Alumni Notes

Daphne Alderson (B.M. Performance, 1984, M.M. Performance, 1989, A.D. 1991) is an associate professor of voice/director of Opera Workshop at Seton Hill University. She has returned to the opera scene as a lyric contralto, performing with the Pittsburgh Opera, Microscopic Opera, Quantum Theatre and the Opera Theatre of Pittsburgh’s Summerfest.

In October 2013, she released an album of French cabaret and folk rock ballads and performed in a world premiere of a new opera based on the classic horror movie Night of the Living Dead.

Alderson will tour overseas in December 2013 and January 2014 with her husband, guitarist John Marcinizyn, as a chamber music duo.

Salvatore “Sal” Aloe (B.S. Music Education, 1973) of Ambridge has been named managing director of the Lincoln Park Performing Arts Center.

Jay Anderson (B.S. Music Therapy, 2004) has spent the last eight years working as a music therapist at Patton State Hospital, a state forensic psychiatric facility in California.

As an intern, Anderson put to use all that he had learned in the Music Therapy department at the School of Music. Using the skills, knowledge and, most of all, the vision Anderson gained from his education, the hospital’s once scant music therapy and music department has flourished.

He has also started a private practice, Minding Music-Music Therapy.

Anderson and his partner built a straw bale and steel house in 2006 in the high desert of southern California.

Jim Anderson (B.S. Music Education, 1973) was awarded a GRAMMY Award in the Best Surround Sound category at the 55th Annual GRAMMY Awards.

Ray Barley (B.M. Orchestra Instruments, 1985, M.M. Theory, 1988) is the director of Catholic Music Ministry at Fort Irwin Chapel and an adjunct member of the music faculty at Barstow Community College in Barstow, CA. He conducted doctoral research at the Library of Congress while simultaneously training in bioacoustics with field research carried out at the Erie National Wildlife Refuge.

A published composer and arranger, Barley plays classical, acoustic and electric guitar; flute; Native American flute; recorder; drums; tympani and percussion professionally.

Kathleen Butera (B.S. Music Education, 1968, M.M. Music Education, 1970) is the executive director of the Chicago Chamber Musicians (CCM), where she is responsible for leading strategic planning, financial management, board and donor relations, fund development and marketing.

Founded in 1986, CCM now reaches more than 300,000 Chicago-area residents each season through performances on the concert stage and broadcasts over the 98.7 WFMT Radio Network.

She continues to teach at Columbia College Chicago as an adjunct professor, having been a full-time lecturer and supervisor of the college’s Live and Performing Arts division of the Arts, Entertainment and Media Management department for three years.

Jason Davis (M.M. Theory/Composition, 1997) has been promoted to the rank of assistant professor at Herkimer County Community College.

Maureen O’Reilly Hughes, Ph.D., (B.S. Music Education, 2002), received a Doctor of Philosophy from Boston College’s Lynch School of Education in Curriculum and Instruction on May 20, 2013. Her research dissertation topic: Tipping the Tower of PISA: Cross-National Learning as a Strategy to Inform Leaders about Diverse Students and Achievement in the Global Neighborhood.

Victoria Hanson, cello (B.M. Performance, 1972) and Ann Turowski Mead, flute (B.S. Music Education, 1971), along with Joan Eighmey, piano, form the ensemble MNATRI. The group commissioned a work, The Harp of the Dagda, by composer James Sclater, which was given its premiere performance in March 2013 at the First United Methodist Church in Warren, PA as part of a chamber music series.

Mead also serves as director of the Warren County Summer Music School, a multi-disciplinary arts program for students and adults in Warren, PA. The school, which runs for three weeks in the summer, affords students the opportunity to experience a variety of arts offerings. The school provides a continuum of learning from introductory instruction to more advanced opportunities for growth in all areas of the arts.

Katelyn King (B.S. Music Therapy, 2010) has been hired by U.S. Senator Pat Toomey (R-PA.) to serve as his regional manager, based in his Pittsburgh office.

Kathy Maskalick (B.S. Music Education, 1980) currently serves as the School of Music liaison to the Duquesne University Alumni Board of Governors and also serves as secretary on the organization’s executive board. In addition, Maskalick is the vice president of programs for Pittsburgh Symphony North and co-chair of the Friends of the PSO, an organization that works to bring more patrons into Heinz Hall to hear our world-class Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra.

