

Department of Music Newsletter

2013-14 / Volume 7

 Washington University in St. Louis

A Message from the Chair

Peter Schmelz

2012-13 was a year of transitions and new beginnings in the Department of Music at Washington University. We welcomed three new assistant professors: ethnomusicologist Denise Elif Gill, musicologist Alex Stefaniak, and music theorist Paul Steinbeck, our biggest group of new faculty since I joined the department in 2007. We also made a new hire in music theory, Ben Duane, and we are poised to search for a new composer in the upcoming 2013-14 academic year. We also saw a change in department leadership as Dolores Pesce completed her very successful term as chair and I assumed her duties and responsibilities in January 2013.

Over the past semester I have appreciated getting to know the undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and staff in the music department in this new capacity. I have especially valued the vibrant music activity that I witnessed in all of the concerts that I attended. At Washington University musical talent and creative energy span genres, from jazz and opera to choral, chamber, and orchestral music. I have also very much enjoyed getting to know the Friends of Music. One of my first official events as chair was the Friends of Music Winter Event celebrating the music of Benjamin Britten, which included successful performances by our Chamber Choir, Opera Workshop, and Annette Burkhart, one of our faculty pianists.

As always, we are very glad to hear from our alumni and supporters. We are extremely grateful for your generous contributions and constructive feedback.

With all best wishes,



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

①

*Message from the Chair;
Faculty Spotlight*

②

*2012-2013 Concert Season;
Join Friends of Music*

③

*Alumni, Student
and Faculty News*

④

Upcoming Events

Faculty Spotlight: Bill Lenihan, Director of Jazz Performance



Bill Lenihan is also a Senior Lecturer and the Applied Music Coordinator for Jazz Guitar and Jazz Piano. He joined the Department of Music in 1988.

The jazz program at Washington University started in 2003 with the introduction to the curriculum of jazz theory and jazz improvisation courses; the now-thriving combo performance program also began that year. The jazz program has developed immensely over the decade with a greater number of students participating in both the academic courses and the performance program. Over the years we have conducted a number of seminars, master classes, and concerts with the most active jazz musicians on the scene, including friends and colleagues John Scofield, Ralph Towner, Mike Stern, Pat Martino, Marc Copland, Gary Peacock, Dave Liebman, and Jay Oliver. Another important aspect of jazz on campus is the Jazz at Holmes series, for which I serve as artistic director. This series, which provides a showcase for many musicians central to the St. Louis jazz scene, has also gained an international reputation and attracts top artists from New York, Los Angeles, and Europe. In 2007 I helped start our Summer Music Program in Florence, Italy, with our host school the Accademia Europea di Firenze. In this summer program our students study jazz, musicianship, Italian language, and other liberal arts. We hope to continue to attract our own students and others to this study abroad opportunity, which allows them to share music with students from around the world.

Among the many jazz performances this coming academic year, we are happy to announce on December 6, 2013 a concert at the 560 Music Center featuring legendary bassist Gary Peacock, pianist Marc Copland, and drummer Joey Baron. Copland and Baron are top artists on the contemporary scene and Peacock has worked with Keith Jarrett, Miles Davis, Bill Evans, Ralph Towner, and Albert Ayler.

At Washington University our academic and performance programs together provide well for our students, and, alongside their other studies, enable them to learn both the measurable and the immeasurable. I look forward to what we make of the future, deepening our commitment to the intellectual presence of music, as well as its connections to other disciplines. I wish everyone a happy and fruitful year.

2012 – 2013 Concert Season

Jen Gartley

The Department of Music's 2012-2013 concert season featured exciting performances by our ensembles, students, faculty, and guest artists.

In partnership with the St. Louis Symphony and Jazz St. Louis, Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra visited campus in October for a special clinic and concert at the 560 Music Center. Music students from Washington University and East St. Louis High School participated in a morning clinic and lunch with these world-renowned jazz musicians and received invaluable instruction and performance advice. They were joined by 700 high school students from the St. Louis region for an afternoon performance by Mr. Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra alongside the East St. Louis Jazz Band. Participating Washington University students were able to attend the St. Louis Symphony Gala the following evening. It was an unforgettable experience for everyone involved.



The WU Symphony Orchestra presented four impressive concerts this year under the direction of Steven Jarvi, the newly appointed resident conductor of the St. Louis Symphony. Highlights included: Shostakovich's Symphony no. 5 with an introduction by the department chair, Peter Schmelz; a visit by composer Adam Schoenberg for the orchestra's performance of his work "Finding Rothko"; and the Rimsky-Korsakov favorite, *Scheherazade*. The WU Choirs were also very busy this year. In March the Chamber Choir performed as guest artists with Ethel, a string quartet, and Robert Mirabal, a native American flutist. Other choir performances included adventurous programming in Graham Chapel pairing contemporary composer Jennifer Higdon with familiar works by Benjamin Britten and Francis Poulenc in a program titled "Joy and Wonder." The choir finished their season with a concert called "Chiaroscuro" featuring many talented student soloists, composers, and conductors. The annual Chancellor's Concert combined the forces of the choirs and orchestra to perform the works of Copland, Bernstein, and Hanson. The Wind Ensemble continued to grow under the direction of Chris Becker, performing wind literature classics from Robert Sheldon, David Maslanka, and Morton Gould. The thriving Jazz Combo and Jazz Band programs also featured many fine student performances throughout the year.



