

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC NEWSLETTER

2014-15 / Volume 8

 Washington University in St. Louis

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Peter Schmelz

Over the past year, students and faculty in the Department of Music dove into a wide range of musical genres with enthusiastic performances and path-breaking scholarship. Among the highlights was the Chancellor's Concert in April, featuring a memorable Mozart's *Requiem* by the Washington University chorus and symphony orchestra under the strong leadership of Nicole Aldrich and Steven Jarvi. Two students in the Ph.D. program in musicology distinguished themselves by winning highly competitive national awards. David Chapman, Ph.D. Musicology, '13, received the Paul Pisk Prize for best student paper at the annual meeting of the American Musicological Society in November. A specialist in American minimalism in the 1960s and 1970s, David is currently Assistant Professor of Music at the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, Indiana. Liza Dister, a Ph.D. candidate in musicology researching French music and politics in the 1930s and 1940s, received a prestigious dissertation completion fellowship from the American Musicological Society in April.

The Department continues to grow and change. This past year we welcomed a new music theorist, Ben Duane, a specialist in computational modeling of musical structures and music cognition. Prof. Duane received his Ph.D. at Northwestern University and held a Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellowship at Columbia University before coming to Washington University. We also made a new hire in music composition, Christopher Stark, who holds a Ph.D. from Cornell University and has recently won a commission from the Fromm Music Foundation at Harvard University. We also bid farewell to two long-time members of the Department. In May, Elizabeth Macdonald retired as cello instructor and director of Strings and Chamber Ensembles. Musicologist Craig Monson also announced that he will retire at the end of this coming Fall semester. In Spring 2015 we plan to celebrate Prof. Monson's contributions with a symposium in his honor. We wish them both well in their future activities.

As always, we welcome contact from our alumni and supporters. We are extremely grateful for your continuing support and hope you will join us at a Music event this coming year.

With all best wishes,



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FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: PAUL STEINBECK, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF MUSIC THEORY



Paul Steinbeck joined the Department of Music in 2012. In the past two years, he has taught courses on music theory, analysis, transcription, and jazz studies – topics that are also central to his research. In 2013, he was awarded a Summer Research Seed Grant from the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, which allowed him to visit various libraries and archives in Chicago. These research findings will appear in his book, entitled *Message to Our Folks: The Art Ensemble of Chicago, Improvisation, and Great Black Music*. He will complete the book while on sabbatical in 2014-15. During the fall 2014 semester, he will be a resident fellow at Washington University's Center for the Humanities.

Paul occasionally performs, most recently in March 2014 at the Jazz at Holmes concert series on the Washington University campus. In this concert, he performed with Low End Theory, an ensemble he co-leads with Mwata Bowden, a composer, multi-instrumentalist, and former president of the Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians (AACM).

2013-2014 CONCERT SEASON

Jen Gartley

The Department of Music 2013-2014 concert season was a year to remember for our students, faculty, and community.

In the fall semester, the Air Force Band of Mid-America joined the Washington University Wind Ensemble for a rousing concert with over 90 wind musicians on stage. From 6 tuba players to a barrage of percussion along the back wall, the entire E. Desmond Lee stage was filled to capacity with Washington University students performing side-by-side with the professional musicians from the Air Force Band. In October, AnDa Union brought the music of Inner Mongolia to the 560 Music Center. AnDa Union also visited the "Musics of the World" classrooms on campus for a hands-on experience including a live performance using their horse-head fiddle. Many student participants even tried to master the challenging technique of throat singing.

Capping off the fall semester, the legendary bassist Gary Peacock came to Washington University with his trio, comprised of pianist Marc Copland and drummer Joey Baron. Bill Lenihan, Director of Jazz Studies and Professor of the Practice of Music, led the planning of this special concert, co-sponsored by the Jazz at Holmes series through University College. "Gary really has redefined the role of the piano trio bassist," Lenihan said. "A truly original voice, his sense of interplay – harmonically with Copland and rhythmically with Baron – gives way to a depth of swing that could only have come about in a player who is versed enough to play with the likes of Albert Ayler, Bill Evans, and Keith Jarrett."



Gary Peacock (right) and Marc Copland

The spring semester kicked off with a capacity crowd to enjoy Kelly Daniel-Decker, soprano, and Todd Decker, pianist and Associate Professor of Musicology, perform "Songs from Hollywood" as part of the popular Danforth University Center Chamber Music Series. The Department also partnered with KWUR, the Washington University radio station, and the St. Louis Symphony Community Partnership programs to host the new St. Louis Symphony timpanist, Shannon Wood, in a concert of contemporary chamber works for percussion. Three days later, David Halen, violin, and Bjorn Ranheim, cello, joined Seth Carlin, piano and Washington University faculty, in a completely sold-out concert in Holmes Lounge featuring the music of Martinů, Beethoven, and Dvořák.



