A Celebration for Joseph Wilcox Jenkins

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The School of Music Celebrates the Career and Accomplishments of Professor Emeritus Joseph Willcox Jenkins

The Mary Pappert School of Music honored the career, accomplishments and years of service of Professor Emeritus Dr. Joseph Willcox Jenkins during a special birthday celebration and luncheon on Saturday, February 16, 2013.

Jenkins, who turned 85 the day before the event, began teaching in the School of Music in 1961.

“Dr. Joseph Willcox Jenkins is revered as one of Duquesne University’s most beloved music professors and he has also continued his prolific compositional career since his retirement from the Mary Pappert School of Music,” said Dean Edward Kocher. “Most summers, Dr. Jenkins teaches a course for graduate students and, once his classes are announced, they fill up quickly. We are honored to know this remarkable gentleman.”

A composer of more than 200 works, Jenkins served on the arranging staff of the U.S. Army Field Band and the Armed Forces Radio Network before being appointed chief arranger and assistant conductor of the new U.S. Army Chorus.

Jenkins’ compositions include works for band, orchestra, chorus and voice. Many of his works have been performed, and even premiered, at Duquesne for noted events and special celebrations, according to Kocher. Last October, Emerita Professor Christine Jordanoff, former director of choral organizations, led the Voices of Spirit in the world premiere of one of Jenkins’ most recent compositions, An Advent Psalm.

“His critically acclaimed Requiem Mass, Opus 198, was performed in April 2001 in blessed memory of Father Henry Joseph McAnulty (former Duquesne president and chancellor),” said Kocher. And, in 2004, the trombone choir premiered Jenkins’ Nunc Dimittis in honor of the late music professor, Matty Shiner.

City Music Center and Pianos N’Stuff Team up for Duquesne Days of Summer

On Saturday, July 20, and Sunday, July 21, 2013, the City Music Center of Duquesne University and Pittsburgh music retailer Pianos N’Stuff presented Duquesne Days of Summer: Technology and Guitar, a new, two-day workshop held on the Duquesne campus for musicians of all skill levels.

The event included a variety of classes and concluded with a Gear Expo presented by Pianos N’Stuff along with various industry-leading vendors. Among the offerings were hands-on courses in music technology and guitar, ranging from digital audio basics to guitar effect pedal techniques. Experts were available and prepared to offer advice to the beginner looking for inspiration, the student expanding his or her knowledge over the summer or the professional looking to stay on the cutting edge.

In the program’s technology track, students received state-of-the-art education through the utilization of powerful and innovative iOS apps. Guitar and bass students were able to learn a wide range of styles from the best in the field. Additionally, a number of career-related discussions and workshops covered topics such as auditioning, performance and the history of rock & roll.

In addition to members of the faculty of the Mary Pappert School of Music, classes during the Duquesne Days of Summer were taught by professionals from around the region, including some of the most respected performers, educators and clinicians in the industry. Clinicians included Justin Bechak, Eric Brockschmidt, Troy Centofanto, Michael Chapman, Mike Dormán, Mike Elliott, Mark Koch, Jeff Mangone, Ryan McMasters, Jordan Mroziak, Jesse Naus, Bill Purse, Frank Rodriguez and R.J. Zimmerman. Courses included The Studio Guitarist, Building a Band, The Professional Recording Studio, Walking the Bass Line and more.

Vendors represented at the Gear Expo on Sunday included Harman Kardon, JBL, Gibson and Yamaha. Giveaways included an Epiphone semi-hollow body guitar, two sets of JBL monitors and an AKG wireless microphone. Harman Kardon outfitted the Dr. Thomas D. Pappert Center for Performance and Innovation with a temporary live sound rig, and various local bands performed their own music using this equipment.

Due to its overwhelming success, Duquesne Days of Summer is set to become an annual event, with plans currently under way for Summer 2014.