

TEMPO

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TEMPO

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Connecting to the Community *with Music*

Duquesne Chamber Orchestra Poised for Run-Out Concerts

This issue: Duquesne at the GRAMMYS

| City Music Center, Pittsburgh Honor Joe Negri at Guitar and Bass Workshop

| Marguerite DePhillips Dougherty Voice Competition



FROM THE DEAN

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our latest edition of TEMPO. In this issue, you'll find examples of the many exciting achievements of our faculty, students, and alumni, as well as exciting news on the extraordinary generosity of loyal friends of this School and of music and the arts in Pittsburgh, Western Pennsylvania, and beyond.

It is both humbling and inspiring to be in a community with so many passionate, hard-working, and highly-successful artists, teachers, and scholars. We continue to expand upon and strengthen the opportunities provided our degree-seeking students—both within our School and with campus and community partners: within our curricula, in career preparation and professional development, and in engagement with our community. We are ensuring too, that campus-wide, non-degree-seeking music students, faculty, and staff know that they have a place within our School and its offerings. After all, Einstein isn't the only scientist who embraces the value of music.

In all of this work, we are guided by our new University Strategic Plan (2018–23): Reimagining Duquesne's Spiritan Legacy for a New Era. Change is scary; it is also exciting. As we look towards the next decade, we recognize that

excellence, relevance, sustainability, appeal, and agility are all essential to our future successes in our quickly-evolving world. As such, we are expanding, retracting, and re-designing our offerings to meet the avocational and vocational desires and needs of our students and the communities in which they will live and work.

I invite all of you to play an integral role in our future. Your past experiences—our heritage—enrich who we are today and inspire us as we move forward. In these past months, we have met with alumni and friends to hear your thoughts. More gatherings are being confirmed for the coming months and I hope each of you will participate.

As always, I would welcome hearing from you. And, if you have not visited campus recently, I hope you will plan a visit to see us again soon. We would love to welcome you back to YOUR school.

Seth Beckman, D.A.
Dean and Professor

“IF I WERE NOT A PHYSICIST,
I WOULD PROBABLY BE A
MUSICIAN. I OFTEN THINK IN
MUSIC. I LIVE MY DAYDREAMS
IN MUSIC. I SEE MY LIFE IN
TERMS OF MUSIC.”
— ALBERT EINSTEIN

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TABLE OF CONTENTS



New Maymester Program “Musica Roma”.....4
 City Music Center Offers Summer Music Workshops.....5
 Duquesne at the GRAMMYS.....6
 Alumna Awarded First Violin Position.....7
 Duquesne Graduates’ Band, ‘Starship Mantis’ Releases New Album....8
 Marguerite DePhillips Dougherty Voice Competition.....10
 Duquesne’s ‘Mic Drop’ A Capella Vocal Ensemble
 Off to an Impressive Start.....11
 Connecting to the Community with Music:
 Duquesne Chamber Orchestra Poised for Run-Out Concerts.....12
 Trumpet Ensemble Invited to Perform at
 International Trumpet Guild Conference.....14
 International Student Success Stories.....15
 Pep Band Crowdfunding Campaign Extremely Successful.....16
 Visiting Professor, Dr. Paul Miller, Earns Tenure-Track Position.....17
 City Music Center, Pittsburgh Honors Joe Negri
 at Guitar and Bass Workshop.....18
 Alumni News.....20
 Bluff Series Continues to Captivate Audiences.....22

New Maymester Program, ‘Musica Roma’

The Mary Pappert School of Music (MPSOM) launched the Musica Roma Maymester program in collaboration with the Office of International Programs and the Duquesne University Italian campus. This music-focused study abroad program took students to Italy for a month to experience the country’s music, ancient history, modern art, and culture. Fifteen MPSOM students, led by Assistant Professor of Musicianship Joseph Sheehan, were welcomed to Duquesne’s Italian campus by its Director Michael Wright, Assistant Director Alana Sacriponte, and the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth.

During the Maymester, students completed three academic courses. *The Artistic Imagination in Italian Music* integrated experiential activities in music, including attending performances and touring music sites, with collaborative research projects. Students explored, on foot, many important sites of the Ancient Roman Empire in *Caput Mundi: Rome as Center of a Diverse World*. The last course, *Modern Art in Rome*, juxtaposed visits to contemporary art museums with walking tours of graffiti-rich neighborhoods.

In Rome, students went on numerous walking tours within the city, attended jazz and folk concerts, studied privately with faculty from the Conservatorio Santa Cecilia, and performed a final concert on campus.

Students also traveled to Florence for a musical tour of the city and gave a performance at the Cappella Demidoff with students from Loyola University of Chicago.

