Records.

Craig Monson (Professor, Musicology) will serve as the faculty lecturer on an Alumni trip to Tuscany. Alumni and friends are invited to join Professor Monson from June 19-27, 2013 as they experience the charm of Tuscany through a combination of guided sightseeing excursions and ample free time to become immersed in local culture. For more information, visit travel.wustl.edu or call (314) 935-7378.

Barbara Raedeke (Teacher of Applied Music, Organ) released a solo CD, “Confluence,” on Raven Compact Discs.

Laura Ross (Teacher of Applied Music, Oboe) performed at the International Double Reed Conference in July.

Mark Scharff (Music Cataloger, Gaylord Music Library) was elected to the Board of Directors of the Music Library Association.

Peter Schmelz (Associate Professor, Musicology) received a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship for 2012.

Mary Weber (Teacher of Applied Music, Trumpet) is a member of Clarion Brass, which released a CD, “Sleigh Ride – Over the Top!” in November.

Alumni – if you have information to include in upcoming newsletters, please contact Kim Daniels at daniels@wustl.edu or (314) 935-5566. We would love to hear from you!
Highlighted Events for Fall 2012

Concert information: (314) 935-5566 or music.wustl.edu/events

September 16, 3:00 p.m. – Liederabend
Holmes Lounge, Ridgley Hall

October 7, 3:00 p.m. – Wind Ensemble
E. Desmond Lee Concert Hall

October 21, 7:30 p.m. – St. Louis Symphony Community Partnership Performance featuring Seth Carlin, piano, and Noël Prince, mezzo-soprano
E. Desmond Lee Concert Hall

October 27, 1:00 p.m. – Symphony Orchestra: Parent and Family Weekend Concert
E. Desmond Lee Concert Hall

December 2, 3:00 p.m. – The Choirs of Washington University
Graham Chapel

December 4, 7:30 p.m. – Danforth University Center Chamber Music Series: Silvian Iticovici, violin, and Richard Katz, piano
Goldberg Formal Lounge, Danforth University Center

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music.wustl.edu

Department of Music – Washington University in St. Louis