



BAYLOR

School of Music

# *Semper Pro Musica*

## ***December 2015 Newsletter***



### **Welcome**

As I write this introduction to the December 2015 edition of our *Semper Pro Musica* e-newsletter, the School of Music is preparing for this Christmas season's lineup of concerts. This annual tradition includes *Christmas at Baylor* (December 3 and 4 in Jones Concert Hall) and The Chamber Singers *Carols of Christmas* (December 6, 7, and 8 in Armstrong Browning Library). These last concerts of the fall semester are the culmination of an extremely busy fifteen weeks of activity, during which the School of Music presented and/or hosted more than 175 concerts, recitals, and master classes.

In addition to all of this activity, the Waco Symphony

Orchestra hosted Yo-Yo Ma, one of the truly great internationally recognized figures in all of music. His performance of the Dvořák *Concerto for Cello and Orchestra in B minor*, Op. 104, will be remembered as one of the most important cultural events to take place in Waco for decades to come. Waco and Baylor benefit from the close and enduring connections that exist between the Waco Symphony and the Baylor School of Music. Of the orchestra's 86 members, 43 members have direct ties to the School of Music, including 30 members and interns who are current students and 13 who serve as faculty members of the School of Music. Pictured here with Yo-Yo Ma are four of Baylor's music students: Jake Hale (clarinet), Brittany Bonner (oboe), Allison Jayroe (flute), and Sarah Fluker (bassoon).



May you know peace and joy this Christmas Season!

Musically yours,  
Gary Mortenson, Dean

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## Our Students



In recent years, faculty-led student trips from the School of Music's **Church Music Program** have traveled all over the world to perform and to interact with thousands of young people. In **2015**, a group of 43 traveled to El Salvador and shared music with hundreds in churches, schools, and at a homeless shelter, where they also served a meal. Later, the group purchased a stove for the shelter, so they would no longer have to cook over an open fire.

They also participated in the beatification ceremony for Archbishop Óscar Romero. In **2014**, a group of 30 taught ecumenical church music workshops in Malaysia, where they performed concerts in churches, schools, and at a national youth event attended by thousands of teenagers. In **2013** and **2011**, two different groups of 30 and 10, respectively, traveled to Kenya, where they completed service projects and performed for residents of orphanages, schools, and homes for handicapped children. In **2012**, a Baylor Church Music group traveled to Malaysia, where they taught worship leadership skills to church musicians and provided teaching personnel for an ecumenical church music training event in the capital city of Kota Kinabalu.

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**Our Voice Students** represented the School of Music extremely well at the November 2015 National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) Texoma Regional Competition. In the ten collegiate divisions, Baylor had a large number of semifinalists and finalists drawn from 572 competing students. Our finalists were as follows:

### **Freshman Men**

Shafer Wilkerson (3rd place)  
Damon Duckett (4th place)

### **Sophomore Women**

Heather Boswell (1st place)  
Sarah Holevinski (4th place)  
Rebecca Bradley (5th place)

### **Graduate Women**

Rachel Goldberg (3rd place)  
Emily Thomasson (5th place)

### **Graduate Men**

Andrew Harper (2nd place)

Additionally, there is an advanced competition for emerging professional singers called the Edward Baird Singer of the Year Competition. Baylor graduate Sarah Harper (MM in Voice, 2015) won 2nd

place. Deborah Williamson (Baylor voice faculty) served as chair for the Singer of the Year Competition. Professor Williamson had previously served two successful terms as Regional Governor of NATS. Randall Umstead (Baylor voice faculty) serves as the Treasurer/Registrar for the Texoma Region of NATS and as the current President and on the Board of Control of the Dallas / Forth Worth Chapter.

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The **Baylor Symphony Orchestra** and **Baylor Wind Ensemble** have been named finalists, in their respective categories, for *The American Prize*, a series of national competitions in the performing arts. The winners of these competitions will be chosen in early 2016. Stephen Heyde is the conductor of the Baylor Symphony Orchestra, and Eric Wilson is the conductor of the Baylor Wind Ensemble. Baylor University was the *only* institution of higher learning in the United States to have finalists in both divisions. The competitions for *The American Prize* are open to all U.S. citizens, whether living in this country or abroad, and to others currently living, working, and/or studying in the United States, its protectorates, and territories. To learn more about The American Prize, visit: [www.theamericanprize.org](http://www.theamericanprize.org)

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**Coloratura Winds**, a student woodwind quintet coached by School of Music flute professor Francesca Arnone, participated at the state level of the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) Young Artist Chamber Division Competition. Out of twelve groups, Coloratura Winds was chosen as the winner and will represent Texas in the southern regional competition in January in Houston. The members of the quintet are **Jillian Storey** (second year MM, flute), **Wolfgang Draving** (junior mechanical engineering, oboe), **Iván Hernández** (second year MM, clarinet), **Sarah Fluker** (second year MM, bassoon), and **Lindsay Smith** (second year MM, horn). They performed music by Taffanel, Ligeti, and Bozza.