A longer excursion took students to Venice, visiting the city’s musical landmarks and attending performances of *The Four Seasons* and *La Traviata* at the historic Teatro La Fenice. Stops also included Cremona to visit the Violin Museum, with a live demonstration of a Stradivarius violin and then to Busseto, the hometown of Giuseppe Verdi. The adventure ended with a final excursion south to Naples, Capri, Herculaneum, and Pompeii. ■



City Music Center Offers Full-Day Summer Workshops for Young Musicians

This summer, City Music Center (CMC) is once again offering young musicians of all levels the opportunity to immerse themselves in music from jazz, brass, violins, and violas, to music technology while learning from Duquesne's esteemed faculty of professional musicians.

"You won't find anything like the Summer Music Series in the Pittsburgh area," Tom Carsecka, Director of Music Enrollment and Community Programs, said. "It is truly a unique full-day camp experience for students who love music and want to improve their skills with some of the best musicians in the world."

To register, or for more information about the program and rates, please visit duq.edu/CMCsummermusic.

Summer Jazz Experience

June 24–28 | 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Daily + Concerts

Kick-off your summer break with our Summer Jazz Experience. Participants enjoy making music with others in both big-band and small ensemble settings. Musicians entering grades 7–12 as well as college students, can have fun learning about and playing jazz, America's indigenous art music, in a relaxed and non-threatening environment with the best jazz musicians/educators in the Pittsburgh area!

Featuring Professor Mike Tomaro and fellow faculty members of the department of Jazz Studies.

Music Technology Summer Intensive

July 8–12 (Session 1: "Industry of Audio and Media")

9 a.m.–4 p.m. Daily

July 15–19 (Session 2: "Merging Sight and Sound")

9 a.m.–4 p.m. Daily

Learn principles of audio engineering, mixing/mastering, electronic music composition, and multimedia production. Study with top educators in state-of-the-art recording studios and media labs. This experience will bridge the gap between musical and technological training!

Featuring the faculty of the Music Technology department at Duquesne University and master classes with guest artists, producers, and clinicians including 5-time GRAMMY Award-winning engineer, Jay Dudt.

Steel City Brass Camp

July 22–26 | 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Daily

Open to brass musicians entering grades 7–12. Daily activities include guided warmups and exercises, studio classes specific to each instrument, small ensembles and chamber groups, master classes, and guest artists. Students work toward a final performance at the end of the week and will also have the opportunity to participate in a solo-artist competition with cash prizes and a featured performance slot in the final concert.

Improve and hone your performance skills this summer studying with members of the GRAMMY Award-winning Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra!

Violin & Viola Boot Camp - 3 Sessions Available!

July 29–August 2 | August 5–9 | August 12–16 |

9 a.m.–5 p.m. Daily

This program is open to violinists and violists entering grades 6–12 and college students looking to gain an extensive performance and practice experience equivalent to that of an entire school year! Included are group technique classes, master classes, and supervised practicing. Study with award-winning professors and world-class performers Charles Stegeman and Rachel Stegeman. ■

Overnight accommodations available for select camps.



Duquesne at the GRAMMYS

Mary Pappert School of Music alumnus, Jim Anderson (B.S. Music Education, 1973) brought home his second GRAMMY Award at last year's ceremony, held at Madison Square Garden in New York City.

Nominated alongside the likes of Kraftwerk, Anderson won the GRAMMY for Best Surround Sound Album for his work as Co-Producer and Mix Engineer on Jane Ira Bloom's album, *Early Americans*. The award was presented to Anderson, as well as Mastering Engineer Darcy Proper and artist Jane Ira Bloom by famed astrophysicist, Neil deGrasse Tyson at the afternoon ceremony. Anderson previously won a GRAMMY in the same category in 2013.

Anderson noted that he uses his Duquesne education every day in both his work as Professor at the Tisch School of the Arts at NYU and in his professional career, saying, "I am now in a position to give to my students the same high-level education that I received as a student at Duquesne."

In addition to Anderson's win, the Mary Pappert School of Music is proud of the nearly 20 members of its faculty, who, as part of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra (PSO), won two GRAMMY Awards for their recording of *Shostakovich: Symphony No. 5; Barber: Adagio*, conducted by PSO Music Director, Manfred Honeck. The awards were for Best Orchestral Performance and Best Engineered Album, Classical. ■



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Alumna Awarded First Violin Position

Wei Wei (A.D., 2012, 2010) has recently been awarded a first violin position with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, winning over many other violinists from other prestigious colleges, universities, and conservatories.

While at Duquesne, she studied primarily with Rachel Stegeman, with occasional lessons from Charles Stegeman. Charles noted, “She had several long lessons each week with Rachel in preparation for this audition. Obviously, it paid off, and she is going to go on to have a wonderful career in symphonic performance. Mary Pappert School of Music students work tirelessly to develop their skills, and by the time they leave Duquesne, they have the requisite talents to be competitive with graduates from any of the top conservatories in the world. Wei Wei has proven that once again.”