We welcomed numerous other guest artists to campus throughout 2012-2013 for brilliant performances and master classes. Christopher O'Riley of NPR's program "From the Top" guided the WU string quartet, graduate student Tiffany Pao, and undergraduate flutist Vincent Shin in a master class in October. Kyle Erdos-Knapp, tenor, presented the entire cycle of Schubert's *Die schöne Müllerin* for the annual *Liederabend* in September. Choo Choo Hu, piano, performed an engaging concert of rarities by Poulenc, Brahms, and Copland for the KWUR partnership concert. The Danforth University Center Chamber Music Series continued to flourish with concerts from many department faculty members including Denise Elif Gill, Paul Garritson, Adrienne Honnold, Maryse Carlin, Vince Varvel, and Amanda Kirkpatrick. The year ended with the Opera

Workshop's Spring Scene Studies, which showcased the talents of our graduate and undergraduate voice students in works by Britten, Mozart, and Verdi.

JOIN FRIENDS OF MUSIC!

Friends of Music membership fees and special gifts provide:

- Financial assistance for private music lessons for any eligible student
- Scholarship support for music majors and graduate students
- \$500 Friends of Music merit awards
- Pianos for teaching, rehearsals, and performances

To join: music.wustl.edu/friends/how-join

Alumni, Student and Faculty News

Alumni

Bonny Hough Miller (Ph.D., Piano Performance, '82) presented a lecture at the Library of Congress titled "Augusta Browne: A Nineteenth-Century Life in American Music."

Scott Lyle (M.A., Composition, '12) is employed as a guitar instructor at Maryville University.

Graduate Students

David Chapman (Ph.D., Musicology, '13) accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Music at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, Indiana.

Kelsey Klotz (Ph.D., Candidate, Musicology) was awarded the 2013 Brubeck Collection Research Travel Grant from the University of the Pacific Library in Stockton, California.

Undergraduate Students

Jamie Perkins (A&S '13) was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa.

Joe Bernardi (A&S '14) was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa and received the John Peters MacCarthy Scholarship.

Phillip Hsu (A&S '14) participated in the Amgen Scholars Program and received a Jane Spoehrer Memorial Scholarship.

Faculty & Staff

Nicole Aldrich (Lecturer and Director of Choral Activities) had an article published in the *Choral Journal* titled "Building a Choral Culture: Lessons Learned from the Business World," and was chosen to participate in the Conducting Master Class at the Oregon Bach Festival.

Pat Burke (Associate Professor, Ethnomusicology) co-edited a special American Music issue of *Daedalus: Journal of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences*, to be published in October 2013.

Todd Decker (Associate Professor, Musicology) published *Show Boat: Performing Race in an American Musical* with Oxford University Press, and gave talks at the Library of Congress and the GAMMA-UT conference at the University of Texas at Austin.

Denise Elif Gill (Assistant Professor, Ethnomusicology) delivered talks about her research on music and melancholy, offered solo *kanun* (trapezoidal zither) recitals of Ottoman-Turkish classical music, and led a master class during her academic residencies at the College of William & Mary and Bowling Green State University in the spring of 2013.

Rich O'Donnell (Director, Electronic Music Studio) and his co-founded group, HEARding Cats Collective, received an Innovation Grant from the Regional Arts Commission for *Aquird Waves*.

Jonathan Reycraft (Teacher of Applied Music, Trombone) and the Trombones of the St. Louis Symphony recorded a project of trombone quartets. Previous recordings are available at iTunes and CD Baby.

Alan Rosenkoetter (Teacher of Applied Music, Classical Guitar) was the featured performer, honored as "Dean of St. Louis Guitar Teachers," at the St. Louis Guitar Society's 50th Anniversary Celebration in June 2013.

Paul Steinbeck (Assistant Professor, Theory and Composition) won the Steve Larson Award for his article "Intermusicality, Humor, and Cultural Critique in the Art Ensemble of Chicago's 'A Jackson in Your House,'" delivered a talk titled "Improvisational Fictions" at the 2012 AMS/SEM/SMT Conference, and received a Summer Research Seed Grant from the Washington University College of Arts & Sciences.

Robert Snarrenberg (Associate Professor, Theory and Composition) wrote an article, "Brahms, Opus 3," which appeared in *Music Analysis*.

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 2013

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

September 29, 3:00 p.m. – *Liederabend*, featuring Ian Greenlaw

October 26, 2:00 p.m. – Parent and Family Weekend
Department Showcase

November 22, 7:30 p.m. – Wind Ensemble with the
USAF Band of Mid-America

November 24, 3:00 p.m. – The Choirs of Washington University

December 6, 8:00 p.m. – Special Jazz Trio Event: ECM Recording Artists
Gary Peacock, Marc Copland, and Joey Baron (ticketed event)

December 9, 7:30 p.m. – St. Louis Symphony Community Partnership
Performance featuring Bjorn Ranheim, cello and Shawn Weil, violin

All above events will take place in the E. Desmond Lee Concert Hall

Keep in touch with us on the web!

music.wustl.edu



Washington University in St. Louis

Department of Music
Campus Box 1032
One Brookings Drive
St. Louis, MO 63130
(314) 935-5581
F: (314) 935-4034
music@wustl.edu