Raul Mesa (M.M. Performance, 2009) returned to his home in Colombia to teach and to work as piano staff at the National Conservatory of Music. He is currently a member of the Conservatory faculty and is working towards a master’s degree in conducting.

Michael Mihalyo, Jr. (B.M. Performance, 1992, M.M. Performance, 1994) has been named president of Davis and Elkins College in Elkins, WV.
Kevin Mongelli (B.M. Performance, 1988) creates and performs original piano music. At the 2013 Indie Music Channel Awards, Mongelli received four nominations including Best Classical Artist. His composition, Darker Days, was the winner for Best Classical Recording. Darker Days also won the 2012 Song of the Year competition in the instrumental category.

Mongelli also received two nominations for the 2012 Indie Music Channel Awards, including one for Fort Lonesome, his third album, which was nominated for Album of the Year. He was the winner of the Best Male Soundtrack Artist category.

Andrey Nemzer (A.D. Performance, 2012) recently participated in the Opera Theater of Pittsburgh’s Summer Festival, where he played Ramiro in Mozart’s The Secret Gardener, and Salieri in Schikelle’s A Little Nightmare Music.

Nemzer will travel to Russia for a series of three concerts, then back to Pittsburgh in April 2014 to perform in Carmina Burana by Orff with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and conductor Manfred Honeck. He will then travel to New York, where he will have his Metropolitan Opera debut in The Lady Without Shadow by R. Strauss and will also be the first cover for the role of Prince Orlofsky in Die Fledermaus by J. Strauss.

Mark Pacoe (B.M. Performance, 1996) recently adjudicated two international pipe organ competitions, 2nd Concorso Internazionale Di Interpretazione Organistica “Agait-Tronc” (Pistoia, Italy) in April 2013 and 1re Grand Prix International d’Orgue (Yonne, France) in July 2013.

Pacoe has also recently been featured as a soloist for the Celebrity Organ Recital Series at the co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart (Houston, TX), 8th International Festival Organistico in Arona (Italy), 22eme Festival International d’Orgue Michelle Leclerc (Cathédrale de Sens, France), 17th Edizione “O Flos Colende” (Cattedrale di Santa Maria del Fiore in Florence, Italy) and Festival Organistico (Pistoia, Italy).

He currently serves as director of music at St. Malachi’s—The Actor’s Chapel in New York and is on the concert artist roster of EastWest Organists.

Dr. Melinda (Crawford) Perttu (B.S. Music Education, 2000), assistant professor of music and Westminster Orchestra director at Westminster College, recently released an album of Scottish fiddle music. The Shelling Braes includes traditional music as well as many of Perttu’s own compositions.

Charles Prijatelj (B.S. Music Education, 1982) has been officially approved as the new superintendent of schools of the Tuscarora (PA) School District.

Vincent Rone (M.M. Sacred Music, 2005) is currently completing his doctoral dissertation in Historical Musicology at the University of California, Santa Barbara. His topic, The French Organ School’s Literary and Musical Responses the Second Vatican Council of the Catholic Church, focuses on the intersection among western art music, theology, liturgical studies and socio-cultural expressions of religious faith between 1960 and 1975. He has presented papers on this topic nationally and internationally, including Los Angeles, Pittsburgh, New York City, Ireland, and Italy.

Rone’s article on the development and religious appropriation of composer Charles Tournemire’s harmonic constructs will appear in a forthcoming publication of The Church Music Association of America. In January 2014, Rone will complete his doctoral research in Paris at several church archives, the Institute Catholique and the personal archives of select French composers. At UC Santa Barbara, he teaches academic writing composition, music appreciation and the fundamentals of music theory to undergraduates while also serving as organist to two local churches.

Tom Snyder (M.M. Music Education, 1988) has served as a music educator for 33 years, with 30 of those years in the West Allegheny School District. A high school band director for 20 years, he has served West Allegheny since 1999 as district arts coordinator, initially responsible for the music, wins international competition and makes world debut with Seattle Symphony

Zvonimir Nagy, Assistant Professor of Music in the Mary Pappert School of Music, is the 2012 winner of the Seattle Symphony’s Celebrate Asia Composition competition for his piece, Suizen.

As the winning composition, Suizen received its debut on Sunday, January 27, 2013, by the Seattle Symphony and guest artist Hanz Araki. The performance was part of the Symphony’s annual Celebrate Asia concert, an annual event now entering its sixth year.