Wei Wei began her new position this past September. ■

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Duquesne Graduates' Band, 'Starship Mantis' Releases New Album



Founded in 2016 by Duquesne graduate Beni Rossman (B.M. Performance, 2015), Starship Mantis released a new album called *Trapped in the 9th Dimension*. With Rossman, the band includes saxophonist and vocalist Langston Kelly (B.M. Performance, 2011), guitarist Spencer Geer (B.M. Performance, 2014), percussionist Ross Antonich (B.M. Performance, 2016), and keyboardist Christopher Potter (B.M. Music Technology, 2017). Julz Powell, a recent graduate of the Berkeley College of Music, buttresses the Duquesne contingent on percussion.

From start to finish, the album took almost a year to design, compose, record, engineer, and produce. Assisted by multi-GRAMMY Award-winning Duquesne Adjunct Professor of Music Technology, Jay Dudd, the band recorded and mixed their album in Pittsburgh. According to Rossman, the band hopes to encourage “people to enjoy themselves in a mentally and physically stimulating way, while also maintaining the integrity and complexity of the music itself.”

With its crisp and imaginative melange of funk, pop, EDM, and jazz styles, along with its sharp and witty lyrics, *Trapped in the 9th Dimension* charts a metaphorical transformation of its band members into otherworldly beings. In this way, the essential message is one of empowerment and self-determination. Songs such as *Intergalactic Love* celebrate an endless search for cosmic adventure, while *Drop Your Color* reminds us of how difficult it is to overcome our own inherent prejudices towards others who look or behave differently.

In their live shows, the band wears flamboyant alien costumes and encourages the audience to do the same, promoting a vibrant and energetic atmosphere. Sartorial choices aside, their music exudes a maturity that bodes well both for the individual members of the band, and the group as a whole. Logging performances at major venues in Vermont, Ohio, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and New York City, Starship Mantis has been very much in demand in the regional concert circuit.

Its youngest member, keyboardist Chris Potter, described the taxing process of creating the album as equal parts performer and co-producer. Potter learned a valuable lesson about how easy it is to keep “fine tuning” in the mixing room, and how necessary it is to wrap things up and finalize myriad editing choices. At his home studio, Potter produced some of the overdubs with other band members, and then worked with Professor Dudd to integrate them into the final mix. In addition to his



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growing professional career in and around Pittsburgh, Potter currently brings his considerable skills directly to Duquesne students as a collaborative pianist working in the jazz studio of Kelley Krepin DeFade, Adjunct Professor of Voice.

The band’s album can be downloaded on major streaming services. The CD itself can be had at one of Starship Mantis’s live shows, which are listed on their web site (starshipmantis.com). ■

Marguerite DePhillips Dougherty Voice Competition

Last fall, fifteen Mary Pappert School of Music voice students competed for a chance to win one of three monetary awards at the Marguerite DePhillips Dougherty Voice Competition. The students, ranging from freshman through Artist Diploma, each performed one song of their choice for the evening's judge, opera star Raymond Very.

The winners included Brent Kimball, tenor (\$400 Graduate Award), Isabel Tarcson, soprano (\$400 Undergraduate Award), and Devin Barry, countertenor (\$200 Encouragement Award).

Marguerite DePhillips Dougherty was born in Pittsburgh in 1929. Her interest in music, particularly opera, began as a young woman while taking voice lessons inspired by a love of Puccini's *La Bohème* and *Madama Butterfly*. A subsequent grand tour of Europe and time spent living in North Africa cemented her commitment to all things beautiful and artistic. As an unsung patron of the arts, she quietly supported causes throughout her life, and at her death in 2015, she bequeathed a gift to Duquesne University's Mary Pappert School of Music to support programs that benefit students pursuing careers in music, especially opera.

Very, who is recognized for his roles with the Metropolitan Opera, San Francisco Opera, Houston Opera, and many others not only selected the three award winners, but spent time with each individual student, offering insight into their performance as well as suggestions for improvement.

In addition to the competition, the night's activities also featured the unveiling of an impressive piece of art by sculptor Felix de Weldon. Also part of the gift from Dougherty, the work is a bronze relief depicting the face of Jesus Christ and has been permanently installed in the PNC Recital Hall Lobby. ■



HER INTEREST IN
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BUTTERFLY*.





Duquesne's 'Mic Drop' A Capella Vocal Ensemble Off to an Impressive Start

Blake Mechtel (B.S. Music Education, class of 2020) founded the University's only official student-run a capella vocal ensemble, Mic Drop, in fall 2016. The group has already enjoyed surprising success both in and outside of Pittsburgh.

Most recently, Mic Drop performed for a Duquesne donors' brunch, at many sporting events, and during the Pittsburgh City tree lighting ceremony. At the New Kids on the Block festival at the University of Pittsburgh, Blake and his group sang along side three UPitt ensembles at the Oakland campus, moving Duquesne further into the regional spotlight. Mic Drop's 2018 Christmas concert in the PNC Hall was a great success, packing the space with many students, parents, and other curious listeners.