**Clara Boyett** and **Sunghum Kim**, master's students in piano pedagogy and performance, have research posters selected for presentation at the national conference of the Music Teachers National Association in San Antonio in April 2016. Boyett is presenting a research poster entitled "Making the Hours Count: Getting the Most Out of Your Practice Time," and Kim is presenting a research poster entitled "Developing a Healthy Mindset in Young Pianists."

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**Joseph Duque**, a violin student of Eka Gogishashvili, has been selected from a large pool of candidates to participate in the 2015 New York String Orchestra Seminar, overseen by the Mannes College of Music in New York City. The NY String Orchestra Seminar provides full scholarships to select students who prepare concerts for presentation in Carnegie Hall. Soloists with the student orchestra will include Leon Fleisher on piano and Jinjoo Cho on violin. Students will

attend chamber music workshops with some of the country's most celebrated artists. Seminar participants are introduced to a musical philosophy that emphasizes self-expression beyond technical mastery. To learn more about this December 2015 NYC event, visit: [www.newschool.edu/mannes/new-york-string-orchestra-seminar/](http://www.newschool.edu/mannes/new-york-string-orchestra-seminar/)

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**Ricardo Gómez** was soloist in July with the Orquesta Sinfónica de Córdoba in the Argentinian premiere of Manuel Ponce's *Violin Concerto*. Stephen Heyde, Mary Franks Thompson Professor of Orchestral Studies, was the guest conductor. Gómez also soloed in September with the Temple Symphony (TX) in a performance of Johann Sebastian Bach's *Violin Concerto in A minor*. Ricardo is a student of Professor Bruce Berg.

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**Aaron Houston**, winner of the 2014-15 Baylor Composition Competition, and **Alexander Kostadinov**, winner of the 2014-15 Baylor Concerto Competition, were featured on the November 12 concert of the Baylor Symphony Orchestra. Houston, a composition student of Scott McAllister, saw his work *Macallai* performed to enthusiastic audience applause. *Macallai* is the Irish word for "Echoes" and, as such, Houston's music featured melodies that echoed throughout the ensemble, swirling and then fading from one moment to the next. Kostadinov, a student of Krassimira Jordan, performed *Piano Concerto No. 1 in B-flat minor* by Tchaikovsky. Alexander was brilliant in both his technical and lyrical interpretations of Tchaikovsky's masterpiece.

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## Our Faculty

**Eka Gogichashvili** (Associate Professor of Violin) and **Kae Hosoda-Ayer** (Assistant Professor of Piano) are proud to announce the release of their new CD: *Violin Works of Erwin Schulhoff*. In recent years, Professor Gogichashvili has done extensive research on the music of Holocaust victim composers. A Czech pianist, composer, conductor, and writer, Schulhoff spent his last years in the Wülzburg concentration camp. His nearly 200 compositions included works for piano, chamber music, symphonies, concertos, songs, operas, and ballets. The CD was produced by MSR Classics and includes four major works by Schulhoff. For more information on the CD release, visit: [www.msrgd.com/catalog/cd/MS1560](http://www.msrgd.com/catalog/cd/MS1560)







**Michael Jacobson** (Professor of Saxophone and Associate Dean for Operations) traveled to the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis to participate in a celebration of the retirement of Dr. Eugene Rousseau. Dr. Preston Duncan, the new saxophone professor at the University of Minnesota, hosted the event. Participants were Dr. Rousseau's former students at the University of Minnesota and from Indiana University (where Dr. Jacobson studied with him). Jacobson performed a piece entitled *Concerto da Camera* for solo alto saxophone and brass quintet, composed by Texas composer Fisher Tull (a native of Waco). The piece was part of a commissioning project sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts.