The Celebrate Asia Competition features original works by up-and-coming composers who are influenced by Asian music, tradition and culture. Submissions were received from local Seattle composers, as well as those from across the United States and worldwide.

As a composer, Nagy explores issues and perspectives that bring together ideas from music perception, studies of mind and spirituality. Suizen directly reflects that influence. The piece, which was written for orchestra and Japanese shakuhachi flute, was inspired by the Zen meditation practice of suizen where a shakuhachi flute, made of bamboo, is played as a means through which one achieves a state of self-realization.

Nagy was born in Croatia, but resides in Pittsburgh. He holds a Doctor of Music degree in Composition from Northwestern University. In addition to teaching music theory and composition courses at Duquesne, he is the organist at St. Joseph Cathedral in Wheeling, WV.
visual arts, theater and forensics programs. He also teaches sixth grade band and general music.

Snyder is currently the associate conductor of the West Hills Symphonic Band, the state adjudication coordinator for the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA), the president of the PA Interscholastic Marching Band Association (PIMBA), and the immediate past president of the Pennsylvania Chapter of Phi Beta Mu, the International Bandmasters Fraternity. Snyder is also an active marching band judge and a concert band adjudicator.

Robert Timmins (B.S. Music Education, 1969, M.M. Music Education, 1973) is currently employed as a multimedia specialist in the office of the dean of Duquesne University's Mylan School of Pharmacy.

After a successful 30-year career as an instrumental music teacher in the Baldwin-Whitehall School District, he went on to serve as assistant director of the Pride of Duquesne University Marching Band and director of the Summer Music and Arts Camp at Chatham University for eight years.

Timmins is enrolled in the Master of Science in Multimedia Technology program at Duquesne.

Maura (Nicholls) Underwood, (B.S. Music Education, 2003) is the choral director and instructor of music theory for the Music Academy at Blackhawk High School in Beaver Falls, PA, where she also produces and is the music director for the yearly spring musical.

In addition, she enjoys performing, producing and music directing for Stage 62, a theater company based in Carnegie, PA and also co-directs the Summer Singers, an elite adult choir based in Mt. Lebanon, PA.

Emily Wardle (B.S. Music Education, 2010) has served as the K-5 general music and elementary chorus teacher in the Washington School District of Washington, PA since 2010. In 2012, Wardle was appointed as the PMEA District 1 advocacy representative and has since become District 1’s treasurer. Since 2008, Wardle has provided woodwind, piano, brass and beginning string lessons both privately and through Accent Music of West Mifflin, PA. She also serves as a woodwind band camp staff member for the South Allegheny and Belle Vernon Area marching bands. Wardle is the music director and pianist of Olivet Presbyterian Church in West Elizabeth, PA, and performs for area musicals and events. In Spring 2014, she will complete her master’s degree in Curriculum and Instruction through Clarion University.

All alumni of the Mary Pappert School of Music are welcome and encouraged to submit their accomplishments for publication in Tempo magazine. To submit your information, please visit www.MyDuquesne.duq.edu and click on the Class Notes link. Please note, alumni will need to log in to MyDuquesne to submit class notes. If you have not logged in before, please contact Alumni Relations at alumnionline@duq.edu or call 412.396.6209.

School of Music
Ranked Among the U.S.’ Top 58 Creative Colleges

The Mary Pappert School of Music has been listed among the Top 58 creative colleges in the United States and is profiled in the new edition of Creative Colleges: A Guide for Student Actors, Artists, Dancers, Musicians and Writers.

Creative Colleges aims to provide the information and resources necessary to pick the right program of study for aspiring artists. Approximately 250 art, drama, dance, music and creative writing programs in conservatories, liberal arts colleges and universities nationwide are recommended in the publication.

“We are grateful that the Mary Pappert School of Music is being recognized as a top-quality learning environment for creative students,” said Dean Edward Kocher. “Duquesne music alumni are serving a broad range of leadership positions across the professional music industry. This honor confirms that we are achieving our mission of ‘educating the musical leaders of the 21st century.’”

Creative Colleges was developed to help students learn the steps necessary for admission to performing and visual arts colleges. It provides information on preparing for auditions, writing admission essays, creating resumes and portfolios, studying for SAT and ACT tests and applying for financial aid. Creative Colleges also includes real-life profiles of students in each discipline, day-in-the-life snapshots, answers to frequently asked questions from admissions directors and tips on auditioning and preparing portfolios from real students and faculty. Samples of artist statements, admission essays and artistic resumes are also included.