What does "Mic Drop" mean? As a dramatic signal of triumph after a successful performance, a singer sometimes drops the microphone on the ground. Students in Duquesne's Music Tech program will tell you that this action does not necessarily damage the microphone, provided it is of a certain type (A Shure SM58 works well, while a Neumann U87 would definitely not be a good choice). Former President Barack Obama dropped his microphone on Jimmy Fallon's Late Night Show in 2016, and again at his last White House Correspondents' Dinner, popularizing the act.

Mic Drop singers have also travelled to Rochester, NY where they made an outstanding debut at the prestigious International Championship of Collegiate A Capella (ICCA)

competition. This nationwide event attracts hundreds of college groups every year. Not only was one of their songs a surprise nominee for best arrangement, but also two of their singers (Gabrielle Garcia and Mechtel) were nominated for best soloist. In February 2019, Mic Drop returned to the ICCA to compete with some of the best a capella groups from the United States.

Not content merely to perform while holding (or dropping) microphones, Mechtel and his group have reached out to the community as well, leading educational workshops at Flint Hill Preparatory School and Thomas Jefferson High School.

Representing a diverse swath of students across the campus, Mic Drop boasts strong membership from the Mary Pappert School of Music as well as the Schools of Pharmacy, Nursing, and Education, and others. With such strength in diversity, Mic Drop has already proven to be a highly effective tool for outreach, benefitting the entire University.

Mic Drop's crowdfunding campaign raised over \$1000 this year to help offset expenses related to travelling and educating. Mechtel and the Mic Drop singers hope to continue arranging, inventing, entertaining, and educating both within Duquesne's tightly-woven community, and the larger Allegheny region. With so much success in so little time, they seem to be off to a roaring start. ■

Connecting to the Community

Duquesne Chamber Orchestra Poised for Run-Out Concerts



Leah Wallace, Supervisor of the Musician Volunteer Program at UPMC Hillman Cancer Center, brings musically-inclined volunteers to provide cheer and comfort to patients and their families. For more information about the program or to complete a “Volunteer” application visit the link below and select “UPMC Hillman Cancer Center.” hillman.upmc.com/difference/supporting

Music echoed through the multi-story lobby and into many patient treatment rooms throughout UPMC Hillman Cancer Center last October, as the Duquesne Chamber Orchestra (DCO) played to an audience that was mostly unseen.

The DCO run-out concert for UPMC Hillman patients, staff, and visitors included Beethoven’s *Symphony No. 2* and Elgar’s *Serenade for Strings* and was a very unique and poignant opportunity for the newly formed ensemble.

“We did not actually see the majority of our audience, as they were undergoing chemotherapy and other cancer treatments, but wanted to give the patients a small glimpse of the joy and beauty that makes Elgar and Beethoven’s music so special to us,” said Director of Orchestral Activities at the Mary Pappert School of Music, Daniel Meyer.

Meyer actively seeks performance opportunities in non-traditional concert settings like the one at UPMC Hillman in the Shadyside neighborhood of Pittsburgh. This performance had marked only the second time that the small ensemble played in the space, but it likely won’t be the last, as evidenced by the doctors and nurses who went out of their way to come and thank the musicians for their soothing sounds.

“We knew that our music-making had a deep and lasting impact on the patients,” said Meyer.

Leah Wallace, an oncology nurse and DCO liaison for performances at the facility was impressed with the musical talent of the group. “Your students are talented beyond words,” she stated to Meyer. “We were privileged to have the chance to listen to a class-act of music fill our halls from (literally) the floor to the ceiling. I have never seen people stop in their tracks upon entering Hillman to enjoy a small minute of their busy, sometimes scary day. I consider this a huge compliment to you and your orchestra.”

The DCO is a subset of the larger Duquesne Symphony Orchestra, both under the baton of Meyer. Many of the same full orchestra players perform the DCO’s run-out concerts. The group’s versatility of learning a great deal of repertoire specific to the chamber orchestra in a very short time period, combined with its sheer portability with 30 members at maximum instrumentation, makes the DCO ideal for smaller, more intimate performances within the community.

In the coming years, the DCO aims to do more community performances and travel to local high schools to perform for students. For more information on when and where DCO and all of the other Mary Pappert School of Music ensembles will be performing, please visit duq.edu/MusicEvents. ■

with Music

“WE KNEW
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THE PATIENTS...”

Trumpet Ensemble Invited to Perform at International Trumpet Guild Conference



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DUQUENSE'S
TRUMPET
STUDENTS HAD
BEEN INVITED TO
PERFORM AT THIS
PRESTIGIOUS
EVENT.