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**Timothy R. McKinney** (Professor of Theory and Head of the Academic Division) was invited to speak at an international conference entitled "Dur vs. Moll" that examined the history of the semantic dichotomy between the major and minor modes. The conference was held in Leipzig, Germany, in November and was sponsored jointly by the University of Leipzig and the University of Zurich. His research paper examined expressive meanings attached to major and minor chords in the Italian madrigal of the sixteenth century.



**Todd Meehan** (Associate Professor of Percussion) had a busy 2014-2015 concert season, performing throughout the United States and abroad with the Meehan/Perkins Duo. In early fall 2014, the MPDuo concertized and taught in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, at the Second International Festival of Contemporary Music. In the spring, the group released its third commercial disc, entitled *Parallels*, featuring the 50-minute work of the same name by composer Tristan Perich. Philip Clark of *The Guardian* writes of "the intimately knit counterpoint between electronically generated arpeggios and the shadow-boxing activities of the 'live' percussion underneath. The music crackles into life in the hinterland, with the percussionists, Todd Meehan and Doug Perkins, colouring and sculpting alternative shapes to the perceptible surface." The MPDuo finished their season in London in early May 2015, playing

several concerts at the Barbican with fellow contemporary music ensembles So Percussion and eighth blackbird, as part of the Mountains and Waves American music festival. To learn more about the MPDuo visit: [www.mpduo.com/about.html](http://www.mpduo.com/about.html)

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**Brent Phillips** (Associate Professor of Trombone) organized a trombone summit as part of the Mountain Light Music Festival in Pagosa Springs, Colorado, during the summer of 2015 and plans to do another intensive one-week camp for 2016. It is Professor Phillips's goal to continue to bring current and former Baylor students to this festival and ultimately to see this develop as a chamber music program, alternating with brass and strings. For more information, go to the following web location: [www.baylortrombones.com/mountain-light-music.html](http://www.baylortrombones.com/mountain-light-music.html)



**Jun Qian** (Assistant Professor of Clarinet) and **Kae Hosoda-Ayer** (Assistant Professor of Piano) presented two recitals called *East Meets West* at the University of Michigan and Michigan State University on October 4 and 5. The recitals featured traditional and newly composed compositions from both Western and Chinese composers. In recent years, Jun Qian has commissioned many new pieces for clarinet and various instrumental combinations, and these works have been widely disseminated as part of his ongoing *East Meets West* commissioning projects. While on his trip to Michigan, Dr. Qian gave master classes to the clarinet studios at UM and MSU.

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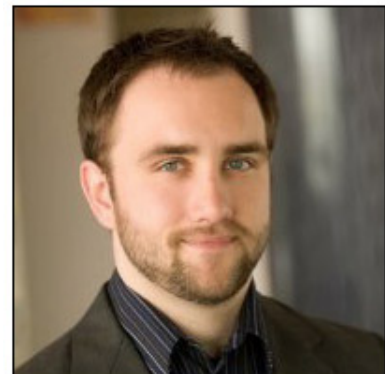
**Randall Umstead** (Associate Professor of Voice), **Jamie Van Eyck** (Assistant Professor of Voice), and **Christian Bester** (Visiting Assistant Professor of Voice) toured South Africa extensively during the summer of 2015. This tour included performances at the National Arts Festival of South Africa, the University of South Africa, Stellenbosch University, and with the Kwazulu-Natal Philharmonic Orchestra. The United States Embassy in South Africa helped to sponsor the tour.



**Laurel E. Zeiss** (Associate Professor Musicology) spoke in August at Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart Festival in New York City. The festival invited three Mozart scholars to address listening to the composer's music. "As a young person, I watched concerts from the Mostly Mozart Festival on PBS, so it was a real thrill to be invited to participate in the festival," Dr. Zeiss said. Her talk, "Listening in and to Figaro," discussed how circumstances surrounding *The Marriage of Figaro*'s first performances encouraged audience members to listen for political sub-texts and allusions to music by other composers. Laurel Zeiss presented another paper, "What Makes Mozart Mozart? Comparing Two Duets," at the Mozart Society of America's biennial conference in September. Professor Zeiss has been an active member of the Mozart Society since the organization's founding and recently was elected to its Board of Directors.

