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News and Notes

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NEWS AND NOTES

MAJOR GRANT FUNDS RECITAL HALL RENOVATION

A PNC Foundation grant of \$600,000 will help to renovate PNC Recital Hall. The School of Music will use the majority of the grant for improving the audience experience in the 260-seat hall, including new seating, fresh paint and new carpeting.

The PNC Recital Hall lobby will also receive improvements, including repainting and the installation of new carpet, bulkheads, lighting, acoustic wall panels, wall coverings and wood trim. In addition, a kitchen area will be added, and the restrooms will be completely remodeled.

EARLY CHILDHOOD MUSIC INITIATIVE

A PNC Foundation Grow Up Great grant is helping Dr. Rachel Whitcomb create user-friendly music lessons

and materials for local preschools. Her goal is to connect the fields of music education and early childhood education, so that teachers feel comfortable incorporating musical activities into everyday instruction.

Whitcomb is developing lesson plans and selecting six local preschools in need of music programs. She will also train six undergraduate music education majors to teach in the designated schools during the spring 2011 semester. Next summer, the School of Music will offer a professional development conference for Pittsburgh preschool teachers interested in incorporating the lesson plans into their programs.

COMPOSER JOAN TOWER VISITS

Joan Tower, one of the nation's preeminent composers of orchestral, chamber and instrumental music, and an accomplished conductor and pianist, visited the School of Music for

two days in November 2010.

Her visit included two master classes, one for composers and one on coaching contemporary ensembles, as well as a lecture delivered to all music students. Tower, the winner of a Grammy Award, is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters and is the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra's Composer of the Year for the 2010–11 season.

SEAN JONES TEAMS UP WITH HERBIE HANCOCK

Herbie Hancock, one of our era's most influential jazz piano masters, has selected trumpeter Sean Jones, a member of the Jazz Studies faculty, to perform the music of Miles Davis in an upcoming review in the summer of 2011. Jones and bassist Marcus Miller will join Hancock and composer and saxophonist Wayne Shorter as the group re-imagines the music of



OPRYLAND HOTEL ORCHESTRA INCLUDES ALUMNI

Three alumni of the Music School were in the orchestra when Nashville's Opryland Hotel held its three-day, grand reopening in November 2010. Pictured during dress rehearsal, the three are (from the left) trombonist Gary Miller and trumpeters Alan Suska and Bill Laarz. The landmark hotel had been closed after record floods in the spring left much of the city under water.

trumpeter Miles Davis. Both Hancock and Shorter performed with Miles Davis ensembles in the late 1960s, a time that many jazz critics believe was Davis' most creative period.



The review, organized to mark the 20th anniversary of the death of Miles Davis, is slated for appearances at select European venues, including the North Sea Jazz Festival (Netherlands), the Umbria Jazz Festival (Italy) and the Vitoria Jazz Festival (Spain).

MUSIC SCHOOL CONCERTS AIR ON WDSR

The *School of Music Student Showcase*, two hours of programming featuring performances by School of Music ensembles, can be heard each week on WDSR, Duquesne University's student-operated Internet radio station. The show airs Fridays, 1–3 p.m. To listen, visit www.wdsr.org and click the "Listen Now!" tab. Performances are prerecorded but the show is a live broadcast from College Hall.

DOC WILSON AWARDED EMERITUS STATUS

Dr. John "Doc" Wilson, a member of the Music School faculty since 1972, was awarded the rank of Professor Emeritus



at the spring 2010 School of Music graduation ceremony. To commemorate the occasion, faculty colleagues performed *Gratitude*, a commissioned work composed by Mike Tomaro, chair of Jazz Studies.

NEW GRADUATE CHAMBER ENSEMBLES

Two new chamber ensembles—the Triano Woodwind Quintet and Francis DeBroff String Quartet—will provide graduate-level scholarship opportunities for qualified students who are focusing on a career in musical performance.

Students selected for the groups can receive full tuition remission and will serve as ambassadors for the University and the Mary Pappert School of Music.

H. ROBERT REYNOLDS AWARDED HONORARY DOCTORATE

Duquesne University awarded an honorary doctorate to Professor H. Robert Reynolds, a nationally renowned wind ensemble conductor and educator, at the May 2010 Music School commencement ceremony. Reynolds is currently the H. Robert Reynolds professor of wind conducting at the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music and has been a frequent guest conductor at Duquesne. ●

DR. SALLY STONE WORSING LEAVES A LEGACY IN MUSIC EDUCATION

Dr. Sally Stone Worsing, founding director of the City Music Center at Duquesne University, died Nov. 26 in her Penn Hills home after battling lung cancer.

Worsing, 70, a classically trained pianist devoted to music education, facilitated more than 1,500 children and adults studying music at the City Music Center, which she started in 1989. The center, which currently has about 250 students ranging from ages 3 to 60, provides group classes as well as individual lessons and recital opportunities.

It became one of only 22 community music schools accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music, and her fundraising efforts helped to provide disadvantaged students with scholarships so that music would be available to all who wanted to learn.

A graduate of Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Pittsburgh, Worsing also had run a music program for children at Carnegie Mellon and taught at St. Edmund's Academy, Shady Lane School and the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf before coming to Duquesne.

"For 21 years, Sally Worsing gave inspired and passionate leadership to the City Music Center at Duquesne University," said Dean Edward Kocher of Duquesne's Mary Pappert School of Music. "Sally's love of music and children brought a lot of beauty and goodness to the youth and families of our region. We will miss her." ●