The Duquesne University Trumpet Ensemble was invited to perform at the 2018 International Trumpet Guild (ITG) Conference, held in San Antonio, Texas.

The ensemble, comprised of eight Duquesne trumpet players, performed under the direction of Chad Winkler, Adjunct Professor of Trumpet and member of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. Students who performed included:

Amy Bertsch	Alyssa Lloyd
Joe Beaver	Zack DeLuise
Bobby Jaruslic	Mikayla Justen
Mason Shay	Kevin Skinkis

This marked the first time that Duquesne's trumpet students had been invited to perform at this prestigious event. In order to prepare and help offset travel costs, the students launched a crowdfunding campaign through GoFundMe, raising over \$1,800 in total.

The ensemble will once again be representing Duquesne at the 2019 ITG Conference, to be held in Miami in July. They have just concluded a second crowdfunding campaign, raising nearly \$1,500 to help with this year's event.

This year, participating students include Joe Beaver, Bobby Jaruslic, Kevin Skinkis, Matt Piato, Matt Eisenreich, Ryan Fulton, Abby Iksic, Mikki Cersosimo, Zach DeLuise, Mike Zech, and Thomas Houghton, III. ■

Student Success Stories Abroad

Student Wins International Festival Competition

Jhoser Salazar Ramirez (A.D. Performance, 2019), recently took first place at the International Clarinet Competition of the Festival Internacional de Clarinete de Monterrey held in Monterrey, Mexico.

After receiving an undergraduate and master's degree in his home country of Colombia and attending the Conservatoire Jean-Philippe Rameau in Paris, Ramirez enrolled at Duquesne for a very specific reason: "I wanted to focus all of my energies on performance," stated Ramirez.

Ramirez studied under the tutelage of Duquesne's Ron Samuels, who is a clarinetist in the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. Ramirez had met Samuels in Columbia five years prior and was the big draw for him coming to Duquesne.

"He's phenomenal. I thought to myself, if I go abroad, that's the guy I want to study with," said Ramirez. "And that didn't change. I always wanted to come here (to Duquesne). He means a lot for me now and I know he will in the future."

The competition was adjudicated by a prestigious panel of musicians including Pascual Martinez Fortes of the

New York Philharmonic, Marie-B Barriere of the Orchestra Philharmonique de Monte Carlo, and Giovanni Punzi of the Copenhagen Philharmonic.

Ramirez was awarded a professional Buffet Crampon Tradition clarinet, along with some accessories.

In addition to his goal of playing the clarinet in an orchestra, Jhoser wants to teach music back in Colombia. "I want to help people like me five years ago who are looking to improve."

Since graduation from Duquesne, Jhoser will be pursuing a D.M.A., a Doctor of Musical Arts, at the University of Houston. ■



Cellist Wraps Up Six Weeks in London at City Music Foundation Summer Program

Cellist Abner Jairo Ortiz Garcia (M.M. Performance, 2019), spent six weeks of recitals and workshops with the City Music Foundation (CMF) Summer Program in London.

Garcia was selected as the CMF Mexican International Scholar in partnership with Anglo Arts, a member of the Anglo Mexican Foundation.

While in London, Garcia gave public recitals at the Day of Music at St. Bart's Hospital; the Victoria and Albert Museum, in connection with the

Frida Kahlo exhibition there; the CMF's Summer Residency at The Wallace Collection; and All Saints Tooting Church.

Garcia also participated in professional development workshops, met with artistic and business mentors, received lessons from renowned cellist Mats Lidström, and attended various concerts featuring distinguished artists. And if his schedule wasn't full enough, he had the opportunity to participate in a side-by-side workshop with Les Siècles, a leading period-instrument ensemble.

Funding from the Duquesne Musical Associates program helped to support Garcia's travel expenses in London. ■

Pep Band Crowdfunding Campaign Extremely Successful



The Duquesne University Pep Band launched its first-ever crowdfunding campaign, to great success.

Initially setting out to raise \$1,500 toward new instruments, instrument repair, travel, and related expenses, that goal was met within first 48 hours of the campaign. To that end, they announced a lofty stretch goal of \$5,000, which they also ended up eclipsing, ending with a grand total of \$5,700 from 77 individual donors.

Having raised more money than expected, the Pep Band used the funds to purchase a full marching drumline for parades and other performance scenarios.

Pep Band Director, Mike Dorato said, “The outpouring of generosity has been quite overwhelming, and speaking on behalf of the band, we are so thankful and excited! We look forward to more performance opportunities in the coming year!” ■

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Visiting Professor, Dr. Paul Miller, Earns Tenure-Track Position

A native of Poughkeepsie, New York, Paul Miller took on a more vital role at the Mary Pappert School of Music this academic year, moving from Visiting Assistant Professor to Assistant Professor of Musicianship. Miller serves principally in the role of a music theory pedagogue, where he coordinates freshman theory and aural skills and leads graduate classes in improvisation and 18th century counterpoint.

