

2015

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New ST. BENEDICT THE MOOR Band Program Thrives



The last issue of TEMPO introduced a new band program at St. Benedict the Moor School. In an ongoing collaboration with the Mary Pappert School of Music and the Music Education Department, St. Benedict's band program is now well into its second year—with great success. Led by 3 new Duquesne teachers (Demetri Bedel, Caitlyn Stratman, and Carly Tansimore—all junior Music Education majors) and coordinated by St. Benedict the Moor School Principal Mrs. Joelynn Parham, the band now encompasses nearly 80 students from grades 4 through 8. Funding for the program has been generously provided by the Extra Mile Foundation.

St. Benedict is located in the Hill District of Pittsburgh. Demetri, Caitlyn, and Carly often travel together, team-teaching 3 mornings a week. They continue to provide pullout instruction for all band students. With the program in its second year, the Duquesne teachers now have 2 levels of instruction: beginning students, and advanced students. (Advanced students even assist with the program, coaching beginning students during their lunch periods.) At the time of this writing, advanced students were busily preparing for their first Winter Concert, featuring a full band composition titled Winter Trilogy. The annual Spring Concert will bring together all band members for a performance in front of family and friends.

Congratulations and best wishes to Demetri, Caitlyn, and Carly as they continue to develop and grow St. Benedict's band program and thank you to Cassidy Deutsch and Ben Gardner for all their work last year in establishing this opportunity for young student musicians!



Incore

JENNIFER TIRRÉ

Since graduating, Jennifer TIRRÉ (B.M. Performance, 2006) has continued to build upon her international career as an opera singer, soloist, entrepreneur, and teacher.

TIRRÉ began her career as a mezzo-soprano in 2005 when she made her debut in the role of Fidalma in Domenico Cimarosa's *Il Matrimonio Segreto* at the Stara Zagora Maiski Opem Festival in Bulgaria. She went on to perform her first concert tour in Brazil, entitled "Passion," only 10 days after receiving her degree.

In 2012, TIRRÉ collaborated with fellow alumnus Timothy Burns (B.M. Performance, 2005) on her first CD, *Venice: A Woman's Life and Love*, which features songs by Robert Schumann, Gabriel Faure, and Reynaldo Hahn. It was released on February 14, 2015, on iTunes, Spotify, Rhapsody, BestBuy.com, Amazon.com, and in store front retailers.

TIRRÉ credits Mary Pappert School of Music faculty member Claudia Pinza with helping her to become the musician she is today, saying, "She has been my friend, mentor, and teacher since 2002. She has challenged me, in her passive ways, to become a stronger person and better singer. I admire, love, and respect her very much."

In addition to faculty and friends from the Mary Pappert School of Music, TIRRÉ recognizes her mother, Maria Neurancy de Araújo, for always standing beside her and encouraging her to follow her dreams. "She is the reason I am who I am, and where I am today," TIRRÉ said. "I am very truly grateful for the remarkable sacrifices she made for me—for the unconditional love and support I received from her, even at times when I felt the whole world was against me."