A Message from the Chair

Dolores Pesce

Many changes have come our way this academic year. Our opera program took off in an exciting new direction under the leadership of Chris Armistead and Tim Ocel. Three valued, long-time faculty members have just retired: Hugh Macdonald, Dan Presgrave, and John Stewart. And we hired three exceptional new faculty conductors: Ward Stare, Nicole Aldrich, and Vu Nguyen to lead our orchestra, choirs, and wind ensembles, respectively, starting this Fall.

The Department continues to attract talented undergraduate majors and minors, as well as graduate students in musicology, theory, composition, voice, and piano. Our applied music headquarters – the 560 Music Center – is a very busy place, alive with music-making until late in the evening. We invite you to attend our events whenever your schedule allows. Make a point to meet and greet our new conductors.

We welcome news from our alumni and feedback from all our supporters, so please keep in touch during 2011-12.

With best wishes,

[Signature]

Faculty Author Spotlight: Craig Monson, Musicologist

On his last sabbatical leave, Craig Monson, Professor of Musicology, decided to undertake a project that he had been thinking about for years: a book for a general, non-academic audience about the unusual side of convent life in Renaissance and Baroque Italy. During the late 1980s and early 1990s, when he was researching music and female monasticism in the Vatican Secret Archive, he uncovered numerous examples of convent misbehavior (a cloistered singer who repeatedly went AWOL, dressed as an abbot, to attend the opera; a cohort of musical nuns who conjured up the devil to help them find a missing violin; a convent community so sick of cloistered life that they burned the place down so that they could all go home). University of Chicago Press published these examples of convent misbehavior in November 2010 under the title Nuns Behaving Badly: Tales of Music, Magic, Art, and Arson in the Convents of Italy.

On the day it was officially published, the book caught the attention of The Economist (“Nuns Behaving Badly wears its learning with a smile, but it throws a sharp light into dark Roman Catholic corners”), followed quickly by Literary Review (“Monson writes with wry humour and a novelist’s eye for detail, but the stories he uncovers would be extraordinary even without his narrative skill”), Times Higher Education (“a rich and nourishing intellectual lasagne”), The Huffington Post (“Beautifully produced, exquisitely designed, mint copies of this are likely to become collectors’ items. Copies signed by the author, even better”), and others. The Newberry Rare Book Library listed Nuns Behaving Badly among “Best Books of 2010.”

The first printing sold out in five weeks. A polish translation is under contract. The paperback comes out in September 2011. As a result, Craig has since revisited his pathbreaking Disembodied Voices: Music and Culture in an Early Modern Convent (1995). In early 2012, University of Chicago Press will publish an abbreviated, revised version for those who enjoyed Nuns Behaving Badly. The tentative new title: Divas in the Cloister: Nuns, Music, and Defiance in the Convents of Italy.
Faculty Retirements

Three long-time Department of Music faculty members retired at the end of the 2010-11 academic year: Hugh Macdonald, Avis Blewett Professor of Musicology (1987); Dan Presgrave, Lecturer and Director of the Symphony Orchestra and Wind Ensembles (1972); and John Stewart, Director of Vocal Activities (1990). We thank them for their service and years of dedication to the University and wish them the best in their future endeavors.

2010 – 2011 Concert Season

Jen Gartley

The 2010-2011 Department of Music concert season was full of great performances, a few good-byes, and celebrations. Music from a wide range of time periods and types spanned the year with performances from the Los Angeles Guitar Quartet to our continued partnership with the St. Louis Symphony. The annual Liederabend was a success with the performance of Leah Summers and the Danforth University Chamber Music Series completed its third season and continues to be a favorite amongst the Washington University community.

One of the most exciting events of the season was the Friends of Music Franz Liszt Celebration featuring the internationally acclaimed pianist, Kenneth Hamilton. Mr. Hamilton joined us for a centenary celebration of the life and works of Franz Liszt on February 26 in the lovely Holmes Lounge. He participated in a lively symposium in the morning with several Department of Music faculty and then performed a concert entitled “Liszt and His Contemporaries; A Pianistic Panorama.” He transfixed the audience with his interpretation of the virtuosic repertoire and delighted everyone with his witty banter and unwavering knowledge of the piano literature. A dinner for the Friends of Music followed the sold out concert.