Miller's many years of teaching at the Eastman School of Music, Temple University, the University of Colorado in Boulder, and Cornell University prepared him for this new role. His research and publications are split between European modernist music of the last 60 years and baroque performance practice and has been published in *Perspectives of New Music*, *Early Music*, *Opera Quarterly*, *Music and Letters*, and elsewhere.

Miller directs the School's nascent baroque period performing group, The Duke's Music. This ad-hoc ensemble, which performs

exclusively on period baroque instruments, is structured as a mentoring experience with advanced students partnering with professionals in Pittsburgh including members of the city's celebrated Chatham Baroque. Offering two full-length concerts a year, it is the only opportunity of its kind in the Allegheny region.

Recently, Miller built a Eurorack-style modular electronic synthesizer. This project attracted the interest of Melikhan Tanyeri, Assistant Professor of Biomedical Engineering, and the two are now working together to construct another synthesizer for use both at the Mary Pappert School and as a pedagogical tool for advanced signal processing and analysis in Duquesne's core engineering sequence.

In what little spare time he has left, Miller enjoys spending time with his wife, Caron Daley, Director of Choral Activities, and their son, Everett Hudson Miller, who was born a native Pittsburgh "Yinzer" in September 2018. ■

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City Music Center, Pittsburgh Honors Joe Negri at Guitar and Bass Workshop

The City Music Center (CMC) recently paid tribute to Pittsburgh jazz guitar legend Joe Negri during its guitar and bass workshop. At 92, Negri—who was a fixture on Mister Rogers' Neighborhood—marked his 45th year as an Adjunct Jazz Guitar Professor at the Mary Pappert School of Music, where he founded the jazz guitar department in 1973.

City of Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto shook Negri's hand and read a special proclamation declaring July 21 "Guitar Day with Joe Negri" in Pittsburgh.

As part of the CMC's "Guitar Day with Joe Negri" event, Negri taught a master class that covered technical mastery, stylistic coaching, improvisation, and live performance.

Guitarist Bill Purse, Chair of Contemporary Music Media and Jazz at the Mary Pappert School of Music, was one of Negri's first students in the jazz guitar department. "To hear Joe play today? He's really like a fine wine that just gets better and better. And Joe is probably one of the greatest technicians for teaching and pedagogy," said Purse, who succeeded Negri as Chair of the program. "Joe still has a certain number of students that he wants to teach, and they all want to study with him!"

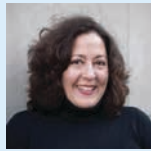
Considered an advocate for Pittsburgh area guitarists, Negri has taught hundreds of students one-on-one during his more than four decades at the Mary Pappert School of Music. As a guitarist, he has appeared with renowned artists including Tony Bennett, Andy Williams, Yo-Yo Ma, Itzhak Pearlman, John Williams, both Wynton and Branford Marsalis, and Michael Feinstein, who featured Negri on his 2010 album, *Fly Me to the Moon*. A versatile and talented musician, Negri also plays the piano, bass, banjo, and mandolin and has written several documentary film scores as a composer. ■

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Alumni News

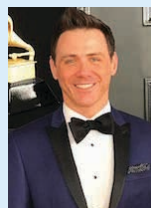
1990s



Dr. Rosemarie Piccioni (M.M. Education, 1991, B.S. Music Education, 1989)

was recently appointed as Associate Provost, Online Education for the ArtCenter College of Design. Piccioni has also been instrumental in various initiatives and innovative educational programs for the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Walt Disney Company, and Carnegie Hall.

Fr. Matthew S. Ernest, S.T.D. (B.M. Performance, 1998) recently published two articles: "Lasting Penitential Consequences In the Late Fifth And Early Sixth Century Gallican Church: Investigations And Current Applications." [Ephemerides Liturgicae 131 (2017): 257-273] and "The Development of the Vigil for the Deceased in the Order of Christian Funerals (USA)" [1969-1989, in Ecclesia Orans, the liturgical journal of the Pontifical Liturgical Institute of Sant' Anselmo in Rome.]



Dr. Donald J. McKinney (B.S. Music Education, 1999), Director of Bands at the University of Colorado Boulder,

was nominated for a GRAMMY Award for his work on *John Williams: At the Movies*, an album for the Dallas Winds. In addition, McKinney has also been featured on the cover of *The Instrumentalist*, a prominent journal for instrumental music educators.

2000s



Darryl Yokley (B.M. Performance, 2004), saxophonist, recently released a jazz album

called *Pictures at an African Exhibition* and has received favorable reviews from the *New York Times* and *Downbeat Magazine*, and the album was a top 10 jazz album on BandCamp the month it was released. Yokley continues to enjoy an active career performing nationally and internationally, as well as maintaining an active career as an educator.