Our students were also hard at work in the spring. The Opera Scenes class worked all semester to put together a school show introducing local elementary students to the power of opera while also educating them about the timely topic of bullying. The class traveled to two area schools and performed "Stop, Bully!" for over 500 students in the St. Louis City school district. A music teacher from one of the schools said, "Our students just loved it. I have never seen them so stunned and attentive. One of our teachers incorporated it into her lesson for the day." The Washington University symphony orchestra and choirs joined together for the annual Chancellor's Concert, ending their very successful seasons with Mozart's *Requiem*. This difficult and rewarding composition was the perfect finale to a year of growth and achievements for both of these ensembles under the direction of Steven Jarvi and Nicole Aldrich.

DISTINGUISHED VISITING FACULTY: ANDRÉ DE QUADROS

In the fall, the Department of Music welcomes Distinguished Visiting Scholar André de Quadros to campus. Dr. de Quadros is a Professor of Music at Boston University, where he also holds affiliated faculty appointments in the African Studies Center, the Center for the Study of Asia, the Institute for the Study of Muslim Societies and Civilizations, and the Prison Education Program. In addition to conducting and undertaking research in over forty countries, he is an ethnomusicologist and human rights activist. This residency is generously supported through funding from the Distinguished Visiting Scholar Program of the Office of the Provost.



Events featuring Prof. de Quadros:

Tuesday, September 30, 5:00 p.m., Umrath Lounge

"From Prisons to Slums to the West Bank: Mobilizing the Arts for Social Change"

Friday, October 3, 4:30 p.m., Music Classroom Building 102

"Musical Excellence and Participatory Music: Uncovering Tensions, Interrogating Paradigms"

Sunday, November 23, 3:00 p.m., E. Desmond Lee Concert Hall

With Washington University Choirs, "This Too Shall Pass"

ALUMNI, STUDENT, AND FACULTY NEWS

Alumni

John Cornelius (M.M. Piano Performance, '91) made his New York debut with a run of "Bob Marley's Three Little Birds" at the New Victory Theatre in February. Dr. Cornelius is an Associate Professor of Music at Prairie View A&M University.

Erik Entwistle (M.M. Piano Performance, '93) received the Music Library Association's Eva Judd O'Meara Award for the best review of F. James Rybka's *Bohuslav Martinů: The Compulsion to Compose in Notes*.

Graduate Students

Liza Dister (Ph.D. Candidate, Musicology) presented "Remembering France, Remembering Honegger: Music Dedicated to Joan of Arc under Vichy" at the American Musicological Society's annual meeting, and received the Alvin H. Johnson AMS 50 Dissertation Fellowship.

Kelsey Klotz (Ph.D. Candidate, Musicology) presented "Different Bodies, Different Sounds: Charlie Parker and Paul Desmond" at the Harvard Graduate Music Forum in February.

Katie Kinney (Ph.D. Candidate, Musicology) presented "Converts and Crossovers: Black Gospel and the Music of Radical White Christianity at the Turn of the 1970s" at the Society for Christian Scholarship in Music's annual meeting.

Undergraduate Students

Anna Mai (A&S '16) presented a paper on Universals in Conceptual Metaphors of Emotion at the St. Louis Area Undergraduate Research Symposium and at the Washington University Undergraduate Research Symposium.

Faculty & Staff

Nicole Aldrich (Lecturer and Director of Choral Activities) served as a Guest Conductor/Clinician with the Mineral Area Activities Association Choral Festival in March and as a Guest Conductor with the St. Louis Suburban District Women's Honor Choir in November.

Pat Burke (Associate Professor, Ethnomusicology) was a Guest Scholar in the Department of Musicology at the University of Oslo for the 2013-14 academic year, and he presented papers at the University of Oslo and at the annual conference of the American Studies Association of Norway. He also co-edited "American Music," a special issue of *Daedalus: Journal of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences*, published in Fall 2013.

Seth Carlin (Professor, Piano and Fortepiano) attended the 17th season of Musical September, an international festival of chamber music in Ascoli Piceno, Italy.

Barbara Raedeke (Teacher of Applied Music, Organ) performed as an organ soloist at a concert of the Belleville Masterworks Chorale in October.

Robert Snarrenberg (Associate Professor, Music Theory) has one article in press: "On the Prosody of German Lyric Song" in the *Journal of Music Theory*, and gave two conference papers: "On the Use of Poetic Structure and Phonological Structure as Interpretive Norms: Meter, Phrasing, and Distinctive Stress" at the Annual Meeting of the Gesellschaft für Musiktheorie in Rostock, Germany, and "Forms of Form in Songs by Brahms" at the 7th Estonian Conference on Music Theory in Tallinn and Pärnu.

Paul Steinbeck (Assistant Professor, Music Theory) was awarded a Faculty Fellowship at Washington University's Center for the Humanities for Fall 2014, and concludes a three-year term as chairperson of the Society for Music Theory (SMT) Interest Group on Improvisation.

**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!**

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