## Our Alumni

**Eric Echols**, (BM in Violin, 2007) serves as the Director of Technology Design and Consulting at Pershing Technologies in Baltimore, Maryland. He designs audiovisual systems and provides acoustical consulting services for clients that include the World Bank, Georgetown University Law Center, and University of Maryland Medical Center. Eric also serves as an adjunct professor at the Peabody Conservatory of The Johns Hopkins University, where he teaches graduate courses in acoustics.



**Ivette Herryman** (MM in Composition, 2013) was awarded the 2015-2016 CINTAS Foundation Brandon Fradd Award in Music Composition. Ivette is pursuing her doctorate at Michigan State University.

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**Fabián López** (MM in Violin, 2005), Professor of Violin at UNC Greensboro, toured California in early October as the first violinist of the Carlos Chávez String Quartet. He also performed as soloist in Beethoven's *Triple Concerto* with the Fayetteville (NC) Symphony, in which he is the concertmaster, and the Prokofiev *Violin Concerto No. 2* with the Wilmington (NC) Symphony. In February of 2016, he will perform the Tchaikovsky *Violin Concerto* with the Fayetteville Symphony.

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**Maureen Murchie** (BA, University Scholar, 2001, and MM in Violin, 2003) has recently appeared as a member of the international period instrument chamber music group El Mundo in performances at the Regensburg Early Music Festival (Germany), the Houston Early Music Series, Music Before 1800 (New York City), and at the Yale Collection of Musical Instruments. Additionally, she has been a member of Trinity Baroque Orchestra, performing concerts at Trinity Wall Street Church and Alice

Tully Hall; NOVUS (Trinity's contemporary orchestra at Carnegie Hall; Juilliard 415; and New York Baroque Incorporated.

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**Jonathan Raveneau** (BM in Violin, 2006) is a conductor for the Hill Country Youth Orchestras. Mr. Raveneau is a versatile and eclectic musician with specialties ranging from classical to jazz in both instrumental and vocal genres. As a full scholarship student, he earned a Baccalaureate in Music Performance from Baylor University with an emphasis in classical violin. He performed with the Baylor Symphony, Temple Symphony, San Angelo Symphony, and the Waco Symphony. While at Baylor, Raveneau performed in the jazz program, participating in master classes led by Fred Sturm, John Faddis, Maria Schneider, and Wycliffe Gordon. He was a founding member of the Baylor Jazz String Quartet. Raveneau is a member of and does outreach work for the Symphony of the Hills. He is also a conductor with the Youth Orchestra Program and the Summer Symphony Camp in San Antonio.







Sarah Saenz (BME, 2015) is serving as the Education Coordinator at the Tobin Center for the Performing Arts in San Antonio. She is the organization's first education staff member and has played an important role in the Tobin Center's Generation Next Education Program. Sarah contacts agents of touring companies to set up education activities with visiting artists and develops arts-centric education programs in the San Antonio area.

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## Our Future

The Music Council, composed of division heads and elected faculty within the School of Music, is undertaking the creation of a strategic plan that aligns with Pro Futuris, the strategic vision for Baylor University. As of this writing, four of the five sections of the School's plan are in various stages of development and approval. These include: I. Transformational Education, II. Compelling Scholarship/Creative Endeavor, IV. Committed Constituents, and V. Judicious Stewardship. Section III. Informed Engagement will be developed in late 2015 and early 2016. Plans call for adoption of the entire plan during the Spring 2016 semester. The deliberations of the Music Council continually strive to honor the mission of the university as a whole: *"The mission of Baylor University is to educate men and women for worldwide leadership and service by integrating academic excellence and Christian commitment within a caring community."*

The Baylor University School of Music is greatly assisted by the philanthropy of our alumni and friends. Scholarships, infrastructure needs, new instrument purchases, faculty and student travel, and excellence initiatives would not be possible without our endowment resources. For more information about how you might help the School of Music travel further down the road of national and international prominence, contact Clayton Ellis, Director of Development, School of Music: [clayton\\_ellis@baylor.edu](mailto:clayton_ellis@baylor.edu) Phone: (254) 710-8525.

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## Our Calendar

The School of Music presents more than 350 performances each year, the vast majority of which are free to the public. To view our schedule, visit: [www.baylor.edu/music/index.php?id=863427](http://www.baylor.edu/music/index.php?id=863427)

To receive a weekly schedule of School of Music events, contact Richard Veit: [Richard\\_Veit@baylor.edu](mailto:Richard_Veit@baylor.edu) Phone: (254) 710-3991.



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