Gretchen Chardos Benner, LMSW, MT-BC (B.S. Music Therapy & B.M.

Performance, 2007) founded and runs Piedmont Music Therapy, LLC (PMT), a private practice servicing the Carolinas. In early 2018, PMT became a Certification Board for Music Therapists and has been able to expand service offerings beyond music therapy and music instruction to the Greater Charlotte Area by also supporting the educational growth of music therapists. Training courses so far have covered topics such as diversified treatment approaches, researched practices, and ethical considerations.



Nicholas Will (B.M. Performance, 2008) has been appointed Director of Liturgical Music

at the Pontifical North American College, Rome. There, he will oversee all musical activity, serve as primary organist, conduct the 45-voice Seminary Choir, and offer musical instruction to the seminarians. Will leaves his position of Director of Music & Liturgy at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Carnegie, Pennsylvania and will take a leave of absence from his position of Coordinator of the Sacred Music Program at Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio.

2010s

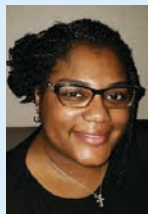


Matthew Pickart (M.M. Performance, 2010) recently accepted a faculty position at the Community

Music School of Webster University. He is also responsible for the creation of the Clazz International Music Festival in Arcidosso, Italy, a three and a half week summer educational program incorporating both internationally recognized jazz and classical faculty including GRAMMY Award winners, top crossover artists, soloists, and leading orchestral players.

At the Mary Pappert School of Music, we are immensely proud of our ever-growing alumni community. Our students have great role models in our alumni: highly successful professionals who have chosen careers throughout the varied disciplines of music, as well as in business, medicine, and elsewhere.

To learn more about the services we provide to our alumni, and to stay up-to-date with what our alumni are doing, please visit duq.edu/MusicAlumni.



Jayla Griggs (M.M. Music Education, 2017; B.S. Music Education, 2015) recently began teaching at

Community College of Allegheny County - South Campus as an Adjunct Music Professor. She also gives private voice and piano lessons. Additionally, Griggs is the Music Director and organist at Central Baptist Church in the Hill District. A lifelong pursuer of education and music, Griggs anticipates obtaining a doctoral degree in the next few years.



Chris Molinari (M.Ed. Clinical Mental Health Counseling 2017, B.M. Music Performance

2014) released *Electric Yoga Class* using the electric guitar as the primary instrument in forming ambient and post-rock soundscapes. It is regularly used by yoga instructors for their classes and has an international listenership. His upcoming release, *Ramayana EP*, is a cinematic dark ambient aural collage depicting scenes from one of the world's oldest and longest epic poems, the Ramayana.

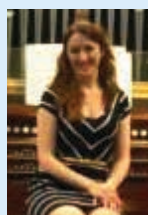
Lydia Sewell (M.M. Performance, 2017) recently completed a tour of China, beginning in Beijing and travelling through Shanghai, Hangzhou, Wuxi, and Shenzhen in a series of "offline events" offered through online music conservatory Discover Melody. She is currently an Associate Member of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago and has played with the Pittsburgh Ballet, Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra, Wheeling Symphony, Johnstown Symphony, and Westmoreland Symphony Orchestras.



Clayton Heath (M.M. Performance, 2018) has recently worked as the Adjunct Lecturer of Low Brass at

Frostburg State University. In Pittsburgh, Heath is a member of The Brass Roots and serves as their Director of Communications. Additionally, he is an active substitute with the River City Brass Band and Beauty Slap, is in a one-year trial with Johnstown Symphony Orchestra and is a member of the funk-brass band Run the Meat. Beyond his performances and teaching, Heath is producing Iron City Incline, a podcast for Pittsburgh's music and arts scene celebrating the innovators who are contributing to the progression of Pittsburgh's arts industry.

David Sykut (B.M. Music Technology, 2001), currently an Adjunct Professor of Music Technology for the Community College of Allegheny County and freelance theatrical sound designer, has accepted the position of Production Manager for MCG Jazz, Pittsburgh's GRAMMY Award-winning venue and record label dedicated to the preservation and education of jazz.



Emily Lapisardi (M.M. Sacred Music, 2016) was recently appointed Director of Musical Activities

