Faculty News
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MUSIC EDUCATION & MUSIC THERAPY DEPARTMENT

Elaine Abbott, Associate Professor of Music Therapy and Director of Music Therapy, was published in the 2015 Music Therapy Perspectives, and presented sessions at two recent conferences: The 2015 Mid-Atlantic Region of the American Music Therapy Association (Harrisburg, PA), and the 2016 Great Lakes Region of the American Music Therapy Association (Indianapolis, IN). Dr. Abbott also serves the profession in a new role as a Trainer in Training in the Bonny Method of Guided Imagery and Music, with Fran Goldberg and Louise Dimetrelli-Mitan, at the Therapeutic Arts Institute.

Stephen Benham, Associate Dean and Associate Professor of Music Education, presented more than 20 clinics and in-service sessions for teachers across the country, including multiple residencies and presentations state-wide and at national conventions in Michigan, California, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Florida, and Washington. In addition, Dr. Benham completed his term as President for the American String Teachers Association, where he helped in national restructuring efforts—resulting in the development and implementation of a new national strategic plan for the organization. Benham also spent two weeks this past summer in Ukraine holding music camps for underprivileged children and has had a textbook published by Carl Fischer on string pedagogy and teaching strings for educators who are non-string players.

Judith Bowman, Professor of Music Education and Music Technology, co-authored a chapter with Jordan Mroziak, Adjunct Professor, in the Handbook of Technological Pedagogical Content Knowledge (TPACK) for Educators (Second Edition, 2016), published by Routledge. Dr. Bowman also served as the Conference Organizer and Program Chair for the Association for Technology in Music Instruction National Conference in Indianapolis (2015) and presented a paper at the College Music Society National Conference in Santa Fe (2016).

Paul Doerksen, Associate Professor and Chair of Music Education and Music Therapy, presented at the 2015 International Symposium on Assessment in Music Education (Williamsburg, VA), the 2015 Symposium on Music Teacher Education (Greensboro, NC), and the 2016 Music Research & Teacher Education National Conference (Atlanta, GA). In addition, Dr. Doerksen co-authored chapters about Professional Dispositions in GIA Publications (2016) and Oxford University Press (in press) with two colleagues: Dr. Kelly Parkes (Teachers College, Columbia University) and Dr. Gary Ritcher (James Madison University). Dr. Doerksen was also invited to write a chapter titled "Undergraduate Music Education Curriculum Frameworks" for a forthcoming publication by Oxford University Press. At the state and local levels, Dr. Doerksen led in-service sessions for the Plum Borough School District and PMEA District 5 at Grove City College. He continues serving on the Board of Directors for the Three Rivers Young Peoples Orchestras and on the Teacher Advisory Committee for the Pittsburgh Youth Chorus. Dr. Doerksen also received the 2015 Citation of Excellence Award for Pennsylvania Music Educators Association's District 1.

Sr. Carole Riley, Professor of Music Education and Piano, submitted an article titled "Using Formative Spirituality to Develop Self-Awareness and Faith with Incarcerated and Adolescent Populations" to the Journal of Academic Perspectives for publication. Dr. Riley also serves on the board of the Clelian Heights School for Exceptional Children (Greensburg, PA), and as the Chair for the American Women Composers Competition of the Pennsylvania Music Teachers
Association. In addition, Dr. Riley provided a recent faculty in-service at the St. Francis De Sales Elementary School (Beckley, WV).

MUSICIANSHIP DEPARTMENT

Angel Annunciation for cello and piano, composed by Zvonimir Nagy, Assistant Professor of Composition, received a special mention in the 2016 Bruno Maderna International Composition Competition in Lviv, Ukraine. The competition took place this past summer. The piece was selected for the final round along with 10 other compositions taken from the larger pool of composers worldwide. The piece was performed by Nataliya Martynova (piano) and Denys Lytvynenko (cello) at the Lviv Philharmonic Hall in July 2016. As a part of the recognition, the piece will be released on the upcoming CD featuring other awarded compositions and published by the Italian publisher, Aldebaran Editions. Angel Annunciation was inspired by writings of the French philosopher Jean-François Lyotard (1924–1998): “... it is an angel. It announces nothing; it is in itself an annunciation.” The piece was dedicated in memory of Nagy’s first composition teacher, Marko Ruždjak (1946–2012).

On the heels of receiving the Presidential Award for Teaching Excellence in September 2015, Dr. Jessica Wiskus, Professor of Music, has been awarded a fellowship at the Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies (in Denmark) from February 2017 through July 2018, where she will work on a project exploring the relationship between rhythm and ethics.

CONTEMPORARY MUSIC MEDIA AND JAZZ

Bill Purse, Chair of Contemporary Music Media and Jazz and Professor of Music Technology and Guitar, recently completed and published a DVD master class with pianist Barbara Nissman entitled Franz Liszt: Portrait of the Man & His Masterwork. It is an in-depth study of the Sonata in B Minor, and features the voices of well-known musicians such as Harry Connick, Jr., Don Henley, Manfred Honeck, Billy Joel, and many more. The DVD is available for purchase at threeorangesrecordings.com.

Paul Thompson, Artist in Residence, and Tom Wendt, Adjunct Professor of Percussion have been very active in high-profile local jazz. Both had the honor of playing on the legendary jazz saxophonist Phil Woods’ final concert at the Manchester Craftsmen’s Guild (MCG). More recently, both performed on concerts featuring the NEA Jazz Master Hubert Laws and singer Michael Feinstein, respectively, both also at MCG.

PERFORMANCE DEPARTMENT

Charles Stegeman, Professor of Violin, organized and participated in two summer music festivals—Buzzard’s Bay MusicFest (Massachusetts) and the Sunflower Music Festival (Kansas). Both festivals were founded by Stegeman and celebrated 30th and 20th anniversaries this year, respectively. In addition, he served as concertmaster of the Berkshire Opera Festival’s inaugural season, which received rave reviews, and he will again participate next year.

Guenko Guechev, Associate Professor of Voice, was master class faculty at the “Fiorenza Cossotto Festival” in Beijing May 5–17, 2016. The festival included master classes at the Beijing Central Conservatory of Music and Beijing Normal University, and Guechev taught advanced singers from both schools jointly. He was also a judge at the Fiorenza Cossotto Competition, alongside the opera diva Fiorenza Cossotto, Professor Shuzhen Guo (Director of the Opera Department of the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing), and Professor Nicoletta Conti from the G. Rossini Conservatory in Bologna, Italy. The winner of the competition was awarded a full scholarship to attend the Bologna International Opera Academy in July in Bologna, Italy.