The 2011 Chancellor’s Concert was especially meaningful this year. As the department said goodbye to two retiring conductors, we also said goodbye to an extremely talented and large senior class. The performance featured the Concert Choir singing Haydn’s Lord Nelson Mass and the WU Symphony performing the Khachaturian Violin Concerto with senior Lily Kuo as soloist and Malcolm Arnold’s English Dances. This was the last concert for both John Stewart and Dan Presgrave at Washington University and Chancellor Wrighton thanked them for their years of service at the university. The Friends of Music reception that followed was well attended and included the presentation of the Friends of Music awards to some of the Department’s outstanding students. The afternoon also included touching testimonials by students and alumni honoring the retiring faculty.

As we look ahead to the 2011-2012 “Traditions in Transition” concert season, we are excited to present performers from Texas to New York City as well as our own faculty, students, and new ensemble conductors in their inaugural seasons with Washington University.

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
• $2,500 Friends of Music recruitment scholarship
• $500 Friends of Music merit awards
• Pianos for teaching, rehearsals, and performances

To join: music.wustl.edu/friends/join
Student and Faculty News

Graduate Students

Jerome Camal (Ph.D., Musicology, ‘11) accepted a Visiting Assistant Professor position with the UCLA Department of Musicology for 2011-12 and presented a paper at the American Studies Association annual meeting: “Impressions of America in the Tropics: Jazz, Gwoka, and the Limits of Diasporic Intimacy.”

Kelsey Klotz (Ph.D. Candidate in Musicology) presented a paper at the College Music Society's 2010 National Conference: “Perspectives in Music: The Liberal Arts.”

Undergraduate Students

Austin Wesevich (A&S ’11) received a Distinguished Student Scholarship from Washington University School of Medicine and the Mortar Board Barbara Cook Fellowship.

Faculty

Patrick Burke (Director of Undergraduate Studies and Associate Professor, Musicology) was promoted to Associate Professor and received a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship.

Todd Decker (Assistant Professor, Musicology) received a Center for the Humanities Faculty Fellowship and two subventions for Music Makes Me: Fred Astaire and Jazz (UC Press, 2011).

Bruce Durazzi (Assistant Professor, Music Theory) received a Research Fellowship from the Walter Ong, S.J. Center for Language and Culture at Saint Louis University.

Martin Kennedy (Assistant Professor, Music Theory and Composition) received a Missouri Music Teachers Association Composition Commission and an ASCAPPlus Award.

Beth Macdonald (Director of Strings and Teacher of Applied Music, Cello) has joined the Board of Directors of Early Music America, and is Reviews Editor for the Journal and Newsletter of the Viola da Gamba Society of America.

Peter Schmelz (Associate Professor, Musicology) received an ASCAP Deems Taylor Award for Such Freedom, If Only Musical: Unofficial Soviet Music During the Thaw.

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!

Arts and Culture

The Department of Music has partnered with the Edison Theatre, Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum, and the Performing Arts Department to create a website, wustl.edu/arts/. In addition to highlighting the events of these four campus groups, the site links to other arts-related departments and programs. Please visit the site when you have a chance: it is a great way to discover and support other events in the Washington University arts community.
Highlighted Events for Fall 2011

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

October 9, 3:00 p.m. – Liederabend
Holmes Lounge, Ridgley Hall

October 23, 3:00 p.m. – Symphony Orchestra
E. Desmond Lee Concert Hall

October 26, 7:30 p.m. – Danforth University Center
Chamber Music Series: Fischer Duo
Goldberg Formal Lounge, Danforth University Center

October 30, 7:30 p.m. – St. Louis Symphony Community
Partnership Performance
featuring the music of Silvestrov and Brahms
E. Desmond Lee Concert Hall

November 17, 7:30 p.m. – Danforth University Center
Chamber Music Series: Jura Margulis, piano,
featuring the works of Franz Liszt
Goldberg Formal Lounge, Danforth University Center

December 9, 8:00 p.m. – Concert Choir
Graham Chapel

Keep in touch with us on the web!

music.wustl.edu

Department of Music –
Washington University in St. Louis