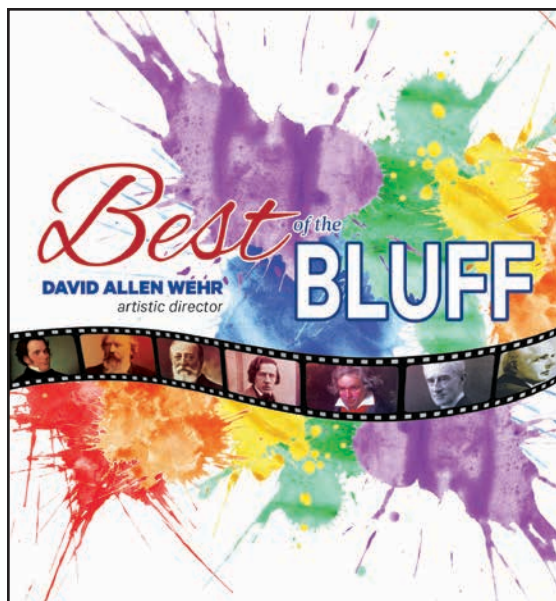
for the Catholic Chapel at the United States Military Academy (West Point, New York). She will direct the Catholic Cadet, Family, and Children's Choirs both at the chapel and for touring engagements and play for all Catholic liturgies at West Point, including weekend Masses, weddings, and funerals. Additionally, she will assist with weddings and funerals at the Protestant Cadet Chapel as needed, playing the largest church organ in the world.

In Memoriam

Gabe D'Abruzzo

(B.M. Performance, 1997)

Bluff Series Continues to Captivate Audiences



The 2018–19 academic year has been another successful year for David Allen Wehr and his *Bluff Series*. This past year’s theme of Russian music, dubbed *Moscow on the Bluff*, has been one of the most successful, certainly in terms of the level of extraordinary musicianship, but also in terms of audience attendance. Many of the five concerts in the series were sold out, while the others were at near-capacity.

This season, Wehr polled the audience members, asking them to submit their favorite pieces that have been performed over the past 16 seasons. (Incidentally, that list comprises nearly 300 individual works!) For both the 2019–20 and 2020–21 seasons, he intends to use these audience suggestions as a basis upon which to present *Best of the Bluff*, a de facto “greatest hits” compilation of music. As always, each concert will feature many of the Mary Pappert School of Music’s extremely talented faculty, as well as internationally-known musicians and guest artists.

Best of the Bluff will kick off on Sunday, July 28 at 3:00 p.m. and will feature jazz pianist Joe Utterback, vocalist Kelley Krepin DeFade, Mike Tomaro on saxophone, and Bill Purse on bass guitar for *Blues and Ballads at the Movies*. Wehr will serve as the “opening act” with classical favorites by Beethoven, Chopin, and Schumann. Repertoire will include Beethoven’s *Pathétique* and *Moonlight* piano sonatas, as well as sonatas for cello and piano, Brahms’ string sextets, Fauré’s “Dolly” Suite, and Saint-Saëns’ *Carnival of the Animals* with Duquesne President, Ken Gormley, as narrator.

“As in past seasons, I am very grateful to our loyal audience, who have shared with my colleagues and me our adventures through music both familiar and new. I was delighted with the robust response to our audience poll and hope that there will be something for everyone in the coming two seasons.”

Full programming and personnel for *Best of the Bluff* with season ticket renewals is now available. For more information, visit duq.edu/BluffSeries. ■

“AS IN PAST SEASONS, I AM VERY GRATEFUL TO OUR LOYAL AUDIENCE...”



ABOUT DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY AND THE MARY PAPPERT SCHOOL OF MUSIC

A nationally-ranked Catholic university situated in the heart of Pittsburgh, PA, Duquesne is recognized for its outstanding academic and research programs. Founded 140 years ago by the Congregation of the Holy Spirit, Duquesne is the only Spiritan institution of higher education in the United States.

For the 10th consecutive year, Duquesne was ranked among *U.S. News and World Report's* top tier of schools, rising four spots to No. 120 in the 2018 edition of the Best Colleges rankings. The university is also tied for the 12th spot among national Catholic institutions. Duquesne also is recognized as one of the nation's top schools for providing value and return on investment.

Duquesne University's 9,500 students choose from 80 undergraduate majors and

90 graduate programs in the schools of business, education, health sciences, law, liberal arts, music, natural and environmental sciences, nursing, and pharmacy. The University also offers programs in biomedical engineering.

Duquesne's Mary Pappert School of Music has a well-earned reputation as a national leader in performance, music education, music therapy, music technology, and sacred music. The University's mission is to serve God by serving students, and the Mary Pappert School of Music does the utmost to ensure that its students benefit from the finest instruction and the best academic resources.

Among the dedicated teachers and scholars who make up the faculty of the music school are members of the GRAMMY

Award-winning Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, the Pittsburgh Jazz Orchestra, and other world-renowned artists who are acclaimed performers of opera, jazz, and sacred music. Our students have access to state-of-the-art music technology and other learning resources, including 68 Steinway pianos. Duquesne is, in fact, the first Catholic University in the world to be numbered among an elite group of "All-Steinway" schools.

The Mary Pappert School of Music is also home to two first-rate concert venues: PNC Recital Hall, an intimate 250-seat auditorium, and the Dr. Thomas D. Pappert Center for Performance and Innovation, an acoustically superb, technologically-sophisticated space for recording and performing.


Learn more at duq.edu/music. ■

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